

HB 121 -- Elections

Sponsor: Dugger

This bill changes the laws regarding elections. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Prohibits a person from being elected or appointed the clerk of a county commission unless he or she has resided within the county for one year prior to his or her election instead of the current six-month requirement;

(2) Establishes filing deadlines for any election held on the general municipal election day in a political subdivision or special district in a noncharter county. The opening filing date will be December 1 of the year prior to the election, and the closing date will be January 1 of the year in which the election is held;

(3) Changes when a candidate has the right to a recount of the votes from a standard requiring the candidate's defeat by less than 1% of the votes cast to a candidate's defeat by less than one-half of 1% of the votes cast;

(4) Requires a person who is conducting exit polling, surveying, sampling, electioneering, distributing election literature, posting signs, or placing vehicles bearing signs with respect to any candidate or question to be voted on at an election on election day to not be within 50 feet, instead of the current 25 feet, of the building's outer door closest to the polling place. Anyone violating this provision will be guilty of a class four election offense; and

(5) Repeals the provision that requires a political party's emblem to be printed on an election ballot above the party caption.