

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Richard L. Harper at  
Chairperson

9:00 am a.m./p.m. on March 2, 1983 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Knopp, excused

Committee staff present: Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department  
Ramon Powers, Legislative Research Department  
Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statute's Office  
Eric Rucker, Secretary of State's Office  
Dottie Musselman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Justice, District 34, Kansas City  
Mary Ladesic, Wyandotte County Treasurer, Kansas City  
Bill Blankenship, Associated Students of Kansas,  
Topeka, Kansas  
Bryan K. Whitehead, Brotherhood of Railway & Airline  
Clerks, Kansas City

Chairperson Harper called the Elections Committee meeting to order. At this time Representative Justice was called to the floor to explain HB 2279, An Act relating to the office of election commissioner; concerning the appointment of the commissioner. (Attachment 1)

Following a general discussion on HB 2279, the Chairperson asked Representative Justice if he would like to introduce his conferee from his area. At this time the Representative introduced Mary Ladesic, the Wyandotte County Treasurer, to the Committee. After a brief testimony, a brief discussion followed.

There being no other conferees on HB 2279, the hearing was closed on this bill.

HB 2280 was next on the agenda. Representative Justice explained this bill to the Committee, giving background and intent of this bill. (Attachment 1)

HB 2281, An Act relating to elections; concerning voter registration, was next on the schedule to be considered. Representative Justice gave a brief explanation of this bill also. (Attachment 1)

As there were no conferees on HB 2281, and no questions, the hearing was closed on HB 2281.

Representative Justice explained HB 2292, An Act relating to elections; concerning deputy county election officers to the Committee. Representative Justice called attention to a letter which was received from Larry Scheller, Leavenworth County Clerk, Leavenworth, Kansas. (Attachment 2)

There being no questions at this time, the Chairperson called Bill Blankenship, Associated Students of Kansas, to the floor to testify on HB 2292. Mr. Blankenship appeared before the Committee in support of HB 2292. (Attachment 3)

Chairperson Harper called Bryan K. Whitehead, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, to the floor to testify before the Committee. Mr. Whitehead appeared in support of HB 2292.

As there were no other conferees on the above House Bill, the hearing was closed on HB 2292.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

room 521-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on March 2, 1983

Chairperson Harper asked Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department to brief the Committee on the previous request for information on the funding of other states presidential primaries.

HB 2467 was next on the agenda for discussion and possible action.

It was moved by Representative Runnels that the Committee pass out HB 2467 favorably. Seconded by Representative Kline.

At this time there was discussion on this bill regarding line 75 regarding return postage guaranteed. Representative Grotewiel said that he would support an amendment to have return postage. He made a motion to adopt an amendment to HB 2467 for return postage. Seconded by Representative Justice.

Representative Justice stated that he supports both the motion and amendment.

A substitute motion did prevail. Representative Moomaw moved to pass HB 2467 out of Committee favorably. Representative Guldner seconded. Motion carried.

HB 2470 was the next order of business on the agenda.

Representative Justice made a motion that this bill, HB 2470, be passed out to the Committee of the Whole without any recommendation. Seconded by Representative Blumenthal.

Representative Fox made a substitute motion to report this bill favorably. Seconded by Representative Baker.

Representative Blumenthal supported Representative Fox's motion, but wished to make it clear he had reservations about it. Representative Helgerson also was supportive of this motion, and feels it is important enough to have the full House consider it. Representative Kline supported the motion for the same reason Representative Helgerson stated. Representative Acheson is supporting the motion with the same reservations.

The substitute motion to pass out HB 2470 passed.

Representative Dean wishes to be recorded as being opposed to the motion.

A motion was made by Representative Justice to approve the minutes of the meetings of February 24 and 25. Seconded by Representative Crumbaker. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

*(attache 1)*

NORMAN E. JUSTICE  
 REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE 19TH DISTRICT  
 WYANDOTT, KANSAS  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101



TOPEKA

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
 MEMBERS ELECTED TO  
 PUBLIC OFFICE  
 TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE OF  
 REPRESENTATIVES

February 28, 1983

To: Richard Harper, Chairman  
 House Elections Committee  
 and Elections' Committee Members

From: Norman E. Justice

HB 2292

(1) The duly elected or appointed precinct committeepersons of both major political parties upon the committeeperson's request;

(2) any candidate for public office of any election upon the request of the candidate; and

(3) any qualified elector recommended by the county chairperson of either of the major political parties except that a county chairperson shall be entitled to recommend no more than one prospective deputy county election officer for each 1,000 residents of the county as the county's population is determined by the previous U.S. decennial census.

