

Written opponent testimony on HB 2438

House Elections Committee

Alexandra Battey

January 15, 2026

Members of the Committee,

I am opposed to HB 2438. The bill as written does not provide a structure or framework for the Secretary of State to fairly and transparently assess online voter registration tools. This leaves any ban up to the sole discretion of the Secretary of State, while not providing any fair framework for online voter registration sites to follow to be in compliance.

Tools that more easily enable citizens to register to vote should be the norm. While ideally these would be created by the state, this is not always the case; sites like ksvotes.org provide a valuable civil service and have been doing so for years. Please do not pass this bill, which does not solve a problem but will instead make it harder for citizens to register to vote.

Thank you for your time.

Written Opponent Testimony on HB 2438

House Committee on Elections

Fred Bellemere Private Kansas Citizen

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2438. This bill provides the Secretary of State Power to ban online voter registration tools for any reason they see fit. There is no framework provided in the bill for what an acceptable online voter registration tool would be. There is also no allowance made for development of a state-run online voter registration tool. The law is to go into effect immediately, however there will be no rules set for creating an online voter registration tool until after the 2026 election. Kansas should be providing safe and secure options for voter registration and this bill provides nothing of the sort. For years we have heard from the Secretary of State in Kansas that our elections are fair and free from election fraud. This bill is unnecessary and puts an undue burden on Kansas Citizens wanting to register to vote.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Fred Bellemere

Lawrence Ks

Opponent Testimony on HB 2438 to the House Elections Committee on 1/15/2026

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

I find it disgraceful that you are yet again attempting to suppress the votes of Kansans. HB 2438 is a blatant attempt to rig the system for political reasons and allow you to silence any votes or voices you want to before an election. Instead of working to make it simple for Kansans to register to vote, you have continually worked to pass legislation that strips us of our American right to vote in free and fair democratic elections. This hearing alone was announced the night before in an attempt to cover up the work you continue to do to suppress our voices. This includes your well-documented pushes last year to silence voters you disagree with, as well as your elimination of the 3-day window for mail in ballots that sacrificed our votes to the whims of the postal delivery system. The language of this bill allows the Secretary of State to exercise this discretion over voter registrations at their whim with absolutely no guidelines and is completely unacceptable. [Ksvotes.org](https://www.kvotes.org) is a safe and secure online tool for voters that has been used for nearly a decade and there is absolutely no reason to ban them from helping voters register to have their voice heard. Kansans will not allow our right to vote to be impeded by politicians and their agendas.

Charissa Bertels
Resident of Manhattan, KS
Riley County
charissa.bertels@gmail.com

Opposition Written-Only Testimony for **HB 2438**

For the House Committee on Elections

Kristen Blackton, Private Citizen

January 15th, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony. My name is Kristen Blackton, and I am a resident of Johnson County and an every-election voter. I am writing to you today to urge that you vote **NO** on HB 2438.

I vividly remember when I registered to vote not long after my eighteenth birthday. I was so excited to finally be able to make my voice heard at the ballot box. I am so thankful for the right to vote and to all of the people in our nation's history who worked tirelessly to ensure that this right would be extended to all adult citizens in our country. I often urge all eligible voters in my life to exercise their right to vote, and I have helped several friends and neighbors register to vote or update their registration after moving to a new area.

Unfortunately, instead of making it easier for Kansans to register to vote and make their voices heard, HB 2438 would make it harder. There are several safe and secure online tools that facilitate easy voter registration in our state, which is helpful since many of our government websites are hard to navigate. I believe that these sites should be allowed to continue to function to help Kansan citizens register. Furthermore, we have several important elections this year. I'm unsure why changing these rules, effective immediately and without warning, is warranted now as many county election offices are preparing for special elections and a large Primary Election. I am unaware of any problems with the current online voter registration tools that would necessitate such a drastic, immediate change. My county's election office is already undergoing change with a new commissioner, so adding this to the mix worries me.

If you take anything from my testimony, I hope it is this: please make registering to vote in Kansas easier and more accessible to all citizens. I do not believe this bill does that. Please vote no on HB 2438. Thank you for your time.

