

January 24, 2024

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Erin Woods

EMAIL ADDRESS: ewoods999@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: SB 366

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Oral

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I ask that you oppose bill SB 366 that prohibits county election offices from mailing out advanced ballot applications without a request from a voter.

Advance ballots are an acceptable, convenient, and secure method of voting. Providing voters with timely, accessible, and handy information about the voting process that they are already entitled to is an invaluable service that simply promotes participation in our democracy, something we should all support.

I've been involved with a voter turnout project since 2018. Because of that, I (like many of you on this committee) am pretty well versed in the voting process. I know:

- times and locations for advanced voting in my county or where to find the info
- that I need bring a photo ID
- how to find a sample ballot that I can review on-line before I go to the polls
- how to find my election day polling location
- where to find the advanced ballot application
- the deadlines for submitting an advance voting application
- the first day the election office sends out advance ballots

In my volunteer work, I am continually surprised by the number of people who are not aware of a lot of this information or where to go to find it. I can't tell you the number of times friends have thanked me for helping them through the voting process by sharing this helpful information or directing them to our county election office website to help them find what to some of us seems like basic information. It's all information voters are entitled to and should have at their fingertips.

Which is why I was so impressed by the mailer we received in Johnson County before the most recent local election. All of the information above that I had been sharing with friends to make the voting process easier and to increase participation in our elections was in my mailbox in one handy flyer. Every bit of it can be found by navigating various tabs here and there on the county website, it's all available to the voter.

But now, it was super handy; right there on kitchen counters reminding people that there was an election coming and that they should make a plan to vote. And it outlined the various ways and

times they could vote, including voting by mail with the application in front of them should they choose to use it.

That flyer even served as a fantastic reminder to have my son fill out his advanced ballot application before he left for college. What a wonderful way to ensure a young voter gets the chance to participate in an election.

I actually kept my copy of the flyer because of how helpful I found it and I'm attaching it to my testimony. The somewhat pre-filled out application is no different than what I would get from my local election office on-line. When my son filled his out, he still had to write in his Driver's License number and sign and date the application. Once his ballot arrived in the election office, the same controls were in place to ensure the information and his signature matched his voter record.

I believe we all think that increased participation in our elections is something we should strive for. An election office should not be prohibited from providing a service they already provide on their website in a way that makes it even easier for voters to navigate the voting process.

Voting by mail is an acceptable and secure method of voting and is shown to increase voter participation. Our election offices have the necessary controls in place to ensure voting by mail is a secure method of voting whether the application was sent to them directly or they requested it.

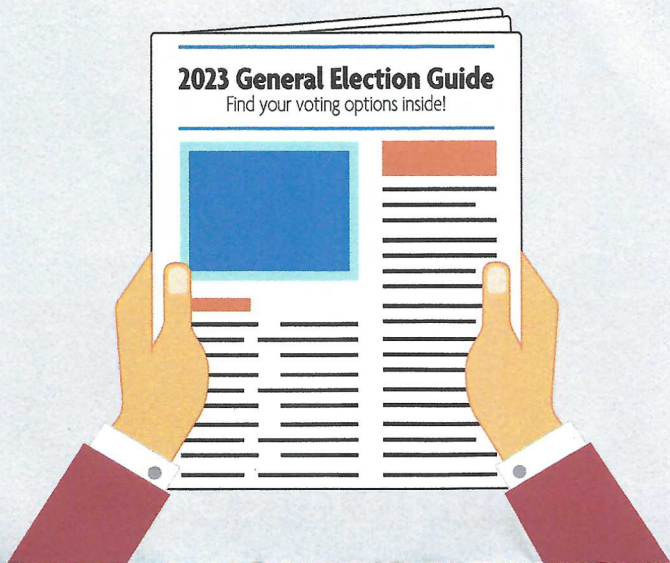
Respectfully, I ask you to oppose bill SB 366.

Erin Woods
Leawood, KS

Election Office

913-715-6800 | www.jocoelection.org

2023 General Election Guide
Find your voting options inside!



NON-PROFIT MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 2648

*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 66215



T297 P1
180615ES61



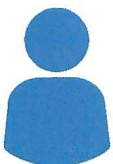
VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

November 7, 2023

Know Before You Go:



View your sample ballot starting Oct. 1
on jocoelection.org/voterview.



State law requires a photo ID to vote.
Learn more at sos.ks.gov.



Polls open at 7 a.m. and you must be in
line by the time polls close at 7 p.m.

My Polling Place

Hope Community Church
8200 State Line Rd
Leawood KS

*You must vote at your assigned polling
place when voting on Election Day.*



Three ways to make your vote count in 2023



Vote early by mail

Submit the application included in this mailer before October 31. Ballots begin mailing 20 days before the election.



