

Donnavan Dillon
Private Citizen
Opponent Testimony of HB 2438
For the House Elections Committee

Jan 16th, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

My name is Donnavan Dillon and I am Lawrence Resident, KU graduate, and lifelong Kansan. As someone who takes great pride in being from our amazing state, a lot of that pride comes from being connected to my community through civic engagement. From volunteering at local nonprofits to voting in every election, civic engagement is the heart and core of what makes our state so great. Because of this, I urge you all to vote in opposition to House Bill 2438.

As someone who has organized on campuses across the nation and particularly in Kansas registering young voters is essential to a healthy electorate and democracy. Studies show that when people are not brought in and educated on the process before the age of 35 they are likely to never engage in the process at all. Because of this, making Voter Registration a streamlined process that can be completed in your five minutes between class, or on your lunch break is extremely important for young people, busy working class folks, and anyone who might be in a hurry.

This bill is outright suppressive with no justification as to why an accessible process and growing electorate is a negative for our democracy. This comes as a shock as you are elected officials who carry the title of representative, a less accessible democracy inherently means your title does not live true to the name and purpose that aligns with the vision of a true representative democracy. Since the rise of non-government registration tools in our state specifically we have seen a significant rise in voter registration numbers across the youth population, rural voters, and minority communities. Bills like this show young people, working Kansans, rural families, parents, and minority groups that the state itself views voter registration and our civic participation as a negative.

We also know that these nongovernment registration tools have not led to any threats to election security in our state. The Secretary of State himself as well as many election clerks across the state have explicitly stated before this very committee and legislature that our elections are safe and secure. Without any data of these sites being a threat to security and the fact that this has been an accessible tool for Kansans across all demographics this type of legislation boils to one thing; control.

Because of the aforementioned reasons I urge you to vote in opposition of this outright suppressive bill as someone who does this work on the ground and knows the impacts it will lead to. Democracy should never be an exclusive party for those with time access and pre-existing political knowledge. A limited electorate is a limited vision for what Kansas could be. Please vote in opposition to House Bill 2438.