Prospective deputy county election officers may be required to attend an educational seminar conducted by the county election officer. Any such seminar or seminars shall be held at a convenient time and place and shall not exceed three hours in duration.

HB 2280

be filled by appointment by the chairperson of the state committee of such party.

HB 2279

list of three nominees selected by the board of county commissioners of the county, submitted to the Secretary of State

from a list of three nominees selected by the board of county commissioners of the county.

HB 2281

In addition to the times prescribed by K.S.A. 25-2311, and amendments thereto, county election officers shall authorize deputy county election officers to register voters at any hour or hours on any day authorized by the county election officer.

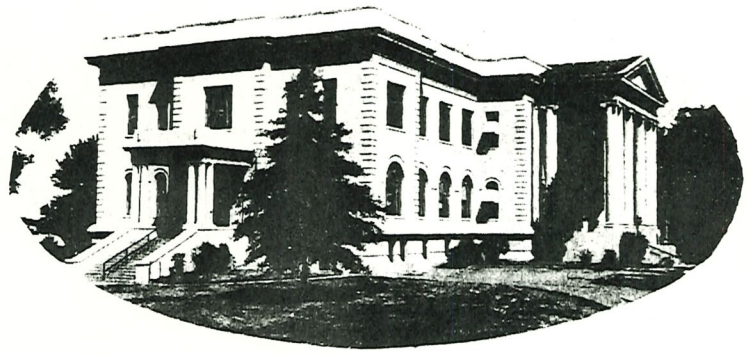
and shall authorize deputy county election officers to register voters at any place or places ~~are~~ determined to be suitable by the county election officer.

*Attch. 1*



(attachment 2)

COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH  
COURTHOUSE  
4TH & WALNUT  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66048  
AREA CODE 913-682-2271



LARRY E. SCHELLER  
County Clerk

February 18, 1983

RE: House Bill 2292

Dear Representative Harper:

Of all the election bills that I have seen as County Clerk, **H.B. 2292** takes the cake!

The following is an example of what happens when everyone wants to register people. Two years ago I was asked if I would stand outside churches and register people when they came out after services. When I declined, these same individuals asked if they could take cards and register people. I agreed and gave them some cards. They came back three times for more cards; I gave them a total of approximately 400 voter registration cards. (I was beginning to think that maybe I should have stood outside the churches.) When it came time to turn in the cards, I received 15 completed cards. I tried three times to get the other 385 cards, but they were never returned. When we mailed out the 15 copies to the voters, seven came back as undeliverable by the post office!!!!

As I stated in my letter on H.B. 2198, I have six permanent outposts in Leavenworth County. In 1982, I also went to Wal-Mart, St. Mary College and the V.A. Center to register voters. And upon request, I have even taken voter registration cards home with me to register voters.

I urge you to vote "NO" on H.B. 2292. H.B. 2292 is the only bill I have seen which would be worse to control than H.B. 2198.

Sincerely,

*Larry E. Scheller*  
Larry E. Scheller  
County Clerk

LES/las

Attch. 2

(Attachment 3)



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS**

1700 College  
Topeka, Kansas 66621  
(913) 354-1394

**Washburn University Campus Organization**

William L. Blankenship      Paul A. Sterrett  
Board Member                      Campus Director

Statement By

William L. Blankenship  
Board Member  
Washburn University

For The  
Associated Students of Kansas  
(ASK)

Before The  
Elections Committee  
Of The  
Kansas House of Representatives

On  
HB 2292

March 2, 1983

Representing the Students of:

Emporia State • Fort Hays State • Kansas State • Pittsburg State • University of Kansas • Washburn University • Wichita State

*Atch. 3*

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Elections Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be with you today to express the views of the Associated Students of Kansas on House Bill 2292.

