

I oppose this bill to impose restrictions on online voter registration. Vote against it.

This law would take effect and make online voter registration sites not approved by our Secretary of State illegal as soon as it is published, but gives the Secretary of State until 2027 to figure out what the rules for online voter registration website approval ought to be, thus effectively shutting down almost all online voter registration in Kansas, until after the 2026 midterms.

This is bad legislation. In the absence of any real emergency, this would disrupt voter registration systems across the state in one fell swoop without any notice. To do such a thing is an ill advised, chaotic disruption of the elections process.

This takes our state back to the dark ages, where the pace and form of day to day life assumes almost any function can easily be completed online, from registering your car to paying your bills to applying for jobs and even testifying before the state legislature, we would suddenly upend but one vital civic duty we all share: voting, and to that end, registering to vote. To say this is odd is to say the least. And I am sticking with the least for propriety's sake.

We have had exactly one highly publicized incident of "voter fraud" where a man filled out his registration form honestly and checked "no" where the form asked if he was a citizen and the woman who entered him into the system didn't even read it. Why do you want more of that, and not less, if you are so concerned?

And how do you propose that organizations which register people to vote adapt? Do you want them to employ a thousand hapless volunteers that also don't read the forms they are given? Do you want them to go to every parking lot and knock on every door and personally talk to everyone they see about how to register to vote this year? I don't like the former but the latter sounds realistic, if unreasonable to force people to do.

I think I like things the way they are until I see a better plan. And please don't waste my tax dollars entertaining such capricious and ill thought out diversions of our democratic institutions again. I will oppose it.