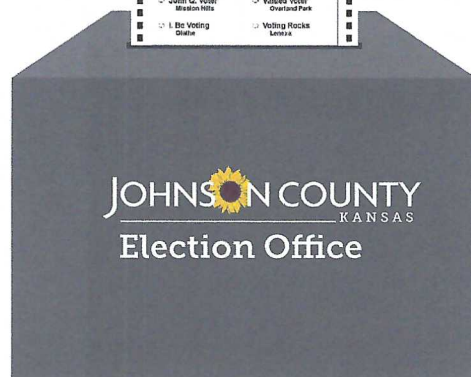
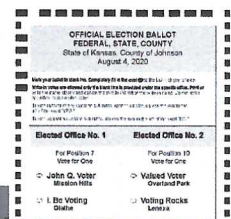
Vote early in-person

Visit any in-person advance voting location to cast your ballot. No application is necessary. Advance voting starts Saturday, October 28.



Vote on Election Day

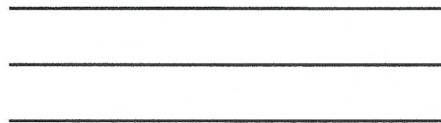
Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. on November 7, 2023. You must visit your assigned polling place.



To return your application, fold here with stamp facing out. Seal both sides together with tape as shown.

Johnson County Election Office
2101 E Kansas City Rd
Olathe, KS 66061

Place
Stamp
Here



Application for Advance Voting Ballot By Mail



3755259

2023 GENERAL ELECTION

<p>1 Voter's Name</p>	<p>Last <u>Woods</u> Middle _____ First <u>Erin</u> Suffix _____</p>
<p>2 Date of Birth</p>	<p>Date of birth (do not write today's date here) <u>[REDACTED]</u></p>
<p>3 ID Requirements Required →</p>	<p>Kansas Driver's License or ID Number _____</p> <p>You must provide either your Kansas driver's license number or nondriver's identification card number. Voters over 65 can provide an expired license number.</p> <p>If you do not have a current Kansas driver's license or nondriver's ID card, you MUST SUBMIT A COPY of a government-issued photo ID, such as a US passport or ID from another state, with this application. For other valid IDs, call the Election Office.</p>
<p>4 Johnson County Address</p>	<p>Street Address (no P.O. Box) <u>[REDACTED]</u></p> <p>City <u>[REDACTED]</u> State <u>KS</u> Zip <u>[REDACTED]</u></p>
<p>5 Mailing Address <i>ONLY to have your ballot mailed to a different address than the address above.</i></p>	<p>Mailing Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Note: The ballot may be mailed only to the voter's residential or mailing address as indicated on the county voter registration list, to the voter's temporary residential address, or to a medical care facility where the voter resides. These restrictions do not apply to a voter who has an illness, disability or who lacks proficiency in the English language. Ballots cannot be mailed until 20 days before the election.</p>
<p>6 Signature Required <i>Signatures are verified against signature on voter registration record.</i> Sign Here →</p>	<p>I do solemnly affirm under penalty of perjury that I am a qualified elector residing at the address listed above, or I am authorized to sign for the above named voter who has a disability preventing the voter from signing an application. I am entitled to vote an advance voting ballot and I have not voted and will not otherwise vote at the election to be held on November 7, 2023.</p> <p><u>X</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>
<p>7 Contact information</p>	<p>To assist the election office in contacting you in a timely manner if your application is incomplete, please provide the following information.</p> <p>Phone _____ Email address _____</p>

Easily return your application:



Mail:
2101 E Kansas City Rd, Olathe, KS 66061



Email:
votebymail@jocogov.org



Text:
913-953-9539

Reminder:

Returning this application for an advance ballot by mail will cause a ballot to be mailed to you 20 days before the election. If you then choose to vote in person, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot.

Ballots cannot be mailed to voters more than 20 days before the election. Completed applications must be received at the Election Office by Oct. 31 in order to be processed. False statement on this affirmation is a severity level 9, non-prison felony.

cut or tear to separate for return

ADVANCE VOTING

2023 General Election

October 28 - November 6

 @jocoelection
jocoelection.org
(913)-715-6800

Voting Hours

Saturday | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

*Open November 6 | 8 a.m. to noon

Vote at any location. No application needed.

***Arts and Heritage Center**

8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park

***Hilltop Conference Center**

7700 W. 143rd St., Overland Park

***JoCo Election Office**

2101 E. Kansas City Rd., Olathe

JoCo Northeast Offices

6000 Lamar Ave., Mission

JoCo Sunset Offices

11811 S. Sunset Dr., Olathe

JCCC Midwest Trust Center

12345 College Blvd., Overland Park

Monticello Library

22435 W. 66th St., Shawnee

New Century Fieldhouse

551 New Century Pkwy, New Century

Olathe Downtown Library

260 E. Santa Fe, Olathe

Olathe Indian Creek Library

16100 W. 135th St., Olathe

Locations are subject to change