



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

November 18, 2021

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Dade Phelan
Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Governor Patrick and Speaker Phelan,

Election integrity is a core tenet of any healthy and successful democracy. The people of Texas must have trust and confidence in the election process as well as in the outcomes of our elections.

The Legislature clearly showed a strong commitment to this principle when it passed Senate Bill 1 during the Second Called Session of the 87th Legislature, which I signed into law. This law makes it easier to vote—and harder to cheat—in Texas elections by expanding voting hours while also taking steps to stop voter fraud.

Importantly, the law includes county audits to be carried out by the Texas Secretary of State (SOS). Currently, the SOS is conducting the largest forensic audit in the country.

As we expand voting opportunities in Texas, we must also ensure the integrity of those elections. To do that, the SOS needs resources to establish an Election Audit Division.

However, the SOS does not currently have the budget authority to adequately accomplish the goals sought by the Legislature. That is why I am requesting that you provide \$4 million to the SOS in order to establish an Election Audit Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA: cww

cc: The Honorable Jane Nelson, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Greg Bonnen, Chair, House Appropriations Committee