

Date: January 20, 2023

To: The Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Topic: Letter in opposition to SB 386B

I am opposed to SB 368 for the following reasons:

- It is premature to ban Rank Choice Voting (RCV) before Kansans have an opportunity to see if it would be useful.
- RCV would be a nonpartisan election reform.
- Many local elections are nonpartisan, and RCV might be a good choice for those elections.
- RCV would help avoid the time and expense of run-off elections and recounts.
- RCV might encourage participation by more candidates. They do not have to worry about being a spoiler.
- It ensures the winner has majority support.
- It would eliminate the inconvenience of a return to the polls for runoff elections by workers, elderly, and handicapped voters.
- It would eliminate the problem of contacting overseas and military voters for a runoff election.
- It would avoid eliminating the candidate preferred by most voters in close three-way elections.

Rank Choice Voting would give a clear winner with one election and eliminate much of the expense and work of a runoff election. Its use is becoming more common so there are models to build upon. Rank Choice Voting is used statewide in Alaska and Maine, in three states' presidential primaries, and many local elections nationwide. It would help Kansas choose the best candidate, as in several cases, a third-party candidate has served as a spoiler, though they had no chance of winning.

Please vote No on SB 386 so that Kansas might have a chance to experiment with Rank Choice Voting if the citizens desire it.

Respectfully submitted,

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