



State Senator Don Huffines - Senate District 16 (Dallas)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2017

Contact: Brent Connett

(512- 463-0116)

SEN HUFFINES FIGHTS TO KEEP ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OUT OF OUR ELECTIONS

Election integrity and voter confidence are key to honest, accountable, and functioning state government

Austin – Today in Austin, Senator Don Huffines (R-Dallas) filed Senate Bill 88 to help keep illegal immigrants and non-citizens out of our elections by increasing criminal penalties for non-citizens who register to vote or attempt to vote.

Senator Huffines stated, "Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of any functioning government. Texans shouldn't have to question whether their vote counts, or if it has been cancelled out by the vote of an illegal immigrant. I'm excited to have the opportunity this special session to shore-up voter confidence by doing everything I can to reserve the right to vote for U.S. citizens only!"

In February 2017, a non-citizen was found guilty of illegally voting in elections in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In Texas, there is no citizenship verification for registration, leaving the important question of citizenship up to the good will of the voter registration applicant to accurately and honestly check a box on a form. Under Senate Bill 88, when a non-citizen is convicted of illegally registering to vote, that offense will be increased to a state jail felony. Senate Bill 88 will also increase the penalty for attempting to vote to a third degree felony when it is a non-citizen who has been convicted of that offense.

Senator Huffines stated, "The right to vote is a precious opportunity to dictate the direction of our government and the future of our state. Illegal immigrants and other non-citizens cannot be allowed to sway our elections. Having a voice at the ballot box is reserved for U.S. citizens. We need to send a message to illegal immigrants and non-citizens who think they can cast a vote: If you try it, you will go to jail!"

Senator Huffines concluded, "Election integrity is a top priority for Texas. When voters are confident their vote will count as they intend it, they will turn out and participate more, and our state will be stronger for it."

###

Senator Don Huffines represents the North half of Dallas County in the Texas Senate. First elected in 2014, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Senate Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee, and as a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources & Economic Development, Education, Intergovernmental Relations, and Administration.