For Immediate Release
Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Contact: Jason Baxter 512-463-0104

Public Statement from Tommy Williams State Senator,
District 4

Re: Comment on allowing a majority vote for State Senate floor debate on legislation
requiring valid photo ID to vote.

On behalf of the citizens of State Senate District 4, I strongly support requiring valid
photo ID to vote.

Voter fraud is a bipartisan concern. Do Texans favor or oppose requiring voters to
provide a valid photo ID to vote? The answer is “Yes” just as Texans want protection
from other types of identity fraud. The Texas Senate feels it is imperative to address this
concern with a “majority vote” special order allowing for State Senate consideration and
floor debate during this regular session.

Concerns for allowing an orderly phase-in of the voter photo ID, especially with regard to
addressing needs of seniors, will be addressed. Combating voter fraud by requiring voters
to have valid photo IDs has been upheld as constitutional and a matter of state’s rights per
recent federal court rulings. Currently, seven states have voter photo ID requirements,
including Florida, Michigan, Indiana, Louisiana, Georgia, and Hawaii. (Source: National
Conference of State Legislatures)

Historical precedent for allowing majority vote issues that do not require 2/3rds support
for debate have deep historical roots in the Texas State Senate. In recent times, majority
vote rules have been invoked in regular and special sessions under Democrat State Senate
1990, 1992. And a majority vote requirement was invoked under Republican majority in
the 2003 third called special session.

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