

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1023

By: Hilliard and Hager

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution directing the Secretary of the State Election Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to study and make recommendations concerning municipal and school district identifiers in the voter registration process for the purpose of consolidating or closing certain precincts; stating objectives; requiring a report; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in school district and municipal elections many polling places are not utilized by the voters, the result of which is that school districts and municipalities incur substantial cost which may be decreased if allowed to consolidate or close certain precincts within the school district; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and school districts would benefit from closing or combining precincts in certain elections if voter registration records could be organized to allow such without interfering with a person's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, municipal, school elections and all other elections conducted by county election boards in Oklahoma are conducted using voter registration records which contain the required voter information, and are necessary for election integrity and public confidence; and

WHEREAS, voter registration records are organized by precincts, the boundaries of which cannot cross congressional, legislative or county commissioner district boundary lines and which also must

conform with United States Census Bureau criteria for census blocks;
and

WHEREAS, municipal, municipal ward, school district and school election district boundaries may not always conform to any other political boundary or with any standard recognized by the state or federal government and therefore these boundaries often cross precinct lines and divide precincts; and

WHEREAS, municipal, municipal ward, school district and school election district boundaries may change without notification to county or state election officials; and

WHEREAS, currently voter registration records do not identify with certainty in which municipality, municipal ward, school district or school election district a voter is registered, therefore voter registration records cannot be organized by municipality, municipal ward, school district or school election district; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is protected by the United States Constitution and anyone, whether or not acting under the color of law, who deprives a person of the right to vote may be subject to federal and state criminal prosecution and to civil liability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature hereby directs the Secretary of the State Election Board, working in conjunction with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and any others as is necessary, to study and make recommendations concerning the reorganization of voter registration and/or the development of school district and municipality identifiers in the voter registration process for the purpose of allowing municipalities and school districts to consolidate or close precincts in certain elections, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Identify and compare municipal, municipal ward, school district and school election district boundaries with federal, state, county or other political boundaries;

2. Identify sources which can certify or attest to precise boundaries and changes in boundaries of municipalities, municipal wards, school districts or school election districts and which can report that information to appropriate state or county election officials;

3. Explore the most effective and feasible method and format for incorporating municipal and school district designation information into existing voter registration records;

4. Explore methods to collect from newly registered voters municipal, municipal ward, school district and school election district designations;

5. Identify methods to correct when necessary municipality, ward, school district or school election district designations;

6. Explore possible legislative changes to incorporate municipal, municipal ward, school district and school election district designations into voter registration records and to display that information on precinct registries or other appropriate formats;

7. Obtain estimates of costs and time required to incorporate and appropriately display municipal, municipal ward, school district and school election district designations on voter registration records;

8. Implement a pilot project to test various methods for collecting and incorporating municipal and school district designation information into the voter registration process and to test ways to consolidate or close certain precincts in certain municipal and school elections.

THAT the Secretary of the State Election Board shall submit a written report of the findings and recommendations to the Speaker of

the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate by October 1, 1993.

THAT copies of this resolution shall be dispatched to the State Election Board, the Secretary of the State Election Board, the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Director of Vocational and Technical Education and the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education.

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