

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee,

I am greatly concerned that HB2086 has changes to 66 sections of statutes. This many changes should be expressed in multiple bills, where votes could be assessed in a more granular way. Most concerning, this bill gives the Secretary of State additional powers with respect to elections and election processes. I see no method of holding the SOS accountable with this new centralized power.

Why would Kansas ever want to go down this path???

The bill states that each county election officer is the sole public officer responsible for planning, conducting, and coordinating elections within that county, but it then takes away their ability to ensure the integrity of the elections by eliminating their ability to preserve and protect the data on the electronic equipment.

This bill modifies the definition of fraud with respect to the electronic equipment to include unauthorized access...and effectively eliminates any opportunity to open the machines for examination.

This bill also provides an “as needed” unlimited extension to the 3’ rule. The 3’ rule is the distance poll agents must abide by during elections, audits and recounts. Unless you have Superman’s x-ray vision, seeing details on printed forms from 3’ away is difficult as is...and extending that distance would be make it extremely difficult to observe the process.

Why does this bill grant additional powers to the SOS, but remove power from the precinct committee position. Precinct committee people would no longer be poll agents, and therefore no longer able to appoint poll agents. Why does the bill allow for the State or County Party Chair to object to a precinct person. Why are we now moving to take away the one thing that local communities can rely on to feel sure about their elections...which is local people overseeing the process.

The statue regarding the use of ballots has been modified to agree with the Rules & Regulations which were written by the current Secretary of State’s office to allow for the use of ballot images. Unless the ballot images are printed, I believe the only way to view them is via computer screen. Technically speaking, it is not a ballot image, but a printed version of the ballot image.

What is the change of custody for a ballot image?

What are the security measures for the computer which maintains the ballot images?

What are the checks and balances for the ballot images?

A paper ballot goes into a locked box that is tagged, signed off on and sealed. To access the ballot another process is required to unseal the box. Do the ballot images have any of these security procedures?

These are only a few of the many concerns I have with HB2086. This bill contains far too many controversial changes to be passed as is. I encourage the committee to listen to these concerns and vote to oppose HB2086.

Will Hoerl