

Opponent Written Only Testimony on HB 2438

House Committee on Elections

Chloe Chaffin, Private Citizen

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to vote in opposition to HB 2438 as this bill is plainly suppressive and without justification. The state has not articulated nor proven any data breaches or voter fraud that has come through nongovernmental registration tools, and yet you would seek to limit Kansan's opportunities for engagement.

I am both a graduate student myself and someone who works very closely with many other students and young people trying to get my generation and future generations invested in their state and local government. I would hope that the legislature and this committee would understand participation as a positive, but instead, it seems this legislature feels threatened by the idea of a representative democracy. I don't know how else one could possibly interpret this. Young people are especially likely to register to vote online, but these tools are also helpful to renters and low income folks who may move more frequently or those who live in rural areas who would be less likely to go to an in person office to do physical paperwork, or busy parents of young children, or any number of other Kansans who just need a little choice in their day. We should want to make it easier, not harder for our neighbors to make their voices heard.

The only reason to limit these tools would be because you all as lawmakers are scared you will not have the public's support so you must limit access to maintain control. It is quite sad to think you have no willingness to govern on behalf of true popular will, or perhaps you simply lack the skill. Either way, I am deeply troubled for our democracy.

Session is always short, and last year and this year are even shorter than most. Calling for hearings on short notice for bills which, to borrow your phrase, are "solutions in search of a problem", is deeply frustrating. There is an opportunity cost with each bill and HB 2438 serves no one. If the state wants to create more accessible tools for registration, I would welcome that with open arms, and I even challenge you to do so. But to just slash away at nonprofits and individuals acting within their protected first amendment speech because you are afraid to win elections on your persuasion efforts alone? It is insulting to everyday Kansans just trying to navigate systems that were not built for them.

I once again urge you to vote no in opposition to HB 2438 to reject another uncalled for suppression attempt by this committee.