

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1849
Version:	CS
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Author:	Sen. Jech
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Committee Substitute (CS)

The CS for HB 1849 modifies personnel for and the procedure of elections. The measure stipulates that each precinct within each county shall have at least three precinct officials: an inspector, a judge and a clerk. One official must be a member of the political party with the most registered voters in the state and another member must be a member of the second largest political party within the state. The secretary of the county election board is required to appoint a precinct official and maintain a current list of all precinct officials in his or her county. The Secretary of the State Election Board is authorized to prescribe the duties, training, and appointment procedures of the precinct officials.

The measure also allows the Secretary of the State Election Board to authorize additional precinct officials as needed by each county. Compensation and reimbursement for these officials is increased. The secretary of the county election board may remove employees at will with written notice. Additionally, the measure authorizes the appointment of a student in the eleventh or twelfth grade who is at least sixteen years of age as a precinct official. Employees of the state or county may be granted administrative leave to serve as a precinct official. The measure increases the amount paid to those who attend training sessions related to becoming a precinct official from \$25.00 to \$35.00.

Changes to precinct boundaries will require the approval of the county election board. Such changes must be presented in a public meeting of the board. The secretary of the county election board is required to determine the location of polling places within the county. The secretary must receive permission to locate a polling place outside of the geographical confines of a precinct from the State Election Board. The measure repeals current law relating to precinct employees.

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