

SESSION OF 2025

## SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 6

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

### **Brief\***

SB 6, as amended, would prohibit any form of ranked-choice voting (RCV) methods from being used in determining the election or nomination of any candidate to any federal, state, county, or other municipal elected office.

The bill would define “ranked-choice voting” to mean a form of voting that allows voters to rank two or more candidates in order of preference. Votes are tabulated in multiple rounds, where the lowest vote-receiving candidate is eliminated after each round until a candidate receives the majority of the votes cast.

The bill would declare null and void any ordinance, resolution, or regulation prohibited by the bill and adopted before July 1, 2025.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Thompson.

---

\*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/>

### ***Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Opportunity Solutions Project. The proponent stated that RCV complicates elections and jeopardizes public confidence in the process.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Association of Mature American Citizens Action, Election Transparency Initiative, Heritage Action for American, and Honest Elections Project Action and by four private citizens.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates and three private citizens. The opponents generally stated that RCV can be a useful tool and could ensure majority rule.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, Campaign Legal Center, League of Kansas Municipalities, League of Women Voters of Kansas, and Loud Light Civic Action, and by 11 private citizens.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Office of the Secretary of State, who indicated that KSA 25-702 mandates plurality voting and that no Kansas county currently has the capability to conduct an RCV election.

[*Note:* According to testimony, elimination of candidates based on preference often is done electronically.]

No other testimony was provided.

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

In the House Committee hearing, representatives of Honest Elections Project Action and Opportunity Solutions Project provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents generally stated RCV is confusing for voters, damages public trust in elections, and leads to voter ballots being discarded.

Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by representatives of Election Transparency Initiative, Heritage Action for America, and the Secure Elections Project and three private citizens.

Four private citizens provided **opponent** testimony, generally stating RCV is a useful tool, and it would be better not to ban RCV when it may someday be necessary.

Written-only opponent testimony was submitted by representatives of the City of Altamont, Health Forward Foundation, League of Kansas Municipalities, League of Women Voters, and Loud Light Civic Action, and 10 private citizens.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Office of the Secretary of State. The conferee stated that current statute has mandated plurality voting for all elections for the choice of any officer in Kansas, meaning one vote per office.

Written-only neutral testimony was submitted by a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to change the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

## **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of State and the Kansas Association of Counties indicate that enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect.

Elections; ranked-choice voting