My name is Bill Blankenship. I am a student at Washburn University. I represent the students of Washburn as their member on the ASK Board of Directors and have the additional privilege of serving as the chairperson of that board.

ASK is the only active state student association in Kansas. It represents 83,000 students attending the seven public universities in the state.

I am here today to express ASK's support for HB2292.

### STATEMENT OF SUPPORT: HB2292

When analyzing electoral participation in America, we can gauge our success by two standards. If we look at the number of people who are registered to vote and then subsequently turn out at the polls, we have a participation rate that rivals that of Great Britain, France, West Germany and Canada. On the other hand, if we look at the number of voters compared to the number of eligible participants, our rating on democratic participation is much lower. The distinction is due to the fact that voter registration is automatic in those aforementioned countries.

One noted student of voting has observed that "the act of registration itself requires as much if not more effort than the act of voting once registration is secured." With that in mind, another analyst has concluded that "every rational man decides to vote just as he makes all other decisions: if the returns outweigh the costs, he votes, if not, he abstains."

Time is the most obvious cost of voting. HB2292 is an effort to reduce this cost by bringing the voting registration process to one's home. This bill makes it as physically and emotionally easy as possible for those eligible to register and vote. This bill provides a cost reduction in terms of time and effort over the present law. Under current provisions, a person must request voter registration material. The county election officer mails the material to the voter. He/she completes the forms and mails them back to the county election officer. Finally, the county election officer returns to the voter notification that he/she is registered (or that the registration form is incomplete and further delay is necessary).

Two other aspects of the bill are also attractive. It removes specific time and place limitations. This allows those interested in registering voters to make their effort at a time and place most convenient for the potential voter rather than the reverse. Also, the provision which allows candidates to be deputy county election officers would be of benefit to organizations like ASK. When a candidate is invited to a forum, he/she can register voters after discussing the

issues with the group.

HB2292 does much to reduce the costs of registration. Enactment of this bill alone would do much to increase voter participation, given the costs-benefits analysis provided. However, it does not reduce the obligation of candidates and organizations like ASK to explain the benefits of voting. If bills like HB2292 are enacted and voter awareness efforts are made, we can have a voter participation rate that rivals that of any state or country on any scale of measure.

#### CONCLUSION

We ask you to support HB2292 and recommend it favorably to the House.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'll stand for questions.



OFFICE OF  
COUNTY CLERK, ATCHISON COUNTY

PAULINE M. LEE  
County Clerk

Phone: 367 1653  
ATCHISON, KANSAS 66002

MARYAN MOYER  
Deputy

February 22, 1983

Representative Richard Harper  
Election Committee Chairman  
175 W  
State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Harper:

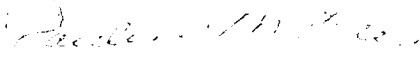
I am writing this letter in opposition of House Bills 2198 and 2292 and Senate Bill 163.

On House Bill 2198, registration on election day, if this is passed what would be the sense of having the closing of books 20 days before the election and late night hours or registration by mail and all of the other out posts that we presently have. I feel that if people want to register to vote they will do so on their own accord. You can not make people register and you can not make them vote if they do not want to. I feel that HB 2198 would not be a very good bill and the cost to the taxpayers would be an additional increase and an unjustly expense.

On House Bill 2292, Deputizing all precinct committeemen and women, candidates or any person recommended by the County Chairperson. I feel that this would not be a good bill. I feel that I would not have any control over that many people if I would have to deputize all the Precinct Committeepeople, candidates and any elector recommended by the party chairman. In our county that would be an additional 116 deputy election officers plus however many candidates would want to be deputized. We would have more problems we duplicate voter registration and another expense that the taxpayers should not have to face at this time with the economy the way it is. I have talked with several precinct people and they feel the same way that I do about the bill. I would like to see it not considered.

On Senate Bill 163, Presidential Primary. I would also like to oppose this bill. I feel that it is not necessary and an additional expense.

