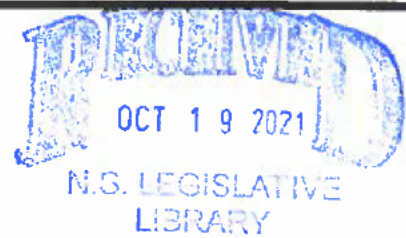


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**From:** Zach Ackerson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** October 18, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Re: Law Amendments



**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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To the Honourable Members of the Law Amendments Committee,

Bill 1, to amend the Elections Act, should be reconsidered. The base idea of fixed elections dates makes perfect sense, and catches us up with the rest of the provinces; the Houston government has this correct.

The issue lies in the proposed date in July. There are myriad issues with this time in the year, including alienating post-secondary students who are influenced by legislation and may one day take up residence in our province, almost guaranteeing low turnout in a province with already dismally low turnout rates, and especially limiting educational experiences related to the opportunities a concurrent election during the school year offers students and educators.

As a high school citizenship and politics teacher, I use elections during the school year as an engagement tool, often leveraging Student Vote Canada's resources to make learning authentic and engaging for students. To lose the prospect of provincial elections during the school year will cause real issues in our civil society. Student Vote programs are statistically proven to boost the likelihood of students going on to vote when they have graduated, and I am sure the Houston government, with their renewed concern with civic education issues, does not wish to hamper student engagement and the creation of future electors.

To the honourable members of this committee, I humbly ask you to reconsider the proposed fixed election date in July, in the name of civic education in our provincial school system. A fixed date in the fall would serve all citizens better, and most certainly the students and educators of this province.

Sincerely,

Zachary Ackerson