

Testimony in Favor of the Help Kansas Vote Act
Dennis E. Wilson
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My name is Dennis Wilson. I am a resident of Larned, Kansas in Pawnee County. I am the owner of the Dennis Wilson Auto Center for the past twelve years and a United States Army Veteran 66 years old and married. I am currently serving on the Larned City Council and I have been re-elected to that position.

Larned is a City with a population of around 4000 people with a county population of around 7000.

I believe the Help Kansas Vote Act would be very positive for the smaller communities because it would increase voter turnout in the local elections. I have been to the polls at a local midterm where there were more poll workers than voters. That isn't at all cost effective use of our tax dollars. Larger voter turnout is important. Our system of government seems to work a lot better when the citizens voices are heard. I also like the partisan aspect of the bill. As voters we have a right to know the political leanings of the candidate. It gives a good indication of who they are. In my opinion it is more than just a label. A larger voter turnout also helps negate the influence of special interest groups.

The education aspects of the bill are very interesting. Uninformed voters are not good for our country or society. The Secretary of State voter education announcements and sample ballots should help. Involving high school students is a great civics lesson and may help them develop good voting habits.

In closing I have conducted a personal mini survey. Many I have spoken to are in strong agreement with this bill. Some are neutral and very few are strongly opposed. Some of those I have spoken to are city administrators and elected officials. Thank you for letting me address the Kansas State Senate.

Dennis E. Wilson