



Date of Testimony: Tuesday, February 7, 2023; Written and In-Person Testimony

Bill Number: HB 2190: Expanding certain election crimes and creating new ones, eliminating the criminal prosecutorial authority of the secretary of state and defining special elections.

Disposition: Opponent

From: Cille King, 785-766-6992, cilleking@gmail.com; Advocacy Chair; League of Women Voters Kansas

To: Chair Pat Proctor and members of the House Committee on Elections

The League of Women Voters of Kansas appreciates the Secretary of State's work to add security and clarity to election laws, but we ask for changes to four sections of HB 2190.

(1) Page 4, Sec 6 (e) lines 11-19

What is the meaning of "affiliate" in "No other entity may affiliate with a governmental agency for the purpose of registering voters unless, as part of a joint voter registration plan, such entity agrees to register voters using only official governmental websites and provide voter registration information that only lists official governmental websites."?

Is this referring only to events where another "entity" will join the Election Office staff at a specific event? Or is this much broader, referring to **any** cooperation between another "entity" and the governmental agency?

Currently, the Kansas Secretary of State's online voter registration system does not allow for signatures, which limits online voter registration to those who have already submitted their signature with an application for a Kansas driver's license or non-driver ID. This leaves out a lot of new voters: young people who haven't gotten a drivers license, out-of-state college students who want to vote in Kansas, those who don't or can't drive, handicapped and/or home bound individuals, new Kansans who have moved recently from another state, etc.

Many Kansas election offices appreciate having the alternative websites that offer inclusive online voter registration applications (actual voter registration is only done by the election office through ELVIS). Paper applications cost election offices an average of \$3.54 in labor costs and more in paper and postage costs to clarify information. Online registration information doesn't have the problem of needing to decipher handwriting or dealing with missing information. The online information is a fraction of the cost of dealing with paper forms.

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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We propose another sentence to solve this problem: “Sec 6(e) will become effective when there is a governmental website for online voter registration that allows all Kansas citizens to register to vote, not just those with a Kansas Drivers License or Non-driver ID. Another option would be to remove this entire Sec 6 (e).

(2) Page 4, Sec 7(c) Lines 36-40 “The secretary of state shall include in such database a list of active voters and a separate list of voters who have failed to vote at two consecutive state or national general elections or who have failed to respond to a confirmation notice...”. We suggest that this be changed to “...voters who have failed to vote at *any election during a three year period* or who have failed to respond to a confirmation notice...”, because someone might vote in a primary or special election.

(3) Page 5, Sec 7(f) Line 10 and Sec 8(b) Line 29-30. We would like “email address” to be removed from the list of otherwise personal security data. If a voter has moved and with current phone habits of not answering unknown phone calls, an email address may be the only way to contact a voter.

(4) Page 5, Sec 8(c) Lines 32-35. We would like this section to be changed to allow public access to provisional ballots determinations. The numbers of provisional ballots that are not accepted should be open for public knowledge. Large numbers of unaccepted provisional ballots indicate needed voter education to avoid repeat misunderstanding and uncounted ballots. We understand that the number of people who call after a county canvass to learn if their ballot was counted is next to zero. Voter advocacy groups can assist with voter education regarding voting laws. An alternative would be to require election offices to contact all provisional ballot voters whose ballots didn't count, with the reason(s) that their ballot was not accepted. We also ask that there is a change in the voter-view posting – when a provisional ballot isn't counted, there is an acknowledgement to that effect – such as Provisional-not counted, rather than letting the voter think that their vote was valid.

It is difficult for most voters to follow constant changes in election laws, and we request that election law changes increase, not further restrict voter access.

We request that these amendments be made to HB 2190 before working the bill.