



SENATOR PAUL BETTENCOURT
DISTRICT 7

December 21, 2022

Ms. Maria Reeve
Executive Editor
The Houston Chronicle
4747 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77027

Dear Editor Reeve,

This article, "Texas secretary of state 2020 election audit finds miscues by Harris County, but no widespread fraud," doesn't reveal the magnitude of the failure of former County Clerk, Chris Hollins foray into drive-through voting, and 24-hour voting in 2020. Despite Judge Hidalgo calling the forensic audit by the Texas Secretary of State's office "an irresponsible political trick. It is a sham. It is a cavalier and dangerous assault on voters and democracy," last September, the audit accurately reflects the complete failure to document and track ballots as well as a lack of chain of custody. For example, they failed to maintain voter record documentation on mobile ballot boxes (MBBs) that under the law was supposed to be kept for 22 months.

According to the SOS audit report, the County Clerks Election division "created" 17 MBBs to cover 124,630 voter records that used drive-through voting without any documentation and then threw out the equipment used to read these MBBs (aka digital ballots for the layman.)

Thus, no one can verify these voter records whatsoever because 17 MBBs simply cannot be read. Therefore, Texans will never know what exactly happened to a medium-sized city's worth of drive-through voting records!

Harris County was randomly selected to be audited in 2022. It should reveal why the previous Election Administrator (EA) lost ten thousand votes in the primary only to find them later, or why thousands of county voters were turned away from the polls in November as the current EA either couldn't or wouldn't provide enough ballot paper for them to vote on. Those are real threats to democracy!

Read the Texas Secretary of State's report for yourself: [Texas Secretary of State Forensic Audit Division's Report on the 2020 General Election in Texas](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Bettencourt".

Paul Bettencourt
Texas State Senator, District 7

cc: The Honorable John Scott, Texas Secretary of State

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-0107
(512) 463-0107

FAX (512) 463-8810

COMMITTEES:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CHAIR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
EDUCATION
FINANCE
REDISTRICTING
STATE AFFAIRS

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PROTECT ALL TEXANS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
11451 KATY FREEWAY, STE. 209
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079
(713) 464-0282

FAX (713) 461-0108