

# Judge Grants Partial Summary Judgment in Texas Anti-Voter Law; Trial Concludes on Remaining Provisions

## News

August 1, 2023

In August, a federal court granted partial summary judgment in favor of civil rights groups who filed a lawsuit against Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), a Texas law that has disenfranchised voters. Senate Bill 1 requires mail voters to provide an ID number that matches the number contained in their voter file, which is maintained in a Texas voter registration database that contains incorrect and missing information. The district court ruled that the matching requirement violates the Materiality Provision of Section 101 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by rejecting mail-in ballot applications and votes “based on errors or omissions on a record or paper relating to an act requisite to voting that are not material in determining whether voters are qualified under Texas law to vote or to cast a mail ballot.”

Trial on the remaining claims, which challenge prohibitions on certain forms of mail ballot assistance and protected speech, concluded on October 19 after nearly six weeks of testimony from dozens of witnesses. The case is now under advisement.

“We have already seen portions of S.B. 1 rolled back as unlawful restrictions on voting,” said Partner Alex Trepp. “Having heard compelling testimony on our remaining challenges, including obstacles presented by the provisions addressed at trial, we hope these harmful limitations on the right to vote will be struck down.”

In 2021, Jenner & Block joined the Texas Civil Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Texas, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Disability Rights Texas to file the lawsuit on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas, Register, Educate, Vote, & Use your Power - Texas (REV UP Texas), and OCA Greater Houston.

In addition to Alex, the firm team includes Partners Jessica Ring Amunson and Sam Hirsch, Associates Sophia Cai, Alyssa Bernstein, Greg Washington, Senior Paralegal Albert Peterson, and former Associate Urja Mittal.

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