



HB4709 (Hirschauer) / SB3383 (Villivalam) School Board Approval of Polling Place

Position: SUPPORT

This legislation alters the process by which polling locations are selected. Rather than automatically requiring school buildings to host polling, other public buildings must first be explored as possible polling locations.

- This bill would require the Board of Elections to make a good faith effort to explore other public building options to serve as polling places;
- If no other options are available, the Board of Elections shall make a written request to a local school board requesting the use of their school building(s) for elections;
- The given school board will have 60 days to consider and assess their ability to serve as a polling place.

RATIONALE

- The regular use of school districts as polling places must be determined by the local school community based on the needs of their students and staff.
- School safety remains the top priority for all public school districts.
- Districts spend money and resources to ensure the safety of their students and staff.
- On days when schools are used as polling places districts incur additional financial burdens to hire additional security given the safety risk.
- Closing schools during elections does **NOT** eliminate risk to students and staff.
- This legislation does **NOT** impede the voting process.

The legislation provides school communities with the opportunity to internally assess whether holding a polling place in their district will jeopardize the safety of their students and staff.

The process by which polling places are selected must prioritize the needs of local communities, including schools.

SUPPORT HB4709 (Hirschauer) & SB3383 (Villivalam)