

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2013

House Committee on Elections

Davis Hammet – Loud Light Civic Action

January 24, 2023

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Timeline Issues

The statewide election results are not usually certified until December 1st which under this bill would be the exact same day a run off election would need to occur in 2026. Election certification is one example of the many technical timeline issues (audits, recounts, objections, etc) that would need to be resolved before enacting such a law.

Cost Issues

The last several elections for Governor, both Laura Kelly and Sam Brownback, were just shy of 50% (2022: 49.54%, 2018: 48.03%, 2014: 49.8%). Meaning a third election each cycle may be the norm instead of the exception in Kansas. This election would cost millions of dollars to administer and that cost would fall on county governments. Kansas hasn't held a presidential primary election since 1992 specifically because of the costs involved in each election.

Only One State Does This – Georgia

Georgia is the only state that uses a general election run off system similar to the proposal in this bill, and there is discussion in Georgia of abolishing it. Louisiana has an election system somewhat similar to a run off, but it only occurs after a general that operates as a jungle primary.

Reduced Turnout – Run Off Winners Have Fewer Votes Than General Winners

Run off elections have reduced turnout which results in the runoff election winner having fewer votes than the general election winner. In Georgia, this has allowed a candidate to win in a runoff despite receiving half a million fewer votes than the general election winner. I've attached a chart showing how in Georgia runoffs have reversed the winner costing both major parties a U.S. Senate seat and they have confirmed the same winner. However, in all these scenarios the candidate that received the most votes that year was the winner of the general election.

Alternative Options

There are alternative options with pros and cons to consider; however, such a drastic change in how Kansans choose winners merits a more in-depth process than is afforded here today. Consider the 2017 Special Committee on Elections which looked at Ranked Choice Voting.

I recommend this committee oppose HB2013. I'm happy to stand for any questions.

Thank you,

Davis Hammet

Loud Light Civic Action

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2013

House Committee on Elections

Davis Hammet – Loud Light Civic Action

January 24, 2023

Georgia U.S. Senate Run Off Elections

	Party	General Votes	%	Run Off Votes	%	Winner Vote Difference
2022	Total Votes	3,935,924		3,541,877		
	R	1,908,442	48.5%	1,721,244	48.6%	-125,484
	D	1,946,117	49.4%	1,820,633	51.4%	
	L	81,365	2.1%			
2020	Total Votes	4,952,175		4,484,902		
	R	2,462,617	49.7%	2,214,979	49.4%	-192,694
	D	2,374,519	47.9%	2,269,923	50.6%	
	L	115,039	2.3%			
2008	Total Votes	3,752,485		2,137,956		
	R	1,867,097	49.8%	1,228,033	57.4%	-639,064
	D	1,757,393	46.8%	909,923	42.6%	
	L	127,923	3.4%			
	Other	72	0.0%			
1992	Total Votes	2,251,587		1,253,892		
	R	1,073,282	47.7%	635,118	50.7%	-473,298
	D	1,108,416	49.2%	618,774	49.3%	
	L	69,878	3.1%			
	Other	11	0.0%			