Kristen Blackton
Shawnee, KS

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Alexa Boyd- Private Citizen
January 14, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time. I'm Alexa Boyd, a voter from Douglas County. I've used tools like [KSvotes.org](https://ksvotes.org) as soon as I was eligible to vote to register and check my registration. The latter portion has been especially important as there have been years where other around me have been mistakenly removed from registration rolls, despite not intentional change. These tools ensure that Kansans are able to fully engage with our local and federal democracy. They allow citizens, with and without driver's licenses, to easily register from their own home. All in all they are crucial to the current functioning of Kansas elections. For that reason, I ask that the committee opposes HB 2438 to ensure that these tools can continue to help thousands of Kansans. Thank you for your time.

Opponent Written Testimony on HB 2438
House Committee on Elections
Nicole Brown - Wichita, KS
January 15, 2023

Chair proctor, Members of the Committee,

Online voter tools have long been used in Kansas in a secure fashion. I have personally used ksvotes.org to verify my own election information and as a tool to give to others to do the same. This is an invaluable tool to help people express their right to vote.

If the concerns cited are truly important to you, I urge you to create secure, accessible options to expand voter registration and consider access to other online tools.

Until these tools are widely available to ensure access, do not silence your constituents. This seems to come from a place of fear, or a want to create voter suppression. Suppressing voter participation never serves the public. If you fear your actions will not be popular with your constituents and earn you votes, then perhaps a different stance should be made and not voices silenced.

Conclusion

Because the House Elections Committee has presented no plan to address the reduction in voting access this bill would create, and because this bill offers no concrete guidance on how existing voting tools may achieve the endorsement of the Secretary of State prior to the Midterms, I urge you to put the people first and oppose HB 2438.

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections

Gregory Bryant
2054 Raven Road
Robinson, KS 66532

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

HB 2438 ("Imposing restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications") will confuse and possibly disenfranchise well-meaning new voters.

HB 2438 seems to be "moving fast and breaking things." How are people registering this year supposed to know whether the SOS has approved a particular service? How can they even know about the new ban, if the state doesn't begin implementing it for a year after it takes effect? This is confusing.

HB 2438 is also unreasonable to prohibit a registering service even to ★store★ information provided by the applicant. The registration assisting service needs contact information in order to send voter-specific reminders of deadlines. The KS-SOS doesn't send these reminders.

Conclusion: HB 2438 seems hastily written. It cannot achieve its stated purpose, because people are already registering to vote for this year's elections using these services. This bill shifts the rules as they are in motion. It will fail to inform, confuse, and possibly disenfranchise would-be Kansas voters. Please reconsider this Act's timeline and whether each of its provisions is even necessary.

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Logan Byrd – Loud Light Civic Action
January 15th, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing public testimony to be received on this bill, despite such a quick turnaround. I strongly oppose any effort to ban secure third-party voter registration websites, such as ksvotes.org, because this bill would make voter registration more complicated, less accessible, and ultimately weaken participation in our democracy.

Rather than making it easier for Kansans to register to vote, this legislation moves us in the opposite direction. It would ban a secure, widely used online tool that helps ineligible voters navigate a system that is already confusing and time-consuming for many people. Voting should be encouraged, not obstructed. When lawmakers add unnecessary barriers to voter registration, fewer people participate, which ultimately harms our democratic process.

When I first started out in college as a political science major at Wichita State University, I was looking for different ways to get involved in local and state-wide politics. Luckily, I joined our ShockerVotes coalition, where we used KSVotes to register other students online and start a dialogue with them about how to be more civically engaged citizens. ksvotes.org was originally created to fill the gap of a nonexistent online voter registration system, and it works very well. It is user friendly, accessible, and its sole purpose is to successfully register voters while complying with Kansas election laws. This website is used broadly for not only civic engagement organizations like mine, but other student organizations on college campuses across Kansas alike. This tool allows young unregistered voters to quickly, efficiently, and legally participate in our democratic process, and there would be zero point in taking this safe and secure tool away.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you today, and **I strongly encourage you all to oppose the passage of this bill.**

I also strongly encourage this committee to consider scheduling bill hearings with more than 24 hours notice to allow both legislators and citizens alike to effectively read and research these bills.

Opponent Written Testimony on HB 2438

House Committee on Elections

Jessica Carr

January 15, 2026

Dear Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee:

I am opposed to HB 2438.

Please support Kansans' right to vote. Please support all tools that help Kansans access their franchise.

