

Federal Court Rules Against Key Provision in Texas Anti-Voter Law; Major Victory for Civil Rights Groups

News

October 4, 2024

On September 28, a federal court ruled against a key provision of Texas' anti-voter law Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) in a victory for voting rights in the state. The lawsuit, filed in 2021, challenged numerous provisions of SB 1, including its restriction of compensated canvassers from engaging in voter advocacy in the presence of a mail-in ballot.

The district court ruled that SB 1's canvassing restriction violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments for being unconstitutionally vague, underinclusive, overly broad, and restricting free speech.

"We are incredibly pleased with the federal court's ruling. This is a significant step towards ensuring equal access to voting, a foundation of our democracy," said Partners Jessica Ring Amunson and Alex Trepp. "We are proud to partner with co-counsel on this important work to protect the right to vote."

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.

Additional wins related to this lawsuit include an August 2023 ruling that states mail-ballot ID-matching provisions of Senate Bill 1 violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the successful 2022 challenge to S.B. 1's limitations on the type of assistance that may be rendered to Limited English speaking and disabled voters. Other parts of the case remain pending before the court.

In addition to Jessie and Alex, the Jenner team includes Associates Sophia Cai, Alyssa Bernstein, and Greg Washington, and Senior Paralegal Albert Peterson.

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