

January 22, 2024

Bill number: SB 366

Opponent Testimony from Corliss Jacobs, 20745 College Blvd, Olathe, KS 66061

To Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee

I am a lifelong resident of Kansas, now residing in Olathe, and a retired teacher.

This bill to forbid County Election Officers from mailing advance voter registration ballots to registered voters in their counties is an obvious attempt to discourage citizens from voting by making the process more complicated.

Legislators should want to do everything they can to make voting accessible and to assure that citizens are aware and informed about upcoming elections. Voting should not be a process of overcoming hurdles.

Most Kansans are really busy with many daily responsibilities: kids activities, doctor's appointments, home & car maintenance and upkeep, recordkeeping, not to mention working 40-60 hour weeks and much more. Remembering the dates of our many elections at all levels of government and educating ourselves about the issues and candidates is another time-consuming activity, very important but easy to forget or put off.

Receiving an advance ballot in the mail is a reminder of an upcoming election. It's a "heads-up" notice to prepare and vote. We receive notices in the mail to pay our property taxes and to renew our car registrations. Using the same logic of SB 366, County officials should not send those tax notices to us in the mail....we should keep track of the due dates without mailed reminders and do our own research to learn the amount we need to pay.

Obviously, eliminating tax notices is a ludicrous idea. It would make tax collections completely ineffective. Forbidding mailed advance voting ballots is equally ludicrous, making elections inefficient, both for voters and election officials.

It is patriotic to encourage citizens to vote and make it as easy as possible.
PLEASE OPPOSE SB 366

Regards,
Corliss Jacobs