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Haysville Kansas

January 20, 2023

To: House Elections Committee

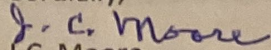
Topic: Opposition to Runoff Elections

I am opposed to HB 2013 for the following reasons:

- It would be expensive to hold runoff elections. There is no fiscal note with the bill, but estimates are that it would cost several million dollars to hold the runoff elections.
- It would be a recurring expense. It would obligate this state to pay for runoff elections in every election where there is not a clear winner, forever.
- It would overwork our election officials. Within a month after the general election, they would have to prepare and print a new ballot and find the poll workers for the election.
- It would greatly inconvenience voters. Many voters have to take off work to vote and elderly, handicapped, or disabled voters might have difficulty getting to the polls again.
- It would discourage voting by mail. It would not give time to request ballots, receive them, and mail them back in. The mail is very slow now. I received my mail in ballot three weeks after I requested it and two days after the election. I had to cast a provisional ballot.
- It would make voting again very difficult for overseas and military voters.
- It does not take into account the time needed for counting provisional ballots or for recounts of close elections.
- It might eliminate the candidate preferred by the voters. In close three-way elections, the candidate eliminated might be the better choice.
- It is not the best way of achieving the same goals. Rank Choice Voting would eliminate the problems above, give a clear winner with one election, and eliminate much of the expense and work of a runoff election. It would cost less than one runoff election to set up the rank choice voting system, and then it could be used in all future elections.

I hope you will consider my objections, and amend the bill to create a Rank Choice Voting system. Its use is becoming more common so there are models to build upon. Rank Choice Voting is used statewide in Alaska and Maine, in three states' presidential primaries, and in many local elections nationwide. It would be a good choice for Kansas to create elections where a third-party candidate does not serve as a spoiler in the elections.

Cordially,

  
J.C. Moore