

Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1182. Those of us that take the time to serve our communities on school boards, county commissions, community boards or city government are not concerned about political affiliations or agendas. We serve, to the best of our ability, to work together to serve all constituents without concern of someone's political affiliation. Even though, marking a party affiliation is voluntary, this is a first step to making party affiliation a permanent choice prior to running for office or accepting a membership on a board. There are no party endorsements or contributions made at the local level and it should remain that way. Having to declare a party affiliation would run the risk of discouraging individuals from taking the time to serve their local community. Many worthy individuals do not want to get involved in local decisions now and this bill could deter more individuals. Local issues are not political and all elected officials need to work together without creating political wedges. I urge for a do not pass on this HB 1182.