

Adam Peters  
Ellis County Republican Party Chair

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

The right to vote is an essential component of self-government. However, for that right to be truly meaningful, voters must know who it is that they are voting for. Allowing a candidate's partisan affiliation to appear alongside their name would add a degree of transparency to local elections, something which is sorely lacking.

Our two main political parties each have policies that they espouse, and most voters are familiar with them. Permitting candidates to declare which of the parties they affiliate with gives the electorate more information about who is running and could well increase interest and turnout in local races, which is depressingly low.

Despite almost nineteen thousand people being eligible to vote in my school district's 2021 election, less than four thousand actually cast a ballot. Part of that is probably due to many of them not seeing a point in voting for candidates they know little about. In that race, conservative Cathy Hopkins lost by five votes to a left-wing candidate despite our voter rolls being heavily Republican. She later ran for State School Board as a Republican and was elected by an overwhelming margin.

Keeping local races non-partisan makes about as much sense as a supermarket stripping all of the labels off of its soup cans. Shoppers would likely go elsewhere, and there's a simple reason for that: people want to know what they are getting.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Adam Peters