

Opposition Testimony on House Bill No 2438

House Committee on Elections

Emily Guthrie

January 15th, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Emily Guthrie, and I am here to respectfully oppose this bill.

I oppose this bill because it creates new barriers for Kansans, especially rural voters, who already face challenges accessing voter registration and election information. By limiting online voter registration to only .gov websites or websites specifically approved by the Secretary of State, this bill could reduce the number of trusted, community-based tools that people rely on to get registered. Many voters in rural areas access these tools, and have been using them for years, myself included.

This bill also shifts control of the registration process away from local counties and places more power in the hands of the state. Counties know their communities best. They understand the unique barriers their residents face. When the state consolidates decision-making about which tools can be used to register, it removes flexibility for counties to support voters in the ways that work best locally.

I appreciate the importance of data security. But counties already have strong practices in place, and there are many secure, reliable voter registration tools that do not use a .gov domain. Instead of limiting access, the state could focus on supporting counties with resources, training, and technology that improve security without reducing options for voters.

At a time when we should be working to make voting more accessible and more convenient for every Kansan, rural, urban, and everywhere in between, this bill moves us in the opposite direction. It restricts choice, reduces local control, and could unintentionally disenfranchise voters who already face hurdles.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.