

# Texas' Implementation of the federal MOVE Act

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# Senate Bill 100

- Implements the federal MOVE Act in Texas
- Codifies much of the administrative rule adopted by SOS in 2010
- Alters election calendar
  - Primary filing deadline
  - Primary Runoff date

# Senate Bill 100

In addition to the federal requirement to mail ballots no later than 45 days before elections in which a federal office appears on the ballot, Texas extended the requirement to:

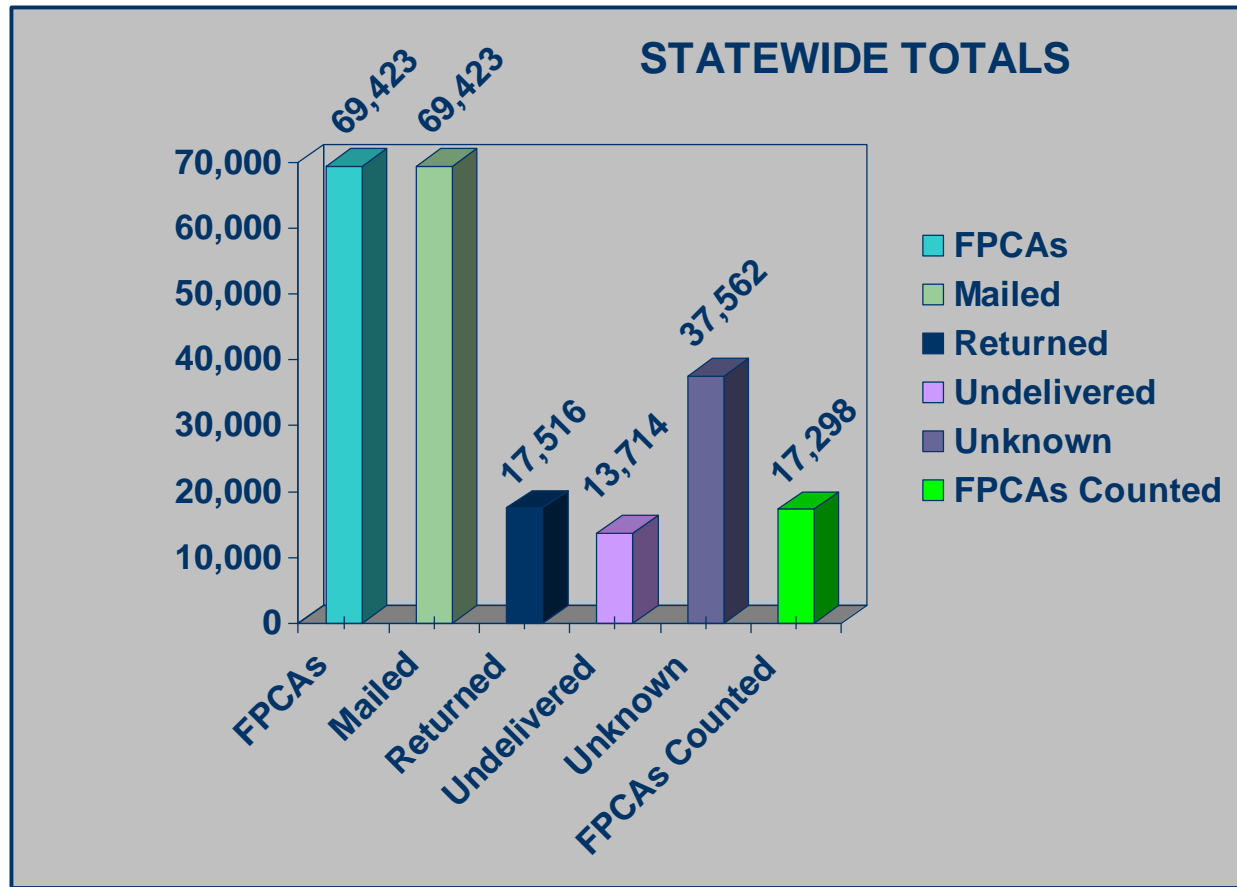
- Elections to fill a vacancy in the state legislature, unless the election is an emergency or expedited; and
- An election held jointly with either election.

# Senate Bill 100

FPCA voter shall provide the address of the last place of residence in Texas or the last place of residence of the person's parent or guardian.

FPCA effective for ONE calendar year beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> (no retroactivity for FPCAs submitted prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>)

# Impact of One-Year FPCA Change



# Electronic Transmission

- Email, unless other transmission approved by SOS
- Email addresses are confidential
- Carrier envelope OR signature sheet

(Based on feedback from the November 2010 implementation, the counties are happy to have the option of the signature sheet (similar to the 2008 pilot program))

# Tracking

- Senate Bill 100 requires the SOS to develop a tracking system that allows an FPCA voter to determine if their voted ballot has been received by the early voting clerk.
- The tracking process for the November 2010 election went flawless, and we do not anticipate any issues going forward.

# FWAB Expanded

- Currently, a FWAB is authorized for any general, special or primary election for a federal office
- SB 100 expands this process to include elections to fill a vacancy in the legislature (exceptions) or an election held jointly with a federal election or an election to fill a vacancy in the legislature



# Calendar Changes

- May uniform election day split into even and odd year
- May of odd-numbered year unaffected
- May of even-numbered year restricted

# May uniform date in even year

- Available for elections held by a political subdivision other than a county
- A county elections administrator is not required to conduct an election in May of an even-numbered year
  - Local entities that cannot locate accessible voting equipment or convince their county official to hold their election in the middle of the primary and primary runoff are having challenges.

# 2012 Timeline

- 12/12/11 Deadline to file application for place on the primary ballot
- 1/21/12 Deadline to mail ballots to MOVE voters for Primary
- 2/21/12 – 3/2/12: Early Voting Period
- 3/5/12: Deadline to file an application for place on the May ballot
- 3/6/12: PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

# 2012 Calendar

- 4/7/12: Deadline to mail ballots to MOVE voters for runoff
- 4/30- 5/8/12: May uniform election day early voting period
- 5/12/ 2012: May Uniform Day (Limited)
- 5/14 – 5/18/12: Primary Runoff Early Voting Period
- 5/22/2012: PRIMARY Runoff Election Day

# Changing general election

- SB 100 does not require a political subdivision to change its general election date but it does allow a political subdivision to change to the November uniform election date or to May of an odd-numbered year.
- SOS proposed an administrative rule clarifying that a political subdivision may move its general election date from May of an even-numbered year to May of an odd-numbered year, and proposes other calendar changes.