Very truly yours,

  
Pauline M. Lee,  
County Clerk

Ann Koehn  
County Clerk  
316-855-3618

# GRAY COUNTY

Box 487  
Cimarron, Kansas 67835

County Commissioners  
1st Dist: Lloyd Frack  
2nd Dist: W. Wiley McFarland  
3rd Dist: Austin Mentzer

February 17, 1983

The Honorable Richard Harper  
Chairman, Elections Committee  
House of Representatives  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Mr. Harper:

House Bill No. 2292 is a bill that concerns me, and it should concern every county clerk/election officer in the state. This bill states that . . .the county election officer shall appoint as deputy county election officers: . . . and continues to name those who, upon request, shall be appointed for the purpose of registration.

Gray County is a relatively small county, population-wise. However, in calculating the possible appointments for this county alone, I have come up with 38 people who could become deputies upon request. That figure does not include those who could also be deputized according to the numbered item (2) which is a part of the bill.

Could anyone really think it would be an advantage to supply and instruct that many people for voter registration? It would be a problem to supply that many people with the necessary materials for registration and it would also be quite costly.

It is the duty of the election officers to handle elections and to see that they run smoothly. That officer must take full responsibility for meeting publication deadlines, preparing ballots that meet all requirements, arranging for polling places and election boards, and numerous other details pertaining to each election. It should remain the prerogative of each election officer to appoint deputy election officers for voter registration as he (the election officer) sees the need. It is unfair to require that officer to furnish materials and instructions, upon the request of others, to carry out a duty for which the election officer must take full responsibility.

Many school districts use the Member District method of election of school board members. School district maps must be used to determine the member district in which each elector resides. If a voter is placed in the wrong area when they are being registered, there are embarrassing problems election board workers have to deal with at the polls on election day.

I firmly believe voter registration should remain under the jurisdiction of the county election officer so long as elections remain the responsibility of that officer.

Sincerely yours,

*Ann Koehn*  
Ann Koehn

CC: E. Dean Shelor  
Harold Guldner

# EDWARDS COUNTY, KANSAS

KINSLEY, KANSAS 67547

Marjory Scheufler, Belpre

FIRST DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

JACK H. MILLER, KINSLEY

SECOND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

LLOYD BRITTON, KINSLEY

THIRD DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

February 17, 1983

PHONE: 316-659-2583

OFFICE OF:  
BEA COATS

COUNTY CLERK/ELECTION OFFICER

PHONE 316-659-3121

Representative Richard L. Harper  
Room 175-W State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Harper,

I cannot understand the point of House Bill 2292. Is this supposed to make registration easier for the voter or be just a political "plum" for party members and candidates? I assure you that we have, in our small county of 4000, done everything possible to make it simple for voters to register. We have a deputy election officer in each small town and nine in our County Seat of Kinsley, at the library, City Hall and the Courthouse. I have gone to register voters at the high schools and sporting events. We take mail and phone requests for registration applications.

I hope you will give this bill much serious thought before passing another piece of extraneous legislation. This would probably not cause many problems in a county of our size, but imagine the chaos in a large county. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bea Coats  
Edwards County Clerk

COUNTY CLERK  
MARGARET WRIGHT  
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK  
ROBERTA SCHROEDER

OFFICE OF  
**COUNTY CLERK**  
**HARVEY COUNTY**  
NEWTON, KANSAS 67114

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FIRST DISTRICT  
E. J. "JIM" BRUBACHER  
NEWTON  
SECOND DISTRICT  
CHARLES M. BENJAMIN  
NORTH NEWTON  
THIRD DISTRICT  
DAVE FRIESEN  
BUHLER

February 14, 1983

RE: HB 2292

Dear Representative Richard L. Harper:

I am not in favor of this house bill as proposed. The wordage "shall appoint precinct people, candidates or any other electors ....." leaves the door wide open allowing anyone registered to vote to be deputized to take voter registrations.

There is a need to have some restrictions on handling voter registrations. Our office would spend extra time working up voter registrations due to improper handling and because all of the information wasn't gathered at the time the individual registered.

Thank you for your consideration.

