

STATE of TEXAS  
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



**Matt Shaheen**  
District 66

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**STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE SHAHEEN ON FIFTH CIRCUIT  
DECISION STRIKING DOWN TEXAS VOTER ID LAW**  
Rep. Emphasizes Faulty Arguments by Court, Hopeful for U.S. Supreme Court Reversal

**PLANO, TX**—In response to yesterday's 5th Circuit federal court of appeals decision to strike down the Texas Voter ID law, passed in the 82nd Texas Legislature, Representative Matt Shaheen issued this statement:

*"Once again, we see activist, unelected judges overturning valid, constitutional legislation crafted to protect the integrity of elections in Texas. This legislation was passed in order to protect the interests of voters and to curtail the various instances of voter fraud we've seen in our state. Think of the many different services provided by government that you need and ID to obtain: You need a government-issued ID to buy a gun, to rent an apartment, and to open up a bank account, among countless other things. The court equates an ID with an unconstitutional "poll tax," but with the many different exceptions in the bill—including exceptions for indigents and the elderly—no "tax" is imposed upon anyone who cannot obtain an ID due to financial or physical constraints. Anyone who cannot afford an ID who wants to vote has the option of obtaining an Election Identification Certificate, which acts as an election ID card, and the law states clearly that DPS may not collect a fee for these certificates.*

*The court also claims that legislators who passed the law knew that it would disproportionately affect minorities in access to the ballot box. As a matter of fact, the bill was endorsed by the Texas Hispanic Republican Conference—a group of legislators that was helmed by six Hispanic Republicans from across the state, and whose membership comprised more than 1/5 of the Texas House. The notion that these legislators were knowingly voting against their own interests and ethnicity is insulting, and I have high hopes that the U.S. Supreme Court will intervene to reverse this ridiculous decision by the Fifth Circuit."*

**Representative Shaheen serves on the Texas House committees on Criminal Jurisprudence and Defense & Veteran's Affairs. He is a resident of Plano and serves the citizens of Texas House District 66, which encompasses west Plano and far north Dallas.**

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