



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Criminal Justice, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development, and Nominations

March 17, 2020

Ruth R. Hughes
Texas Secretary of State
PO Box 12887
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Elections by Mail

Dear Secretary Hughes,

Please consider conducting all elections by mail-in-ballot during this time of national emergency and state disaster. The coronavirus threatens to seriously undermine our elections by dissuading voters from turning-out to vote given the fear of contagion caused by COVID 19.

We cannot allow turnout to suffer, and our democracy to be affected by not adapting to the circumstances and providing Texans with safeguards and continuity. I hope we do not postpone elections as some states already have.

Until we can guarantee Texans safety at the polls, we must protect our most sacred feature of our democracy, elections. Thus, I ask you develop and implement protocols to conduct all upcoming elections by mail. This way, Texans are encouraged to participate at a time where self-quarantine and distancing are paramount and government mandated.

We have several weeks until our next election. Now is the time to act. I respectfully ask you work with the Governor and county officials to develop a system where our democracy can continue uninterrupted, and Texans can feel safe participating. Voting by mail is the only answer. We cannot ask our poll-workers, many who are in at-risk age groups, to run the risk of contracting the virus. We cannot limit voting locations and force Texans to congregate in groups when local and federal governments have advised against such. Voting by mail is a practical and feasible solution, which I hope you implement for the benefit of all Texans.

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512-463-0113

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5302 Almeda Road
Suite A
Houston, TX 77004
713-665-8322

Northeast Office
3300 Lyons Avenue
Suite 301
Houston, TX 77020
713-223-0387

Fort Bend Office
2440 Texas Parkway
Suite 110
Missouri City, TX 77489
281-261-2360

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office. I pray you keep our democracy and the people's health and best interests in mind.

Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Borris L. Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Borris L. Miles
Senator, District 13

CC: Texas Democratic Party
Harris County Democratic Party
Fort Bend County Democratic Party