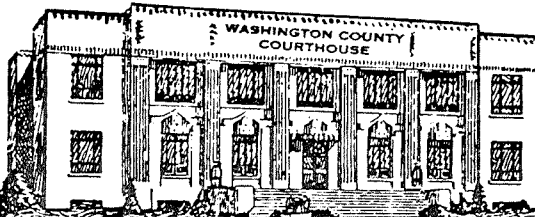
Cordially,

*Margaret Wright*

Margaret Wright

Harvey County Election Officer

MW/rs



RAYMOND E. BOTT  
Commissioner 1st Dist.

DWAIN COMPTON  
Commissioner 2nd Dist.

EVERETT LUTJEMEIER  
Commissioner 3rd Dist.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington, Kansas 66968

February 15, 1983

House chairman,  
Richard Harper  
Room 175 W  
Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my opposition to House Bills 2198 and 2292 and Senate Bill 163.

House Bill 2198: To allow registration on Election day would undermine all the progress we have worked for since 1972 when we started voter registration.

House Bill 2292: To implement this would be utter chaos. I firmly believe the County Clerk/Election Officers of the various Counties have adopted a system to make voter registration readily available to the public through deputies already appointed by them in the cities and registration by mail. I certainly do not approve of deputy election officers being appointed by any one other than the Election Officer who would be held responsible for the results.

Senate Bill 163: The expense of a Presidential Primary Election makes this election hard to justify.

Please give these particular bills careful consideration. The impact of these House Bills would be great.

Respectively submitted

Eileen Cox  
County Election Officer  
Washington County

CC: Senator Doyen  
Representative Arbuthnot

OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK

MICHELLE YADON, COUNTY CLERK

316 767-5518

# MORRIS COUNTY

COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS 66846

February 14, 1983

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CHARLENE MCRAE, COUNCIL GROVE  
MERLIN JOHNSON, DWIGHT  
EARL FORSBERG, BURDICK  
Meet 1st Monday of Month  
and Every Tuesday  
316 767-5700

Senator Richard L. Harper, Chairperson  
House Election Committee  
Capitol - Room 175-W  
Topeka, Ks 66612

RE: House Bills Nos. 2198 and 2292

Dear Senator Harper:

As a member of the County Clerk's Association, I do not support HB #2198 concerning voter registration at polling places on election days or HB#2292 concerning deputy county election officers.

Registration has never been easier or as less complicated as it is at the present. Let us not stir things up by passing the two above named bills.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michelle Yadon  
Morris County Clerk



OFFICE OF  
**EMERY J. ROME**  
**Ellis County Clerk/Election Officer**

HAYS, KANSAS 67601

PHONE 913-625-6558

P.O. BOX 720

**COMMISSIONER 1st DISTRICT**  
**BLISS C. DUBACH, ELLIS**  
**PHONE 913-726-4526**

**COMMISSIONER 2ND DISTRICT**  
**HAROLD G. KRAUS, HAYS**  
**PHONE 913-625-6488**

**COMMISSIONER 3RD DISTRICT**  
**ORLANDO WASINGER, HAYS**  
**PHONE 913-625-5404**

February 17, 1983

Richard L. Harper  
State Representative  
State Capitol Building  
Room 175W  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: House Bill Number 2292

Dear Representative Harper:

I have now had a chance to review the material contained in the above measure. I have determined that the present law regarding registration of voters is adequate and that House Bill Number 2292 is not needed and should be killed in committee.

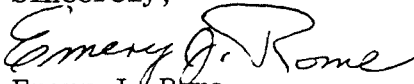
At the present time we are keeping extra hours in my office, at city clerks offices in the County, along with special outposts prior to every election, to provide ample opportunity for voter registration services. A potential voter may also register by mail by simply calling the office of the election officer or by requesting the necessary forms by mail.

In addition, I don't think this legislation is needed, as it would add an extra cost to the counties, and the election officer would loose control as to who was authorized to register potential voters and who wasn't, and this could also lead to possible fraud.

As Chairperson of the committee on elections, I respectfully request your committee act unfavorably on House Bill number 2292.

If I can be of help to you in any way, please feel free to call my office.

