

Wednesday, January 24, 2024
SB 343
Proponent Testimony
Request to appear via zoom

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Chairmen Thompson & Federal & State Committee:

I'm writing this testimony in support of SB 343:

American's want to feel that their vote matters. Mail in ballots are ripe with fraud and are easily accessible to fraud. We have ballot drop boxes. Are all of those under surveillance with cameras? How do we know there is not ballot harvesting happening or someone signing a mail in ballot for a deceased person? I never saw myself running for office. There was a hot button issue for the Nov. 7th 2023 election that I was passionate about—rezoning. I decided to run because I care about my city and my ward in PV. Sometimes the margins can be so small that it is important to know that all of the votes are legitimate. I say that because I lost the Prairie Village city council election for Ward 6 by only 33 votes once all of the votes were counted..and I was down only 14 votes on the night of the election-- Nov. 7, 2023.

Fred Sherman, the JoCo Election County Commissioner, sent around a mailer, on cardstock, a packet regarding the upcoming election with an application for a mail in ballot pre-populated with the address and other voter information. Why was he spending JoCo dollars to do this? How much did it cost our county? I went to the canvassing event for the Nov 7th election and one of the JoCo commissioners asked Fred about sending out these unsolicited mail-in ballot applications. His answer sounded to me that so long as the state AG was okay with it, he would do it again! We need to try to eliminate unnecessary mail in ballots as a voting option. We have advance voting for days. We have election day voting. I understand that some people need to vote by mail but it does not need to be so widespread.

There are so many checks and balances with in-person voting. You give your driver's license, you sign your name, you verify your address and name... these checks and balances do not exist with the mail in ballots. What signature on file are we verifying with the mail in ballots? I believe when I get my driver's license, I sign with a stylist on an electronic pad. This signature never looks quite as authentic as one I do on paper. Is this the signature we are using?

Our elections need to be as secure as possible. The people need to be heard. Mail in ballots are not secure. I would be much more comfortable with paper, in person ballots but at the very least we should nearly eliminate mail-in ballots except where absolutely necessary. There is too much room for fraud and abuse with these mail in ballots. We need confidence in our elections and I am fully in support of this new bill to put more checks and balances on mail-in ballots and eliminate unrequested solicitation of mail-in ballot applications.