

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2453**

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

**Brief\***

HB 2453, as amended, would amend deadlines in election law regarding advance ballots and voter registration applications.

The bill would also make technical amendments.

***Advance Ballots***

*Transmitted by Mail*

The bill would move the deadline for a registered voter to apply to receive an advance ballot in the mail to the 14<sup>th</sup> day before a primary or general election and question submitted elections not occurring on primary or general elections dates. Under current law, the deadline is Tuesday the week preceding the election.

The bill would authorize county clerks to transmit advance ballots by mail 22 days before the election for which an advance mail ballot application has been received, rather than 20 days, as provided in current law.

The bill would amend the deadline for receipt of advance ballots transmitted by mail to the close of polls on election, rather than the current law deadline of 7:00 p.m. on election day.

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

### *In-Person Voting*

Current law sets the deadline for transmitting in-person advance ballots, or in-person early voting, at 12:00 noon on the day preceding an election. The bill would amend the deadline to be the Friday preceding the election. Additionally, the bill would authorize the county election officer to accept in-person advance ballots until 12:00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the election, including on Sunday itself. [Note: Current law authorizes county election officers to accept advance in-person ballots on the Saturday preceding the election.]

If a county election officer accepts ballots on the Saturday or Sunday preceding the election, the bill would require the election officer to provide notice of the acceptance at least three weeks prior to the election by publication on the county website and maintain the publication through the date of the election.

### ***Voter Registration Deadlines***

The bill would amend the windows in which county election officers shall not provide for voter registration to the 25 days preceding the day of the primary, general, and any other election from the 20 days preceding such elections.

The bill would also direct county election officers to accept and process voter registration applications not later than the 25<sup>th</sup> day preceding the election, when the applications are received from voter registration agencies and the Division of Vehicles. The bill would further direct county election officers to accept and process voter registration applications received by mail, so long as the postmark is the 25<sup>th</sup> day preceding the election.

### ***Rules and Regulations***

The bill would also remove provisions authorizing the Secretary of State to adopt rules and regulations providing for procedures for canvassing and challenging advance voting ballots received by mail after the close of polls.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Pickert.

### ***House Committee on Elections***

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Pickert provided **proponent** testimony, stating that the current window allowing people to apply for an advance ballot transmitted by mail does not allow for enough time to transmit that ballot to the individual and back, and the bill would allow more time for the transmittal of those ballots and add more time at the start for advance ballots to be transmitted by mail in general.

**Neutral** testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officers Association and the Office of the Secretary of State.

**Opponent** testimony was presented by a representative of Loud Light Civic Action, who stated the bill would present barriers to voter registration and add to fewer days of voting in total.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, Cross Border Network, Kansas Appleseed, League of Women Voters, and Sisters of Charity and nine private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Amend the deadline for transmitting in-person advance ballots;
- Authorize the county election officer to accept in-person advance ballots until 12:00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the election;
- Add the provision regarding three weeks of notice for in-person advance voting Saturday or Sunday preceding the election;
- Move the deadline for voter registration from 20 days to 25 days preceding the day of primary, general, and any other election;
- Conform deadlines for accepting voter registration applications from sources other than in-person to 25 days; and
- Conform deadlines regarding voter registration applications before presidential preference primary elections to 25 days.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the Secretary of State indicates it would use existing resources to update training materials for election officials and update educational and promotional materials for the public regarding the provisions of the bill. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates the bill would increase costs for the counties to hire additional staff to utilize the additional ways of removing voters.

Advance voting ballots; voter registration