Sincerely,



Emery J. Rome  
Ellis County Election Officer

# COUNTY OF PHILLIPS

STATE OF KANSAS

PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS 67661

FEBRUARY 16, 1983

REPRESENTATIVE HARPER  
ROOM 175-W  
TOPEKA, KANSAS

DEAR SIR:

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN OPPOSING THE FOLLOWING HOUSE BILLS: # 2198, 2240 AND H.B. 2292. ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF A LETTER I WROTE LAST YEAR VOICING MY REASONS FOR NOT WANTING REGISTRATION AT THE POLLS ELECTION DAY. MY THINKING ON THIS HAS NOT CHANGED.

HB 2240 WHICH WOULD ALLOW DRIVERS' LICENSE EXAMINERS TO REGISTER VOTERS AND HB 2292 CONCERNING COMMITTEEPERSONS AS DEPUTY ELECTION OFFICERS TO "MAINTAIN RECORDS AND PERFORM DUTIES"... WOULD BOTH BE A MISTAKE AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED. THEY WOULD BOTH BRING UNNECESSARY CONFUSION AND EXTRA WORK INTO AN OFFICE THAT RUNS SMOOTHLY UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH IS BOTH ADEQUATE AND WORKABLE. WE DO NOT NEED UNINFORMED PEOPLE DABBING WHICH IS WHAT IT WOULD CONSTITUTE. COUNTY ELECTION OFFICERS AND COUNTY CLERK PERSONNEL WORK EFFICIENTLY ALL YEAR LONG KEEPING UP WITH CHANGES AND UP-DATING RECORDS. WE DO NOT NEED OUTSIDE CONFUSION.

I CAN NOT IMAGINE WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THESE BILLS IS OTHER THAN THEY OPEN THE DOOR TO UNINFORMED PEOPLE PLACED IN A POSITION THAT IS BEST LEFT AS IT IS, WITH THOSE WHOSE BUSINESS IS ELECTIONS.

SINCERELY,

  
MARGARET MALONE  
PHILLIPS COUNTY CLERK

**Thomas W. Rhoden, CKA**

COUNTY CLERK-APPRAISER  
TREGO COUNTY, KANSAS  
WAKEENEY, KANSAS 67672  
February 17, 1983

Phone: (913) 743-2114

Hon. Richard L. Harper, Chairman  
House Elections Committee  
Committee Members  
State Office Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

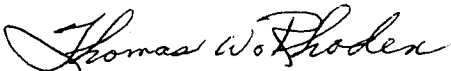
Dear Rep. Harper,

I have served more than twenty-two years as the official charged with the conduct of elections in this county. Also served as a member of the Kansas County Officials Coordinating Committee for four years and a member of the Elections Committee of the County Clerk's Association. From this experience I have concluded that the legislature has generally done a commendable job in furnishing a good set of laws that are the working tools of local officials in the holding of elections. In fact, I would consider the Kansas laws to be among the best of any state in our nation. However, this letter is being written to express my opposition to three bills under consideration in the legislature at this time and I wish to emphasize very strong feelings of opposition to one proposition for law namely HB 2198. I will not detail my reasons for opposition to this bill at this time for the sake of brevity.

I also wish to record my opposition to SB 163 which deals with the Presidential Preference Primary and HB 2292 as concerns precinct officers.

I appreciate your indulgence and consideration of my feelings in regard to these three bills.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas W. Rhoden, CKA  
Trego County Clerk

Copy Barbara Sehl  
Larry Sheller

TWR/kc

# COUNTY OF PHILLIPS

STATE OF KANSAS

PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS 67661

FEBRUARY 19, 1982

BELVA OTT, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TOPEKA, KANSAS

DEAR CHAIRMAN OTT:

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO H.B. 2929, CONCERNING VOTER  
REGISTRATION AT POLLING PLACES ON ELECTION DAYS.

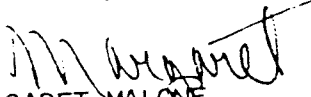
THERE IS PRESENTLY AMPLE TIME AND SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR VOTERS  
TO REGISTER UNDER THE PRESENT ELECTION LAWS ESPECIALLY SINCE REGISTRATION  
BY MAIL WAS MADE POSSIBLE.

