



**TEXAS BOARD  
OF  
PARDONS AND PAROLES**

**Number:** BPP-DIR. 145.301

**Date:** May 22, 2019

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**Supersedes:** January 22, 2019

## **BOARD DIRECTIVE**

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**SUBJECT:** EXTRAORDINARY VOTE (SB 45 and HB 1914)

**PURPOSE:** To establish procedures for Board Members of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to process cases which require an extraordinary vote.

**AUTHORITY:** Texas Government Code Section 508.035(d)  
Board Policies BPP-POL. 145.200 and 145.207

**DISCUSSION:** In accordance with Texas Government Code Section 508.046, a two-thirds majority vote of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (Board) is necessary for parole decisions involving capital felons who are eligible for parole, persons convicted of an offense under Section 20A.03 [Continuous Trafficking of Persons], Section 21.02 [Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Children], Section 21.11(a)(1) [Indecency with a Child], or Section 22.021 [Aggravated Sexual Assault] of the Penal Code, or persons required under Texas Government Code Section 508.145(c) to serve 35 calendar years before becoming eligible for release on parole.

**DEFINITIONS:** Extraordinary Vote – requires at least two-thirds of the full Board to vote to release an offender on parole.

Full Board – the entire membership of the Board.

Parole Panel – a three-member panel comprised of one Board Member and two Parole Commissioners.

Senate Bill 45 (SB 45) – an acronym for an Extraordinary Vote case which authorizes the Board to vote a set-off of up to 5 years.

House Bill 1914 (HB 1914) – an acronym for an Extraordinary Vote case which authorizes the Board to vote a set-off of up to 10 years.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. **Voting Order** – Board offices shall initiate the voting process for offenders requiring a full Board vote, based on the offenders’ locations in facilities under their jurisdiction. The voting order for each office, after initiating an extraordinary vote, is as follows:

**Amarillo Board Office:** Amarillo, Austin, Palestine, Huntsville, Angleton, San Antonio and Gatesville.

**Angleton Board Office:** Angleton, San Antonio, Amarillo, Austin, Palestine, Huntsville and Gatesville.

**Austin Board Office:** Austin, Palestine, Huntsville, Angleton, San Antonio, Amarillo and Gatesville.

**Huntsville Board Office:** Huntsville, Angleton, San Antonio, Amarillo, Austin, Palestine and Gatesville.

**Palestine Board Office:** Palestine, Huntsville, Angleton, San Antonio, Amarillo, Austin and Gatesville.

**San Antonio Board Office:** San Antonio, Amarillo, Austin, Palestine, Huntsville, Angleton and Gatesville.

- II. **Special Conditions** – A Board Member may impose conditions of parole or mandatory supervision when voting an offender for release on parole or discretionary mandatory supervision. A parole panel may impose or withdraw special conditions before or after an offender is released.

- III. **Cessation of Voting** – When three or more Board Members vote to deny parole, a two-thirds majority vote to grant parole becomes mathematically impossible to obtain. Therefore, voting by the remaining Board Members is not required, and the action directed by the first three votes denying parole shall be recorded as the Board’s disposition.

- IV. **Completion of Voting** – Upon completion of case voting in a paper file, the Board Member will send the case to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole Division, Review and Release Processing Section, for processing. For case voting in the Offender Information Management System, no further action is required after the vote is complete.

**SIGNED THIS, THE 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2019.**

**DAVID GUTIÉRREZ, PRESIDING OFFICER (CHAIR)**

*\*Signature on file.*