

My name is Kim Gish and I am a grassroots volunteer for Sedgwick County. For the last 15 years I have been a grassroots volunteer in Sedgwick County. In the last five years I have been "chasing ballots." In order to do this, I would call my local Election Office, pay a certain amount, and I would receive the addresses, names and party affiliation of those that have requested an advance ballot. As you may know, when you are chasing ballots, you try to get to a voters door before the advanced ballot reaches their mailbox, and explain why they will need to vote for your candidate. Being experienced as I have been in the last five years, I have acknowledged that the first three days is the heaviest amount of advanced ballots addresses that you receive. After that, in my experience, the number starts to twiddle down as far as names for advanced ballots. Also, to let you know, the district that I was in and for school board election, I was canvassing a small district. After the third day, the number of names that I would get, in previous years, would be a lower amount, to an average of 10 to 15 names per day. At this last election, I was still getting 40, 50, 60 advanced ballot names and addresses, well over a week of the first day that advanced ballots were sent. As I received these advanced ballots, I realized how biased it was on the advanced ballot. (I have a copy of a list, several days after the initial day advanced balance were sent out.) There was many Democrats and unaffiliated, and very few Republicans. As I looked at the advance ballots that were sent to me by the Election Office every day, I had realized how saturated it was of Democrats and unaffiliated that were being sent to receive an advance ballot and how biased this was. Of the Republicans that I had asked while at their door, they had replied that they had requested advance ballot for many years. When at a Democrat door, I asked how did they received an advanced ballot application and a vast majority of them had said that they had not requested it, but it was just sent to them by mail. After acknowledging this, I called a friend who is registered as an unaffiliated in Sedgwick county and she had said that she had received four ballot applications without request. If we are going to be sending out advance ballot applications, it needs to be fair and secure. I am here today for the support of SB 366 because if we are going to be sending out advanced ballots applications, it needs to be fair and secure. Thank you.