THIS BILL WILL IN EFFECT CAUSE MORE WORK AND UNNECESSARY CONFUSION FOR  
THE COUNTY CLERK ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOL ELECTIONS. ELECTION BOARD WORKERS  
HAVE NO REASON TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE SOMETIMES INTRICATE BOUNDARIES  
OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICTS. THIS MAY BE EASILY DETERMINED IN URBAN  
AREAS BUT IT IS NOT IN THE RURAL AREAS WHERE OFTEN TIMES ONE SECTION  
OF LAND MAY BE IN TWO DIFFERENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOARD MEMBER DISTRICTS.  
WHEN REGISTRATION IS DONE UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM WE GET ALL THE INFORM-  
ATION AT ONE SESSION WITH THE HELP OF MAPS ETC., WHICH WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE  
AT THE POLLING PLACE.

I DO NOT THINK SHOWING A KANSAS DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PROVIDING A REAL ESTATE  
TAX BILL OR A UTILITY BILL ARE ANY OF THEM NECESSARILY PROOF OF RESIDENCY.  
IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE DRIVER'S LICENSE--YOU COULD BE A  
RESIDENT OF ANOTHER STATE AND HAVE A REAL ESTATE TAX BILL OR RECEIPT FROM  
KANSAS ETC.

YOU CAN NOT OVERCOME VOTER APATHY BY ALLOWING THE VOTER LESS RESPONSIBILITY.  
I THINK THE PRESENT ELECTION LAWS ARE VERY WORKABLE AND PERSONALLY I HATE  
TO HAVE THEM TAMPERED WITH.

SINCERELY,

  
MARGARET MALONE  
PHILLIPS COUNTY CLERK

# COUNTY OF ALLEN

Courthouse

IOLA, KANSAS 66749

Office of: ALLEN COUNTY CLERK

(316) 365-7491

February 21, 1983

Representative Richard Harper  
Chairman, House Elections Committee  
State Capital - Room 526S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: House Bill No. 2198  
Voter Registration at Polling Places

Dear Representative Harper:

House Bill 2198 was introduced by Representative Anthony Hensley to make possible voter registration at polling places on election day. As a county election officer, I wish to make the following points in objection to the passage of this bill.

At present, voter registration is required prior to election day. Additional hours (until 9:00 P.M.) for registration are kept the last three business days before the closing of registration books prior to state primary and general elections in cities of the first and second class. Registration is closed for twenty days preceding an election. This twenty-day period gives the election officer needed time to prepare the registration books for use by the precinct election boards.

County election officers can foresee many difficulties with the implementation of voter registration at the polls on election day. In the proposed bill, it states that ... "an individual may prove residence by (1) showing a Kansas driver's license, or (2) providing a real estate tax bill or receipt, or (3) providing a utility bill or receipt issued during the preceding thirty days, or ...".

Allen County is basically a rural area of approximately 16,000 people. We have two 2nd class cities with a combined population of nearly 10,000. These two cities have 53% of the total county voter registration of 7,595. The balance of the registered voters live in either 3rd class cities (where there are no street numbers) or in townships.



Representative Richard Harper  
House Elections Committee  
Page 2.

If an individual would provide any of the three items mentioned in the proposed bill, listing the residence as, for example, "Route 3, Iola," the voting precinct could be the City of Bassett, the City of Gas, West Elm Township or South Iola Township. It is our experience that many people who live in the country do not know the name of the township of their residence and especially do not know the section, township and range which would place them in a definite township, school district and school member district. It is very possible, even probable, that an individual would appear at the polling place for a voting area in which such person WOULD NOT reside. If the bill is approved, this individual would be registered and would be allowed to vote in error.

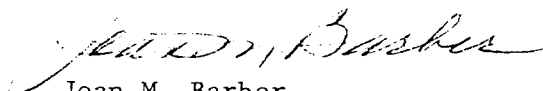
It is also very possible that an individual could vote in more than one precinct by presenting himself, being registered as a resident of that precinct, voting and then proceeding to another precinct, showing his "identification," being registered, and then voting a second time.

