

February 7, 2024

The Hon. Rep. Pat Proctor, Chair and Committee Members
House Committee on Elections
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St., Room 281N
Topeka, KS. 66612

Dear Chairman Proctor and Committee Members:

I read with concern HB 2572 requested by Rep. Waggoner, regarding returning “advance voting ... [which requires] personal delivery and photographic identification of any person delivering advance voting ballots on behalf of other voters.”

I have several worries about this bill. The bill states that the county election officer receiving the ballot would take the photograph. After thinking about all the steps required to perform what, at first glance, seems to be a simple task, I have the following questions and concerns.

1. The amount of time required to process these advance ballots, as delineated in the bill, is increased exponentially. These measures increase the duties of elections officers because they must take additional steps to preserve and safeguard the information of each person who delivers the ballot. And because the bill requires a photograph of each ballot, it seems that the bill requires that each individual ballot be held up by the person delivering the ballot. Then the election official must take a photograph of that delivery person holding up the individual ballot and go on in this manner for nine additional ballots (the total number of ballots that an individual is able to collect.). The process is then repeated for the next nine ballots, and the next nine, and so forth. The information of the individual voter must also somehow be preserved and safeguarded, which will require further steps.
2. Who will be responsible for keeping their personal information safeguarded, as it appears that the information of the ballot delivery person will be coming from their “photo identification card” (presumably a state driver’s license or a state ID)? What safeguards will be in place to protect any PII (Personally Identifiable Information)?
3. Specifically, what information will be collected from the person’s “photo identification card”? And to speak to question 2 above, where will all this private information be stored? How can you guarantee it will be kept safe, given the extreme measures hackers are willing to take to exploit and break into government servers, hospital servers, credit card companies, and virtually any business that tries to protect PII? I would think (and hope) that the extra money, time, and expense that will be required to go through all these burdensome extra steps would be better used to strengthen our state, county, and city networks in order better protect our information from bad actors – who, I’m sure you are aware, reside primarily in former Soviet republics such as Bulgaria and Romania. Many are also in Russia and China.
4. There has never been any substantiated, significant voter fraud in the United States. There have been many claims of fraud, but a claim doesn’t make what’s said a fact. Facts are verifiable data and can be backed up by evidence.

It seems this and other bills, such as HB 2183, passed in the 2021 legislative session, are creating trouble where there historically has never been any problem with voter fraud and putting multiple steps in place for the appearance of preventing fraud. I would much prefer that state funds be better used to deal with real-world problems, of which our state has many. Massive voter fraud is a feigned problem. I agree that putting guardrails in place to prevent fraud is necessary. Burdensome and complex rules to fix a non-existent problem is clearly going overboard, and I object to my tax dollars being used frivolously. Where's the balance in these bills?

This bill appears to be quite difficult in its ability to be carried out, and because of its complexity, may very well dissuade eligible voters from being able to cast their vote. It seems expressly designed to disenfranchise voters.

I strongly oppose this legislation. It is a grievous violation of the personal rights of both voters and the kind-hearted people who care deeply about Democracy and in the Democratic ideals that the United States espouses. These amazing, caring people take their own time to help people who otherwise would be unable to exercise their right to vote as codified in both the US Constitution and the Kansas Constitution. Erosion of voting rights is a slippery slope that has led many democracies into an authoritarian type of government. I deeply love my country, as I know everyone on this committee and in this room does. But I'm very afraid of losing our freedoms, freedoms that hold us separate from countries such as Turkey and Hungary, who claim Democracy but where power is, in fact, held in the hands of a few elite people. I think that we often forget – driving is a privilege. Voting, however, is a right.

Martin Niemöller, a Lutheran pastor in Germany during World War II, originally believed in Adolph Hitler's tactics to harm human beings by requiring "others" to leave their houses and move into ghettos (prior to the development of the death camps.) Eventually, though, once he realized the truth of what Hitler was doing, he changed his beliefs. He was so aggrieved by what was happening in his country that he repeated the following commentary many times in his sermons and speeches:

First They Came


First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

—Martin Niemöller

Respectfully submitted,



Eileen Spickler
Kansas Citizen