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House Committee on Elections  
Chairman Rep. Pat Proctor

To the House Committee on Elections:

I strongly encourage you to **REJECT SB 6** – Prohibiting the use of ranked-choice voting methods for conducting elections.

No elections in Kansas currently utilize RCV as defined by the bill anyway, so prohibiting it is a bit premature. Consider the potential if RCV were utilized. We know that no single party represents even half of the registered voters in Kansas, yet our primaries are closed, meaning less than half of registered voters are deciding the leading candidate or candidates. Consequently, RCV could open the door for more people to run for office since they would not worry about splitting the vote and possibly allowing a more extreme opposing candidate to slip in. Prohibiting RCV would prevent us from even trying it on a limited basis.

The primary concern about RCV is that it is too complicated. To that argument, I would say Kansans are smart enough to understand ranking their preferences. People have been asked what their first, second, and third choices are since grade school. As for tabulating the results of RCV, there is safe and reliable software available, just like in any other election tabulation. To prohibit RCV would be giving in to the fear of even the possibility of change. Nothing great ever came from the fear of possibility.

Finally, the only reason to prohibit RCV is if you believe it would result in someone else being elected to your seat. If you honestly believe that is likely, then you should first consider how well you are representing those in your district. If you are representing the majority of your constituents, RCV would only reaffirm that. Therefore, once again, prohibiting RCV does nothing but take a possible future option away from us.

Do not take away our options before they have even been tried. Reject fear. **Reject SB 6.**

Sincerely,

Ashton Gebhard