All county election officers make every effort to get all qualified individuals registered to vote. Most of the counties provide registration outposts. In Allen County, four cities maintain regular daily office hours at their city halls. The city clerks in these cities are sworn in as deputy election officers and take voter registrations for their city's residents. Outposts are set up at the libraries in the county and are set up upon request at the junior college, high schools and nursing homes. Voter registration forms are provided by mail upon request in writing or by telephone to an individual requesting the same. There are instances where the applicant would find it impossible to go in person to the office of the election officer or registration outpost to be registered to vote. The mailing of application forms in this instance poses no problem. The information on the application form, when it is returned to the office, can be verified by telephone if a question arises.

We have found that the individual who is "too busy" to come to the office to register prior to an election or "too busy" to even request that registration forms be mailed to him, is the same individual who is "too busy" to go to the polls on election day.

I, therefore, urge that House Bill 2198 be killed. I do not feel that it would be a workable improvement to present election laws.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jean M. Barber  
ALLEN COUNTY ELECTION OFFICER

cc: Rep. Denise C. Apt  
Sen. Robert V. Talkington



The Honorable Richard L. Harper, Chairperson  
Committee on Elections  
House of Representatives  
Third Floor, Statehouse

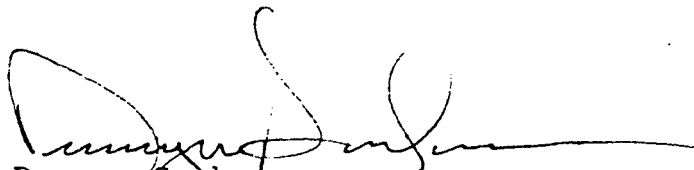
Dear Representative Harper:

SUBJECT: Fiscal note for House Bill No. 2467 by Committee  
on Elections

In accordance with K.S.A. 75-3715a, the following fiscal  
note concerning House Bill No. 2467 is respectfully submitted to  
your committee.

The subject act is cited as the "Mail Ballot Election Act."  
The act authorizes county election officers to conduct  
non-partisan elections where no candidates are elected by mail if  
the election is one of the special question-submitted election  
specified in Section 2(f) of the bill. The act establishes  
procedures, authorizes the Secretary of State to promulgate rules  
and regulations and automatically sunsets on December 31, 1985.

The exact fiscal impact of House Bill No. 2467, should it be  
passed, cannot be determined. It is only possible to say, based  
on information submitted by the Office of the Secretary of State,  
that mail balloting in special question-submitted elections costs  
generally between 30 percent and 80 percent of a regular  
election. Any savings generated by the passage of this act would  
be to local units of government.



Dwayne Sackman  
Principal Budget Analyst  
For the Director of the Budget

DS:dh

Fiscal Note  
1983 Session  
March 3, 1983

Bill No.

The Honorable Richard L. Harper, Chairperson  
Committee on Elections  
House of Representatives  
Third Floor, Statehouse

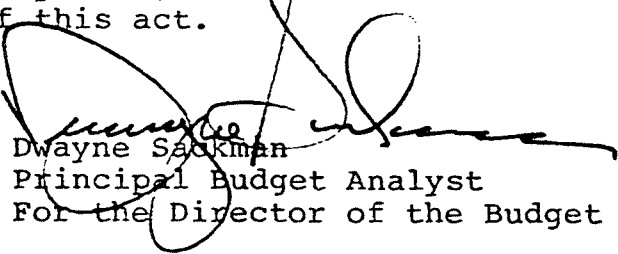
Dear Representative Harper:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for House Bill No. 2470 by Committee  
on Elections

In accordance with K.S.A. 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning House Bill No. 2470 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

The subject act would permanently reestablish a presidential election primary election in the state of Kansas.

The act amends the statute dealing with the method of reimbursing local election officials for costs incurred as a result of administering a presidential primary election. Under terms of House Bill No. 2470, the Secretary of State would reimburse the county treasurers one dollar for each vote cast by that county for all presidential candidates. Based upon a review of voter turnout in the 1980 presidential primary, the Secretary of State estimates that approximately \$500,000 would be disbursed to county treasurers under terms of this act.



Dwayne Sackman  
Principal Budget Analyst  
For the Director of the Budget

DS:sr