

Elections-Related Provisions: Extension and Drainage District Elections; Voter Identification; Campaign Contributions for State Board of Education Candidates; House Sub. for SB 129

House Sub. for SB 129 amends requirements for extension and drainage district elections, adds a form of identification acceptable for voting, provides for free birth certificates for purposes of voting, and increases the campaign contribution limit for State Board of Education candidates from \$500 to \$1,000.

Extension and Drainage District Elections

The bill changes the filing deadline for extension and drainage district governing body candidates to not later than noon of the Tuesday ten weeks preceding the first Tuesday in April in election years. For extension district candidates, the revision changes "odd-numbered years" to "election years"; the remainder of this deadline change was made in 2011. For drainage district candidates, the law had set a deadline of noon on the Wednesday following the primary election. The bill also requires each extension or drainage district candidate filing be accompanied by a \$5 filing fee. The county election officer is required to remit the filing fees to the county treasurer for deposit in the county general fund.

Photo Identification for Voting

The bill adds an identification (ID) card issued by an Indian tribe to the list of photo ID documents acceptable for proving a voter's identity when voting in person. The bill defines "Indian tribe."

The bill also extends the provision of a free certified copy of a birth certificate to any person who is 17 years of age or older only for registering to vote to also include for the purposes of voting, if the applicant for the free copy lacks the photo ID required.

Campaign Contribution Limits for State Board of Education

The bill increases the campaign contribution for State Board of Education candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 for each primary or general election. This limit applies to these types of contributions:

- The aggregate amount contributed to a candidate, the candidate's candidate committee, and all party committees and political committees dedicated to the candidate's campaign, by any political committee or any person except a party committee, the candidate, or the candidate's spouse; and
- The amount contributed by each individual party committee of the same political party other than a national party committee to any candidate for office, for any primary election at which two or more candidates are seeking the party's nomination.