



# **William C. Velásquez Institute**

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## **Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) and William C. Velásquez Institute (WCVI) Sues Texas to Block S.B.1, Voter Suppression Law Signed by Governor**

*Texas groups filed legal challenge to Protect the Latino Vote, S.B.1 Violates the Voting Rights Act*

(September 7, 2021, San Antonio, Texas) Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) and the William C. Velásquez Institute (WCVI), along with five groups and two individuals have filed a legal challenge against Texas to block Senate Bill 1 (S.B.1) from violating the Voting Rights Act.

“Texas Governor signed into law one of the most restrictive voter suppression bills that not only violates the Voting Rights Act (VRA), but it targets Latino, African American, Asian, Native American voters. S.B.1’s only premise is to stop voters from voting. Texas continues to block Latino voters from taking part in America’s democracy. This is a fight we take on behalf of the Latino community,” Lydia Camarillo, SVREP and WCVI President.

Today, the Texas Governor signed into law S.B.1, the hateful, unconstitutional legislation that violates the Voting Rights Act. Once it becomes law, it will not only make it harder to vote, but it also violates the Voting Rights Act. It will criminalize those assisting disabled, limited English speakers when they vote. S.B.1 limited initiatives like 24-hour drive-thru that allowed access to voting during the deadliest pandemic of our lifetime. Among the most repugnant and objectionable actions, it authorizes voter intimidation by partisans

“S.B. 1 is disgraceful discriminatory legislation. Proponents have argued that Texas has rampant voter fraud, yet they have failed on numerous occasions to substantiate their claims. Our legal challenge will stop Texas from blocking Latinos from voting in future elections. Texas will be stopped from violating the Voting Rights Act once again”, stated Patricia Gonzales, WCVI Vice President.

SVREP sued Texas on its attempt to block 100,000 naturalized citizens from voting in 2018, the Voter ID in 2011, the 2011 and 2013 redistricting maps. As part of the Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force, SVREP and WCVI took part in the redistricting lawsuit against the congressional and state house maps.

SVREP and WCVI files legal action against Texas S.B.1. MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund), the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, LLP, and Weil, Gotshal & Manages, LLP law firms filed lawsuits before the US District Court of San Antonio. Plaintiffs filing legal challenges are SVREP, WCVI, La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), Texas HOPE (Hispanic Organized for Political Education), faith-based Texas Impact, the Anti-Defamation League, Jolt Action, Mexican American Bar Association (MABA) of Texas, FIEL Houston, Friendship-West Baptist Church, Texoma Regions, Harris County Elections Administrator Isabel Longoria, and Election Judge James Lewin.