

February 22, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Elections

NAME: Amy Hinrichs

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: aloramy.hinrichs@yahoo.com

BILL NUMBER: SB 6

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 6.

I am a resident of Kansas, and I feel strongly that voting should represent the will of the people. By adopting a ban, local municipalities are denied the ability to decide what election system is best for their community. Across this country, we use many different systems for voting. They are all safe and effective. However, limiting the choices offered to communities may leave them with a system that doesn't produce a majority winner and may require expensive runoff elections.

I, like everyone else, have whiplash from the rampant partisan politics going on in this country. The beauty of rank choice voting is its ability to help resolve that. For a candidate to win, they must have 50% +1 vote. This allows for more than half the voters to elect their candidate of choice, and it reduces the fear of voting for a spoiler candidate. Advocates of rank choice voting say this method protects choice in elections, encourages voters to express their true preferences, and reduces negative campaigning because candidates may need broader appeal to win.

Rank choice voting uses a very simple ballot that allows voters to rank the candidates in order of their preference. After they vote, a computer tabulates the results, just as our current system does, and those tabulation systems must go through an approval process before they can be used in an election. Our current voting system has proven time and again how secure it is. Rank choice voting must go through the same strict procedures and would be equally safe.

In addition, this system of voting is fiscally responsible. Rank choice voting reduces spending by eliminating the need for runoff elections. For example, the 2020 Georgia Senate runoff was estimated to cost \$75 million dollars - largely paid for by the taxpayers.

I am asking you to vote no on SB 6 so communities can decide for themselves what is best. I believe the US needs voting systems that support competition, choice, and accountability. Banning rank choice voting is not about protecting the people or even the vote. It is about removing competition and choice.

Please vote no on bill SB 6.

Amy Hinrichs

Olathe, KS