



**House and Senate State Government Committees
Joint Informational Meeting on Election Reform**
September 16, 2019

Priority 1: Absentee Reform

No-excuse absentee

- Constitutional amendment or statutory change (SB 411, SB 366)

Absentee deadlines and other reforms (SB 414, HB 493, HB 667, HB 743, HB 1506)

- Litigation is pending; legislative solution preferred over court ruling
- Absentee ballot postmark no later than Friday before the election *and*
- Absentee ballot receipt (mail or in-person) no later than 8 p.m. election day
- Drop-off by someone other than elector
- If an absentee ballot is cast, the elector is ineligible to vote at the polling place
- Clear permissibility for absentee central count
- Permanent qualification of permanently disabled (HB 439, HB 1543, SB 345)
- Remove requirement to post absentee list publicly at the polling place
- Acknowledge on-line application roll-out

Priority 2: Poll Worker Reform

Allow government employees to be poll workers (SB 412)

- Constitutional amendment
- Not universal – legislatively define positions or circumstances that constitute conflict of interest

Incentives and removal of barriers

- Employees not to be penalized for taking leave (paid or unpaid) to work the polls
- Allowing a poll worker who is a registered elector in the county to be designated to serve in any precinct in the county that has a vacancy within 30 days of election day (current window is five days)
- DOS poll worker stakeholder group

Priority 3: Ballot Printing (SB 418)

- Ten percent more than the average prior three turnouts of the same election cycle
- Discretionary; election director can do a higher number, e.g. unusual races with high voter interest in candidates, positions, ballot questions, special elections

Overarching: Election Commission (SB 422)

- Commission to recommend reforms and advise legislature on pending elections legislation
- Includes county commissioner and election director representation