I am opposed to HB 2438 because:

- 1) HB 2438 permits the KS Secretary of State to ban any online voter registration tool, even those that have a proven track record and have worked well for multiple years, e.g., ksvotes.org.
- 2) HB 2438 prevents local election officials from accepting online voter registration from any source the KS Secretary of State hasn't personally approved.
- 3) HB 2438 would immediately go into effect despite not having any published rules and regulations available for current online registration tools to follow until after the 2026 elections!

Again, I ask that the House Committee on Elections work to support and honor the right of all Kansans to have safe, easy, stable access to their right to vote. Please do not advance HB 2438. It is unnecessary and obstructive to our voting rights.

Sincerely,

Jessica Carr

3428 E 2nd St. N

Wichita, KS 67208

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.

Legislative Testimony

In **Opposition** to House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
January 15, 2026

Written Only Testimony

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Logan DeMond, and I am the Director of Policy and Research at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. The ACLU of Kansas is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 35,000 supporters statewide that works to protect and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of all Kansans. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2438. This bill unnecessarily restricts how Kansans may register to vote, suppresses lawful civic engagement by non-governmental organizations, and will reduce participation in civic life, all without evidence of a problem that warrants such restrictions.

Eliminating Non-Governmental Voter Registration Efforts

HB 2438 prohibits Kansans from registering to vote online unless they use a website with a “.gov” domain or one that has been approved by the Secretary of State and bars county election officials from accepting applications submitted through any other platform.

In practice, this prohibits external organizations, including nonprofits, civic groups, student organizations, faith-based groups, and community coalitions, from engaging in online voter registration efforts unless they receive discretionary approval from the state. Third-party voter registration has long played a crucial role in reaching young voters, first-time voters, rural Kansans, voters with limited internet access, and communities historically underrepresented in the electorate.

HB 2438 replaces a healthy civic ecosystem by gatekeeping voter registration and allowing the legislature to decide who may assist voters in navigating the registration process.

This Is a First Amendment Problem

Voter registration activity is not merely administrative—it is political speech protected by the First Amendment. Courts have consistently recognized that helping voters register is a form of political expression and association. By limiting lawful voter registration assistance to government-controlled or government-approved websites, HB 2438 restricts how organizations may communicate with voters and conditions political speech on government approval. This bill does not merely regulate technology; it regulates who gets to speak and how, privileging faulty state platforms while barring private civic engagement.

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ACLU
Kansas

Legislative Testimony

In **Opposition** to House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
January 15, 2026

Voters Have the Right to Choose How They Register

HB 2438 eliminates voter choice by dictating which registration methods are acceptable, regardless of voter preference, accessibility needs, or trust. Kansans should be free to register:

- Through community organizations they already engage with
- Via platforms designed for accessibility or language access
- Using tools tailored to young or first-time voters

When government restricts registration pathways to a narrow set of state-controlled options, it undermines voter autonomy and confidence, especially among those who are wary of government systems or who rely on trusted community intermediaries. These intermediaries already use government-issued forms and transmit registrations in exactly the format of, and with all of the information needed by, government agencies. It is not the case that these registration methods diverge from, compromise, or otherwise undermine election integrity and voter data. They are useful because of the trust and convenience that they provide to eligible citizens who wish to register to vote; getting rid of them is only an exercise in making registration harder, less convenient, and more intimidating, therefore reducing participation in elections by eligible citizens.

Centralizing Control in “.gov” URLs Creates Risk, Not Security

Proponents may argue this bill enhances security, but centralization increases vulnerability. Concentrating voter registration infrastructure into a small number of government-approved portals creates single points of failure, higher consequences for outages or cyber incidents, and reduced innovation in accessibility and outreach. Security can be achieved through standards and enforcement without excluding non-governmental actors altogether.

Lower Voter Registration in a Critical Election Year

This year, Kansas voters are preparing for two consequential elections. In August, voters will determine whether they wish to elect partisan State Supreme Court Justices, and in November, they will determine the balance of power in the state legislature, as well as who holds powerful statewide and federal positions. Historically, restrictions on voter registration methods correlate with lower registration rates, particularly among young voters and voters new to the process. By limiting outreach and reducing the number of trusted points of contact, this bill will lower the

Legislative Testimony

In **Opposition** to House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
January 15, 2026

number of new registrations—not because voters are ineligible, but because access will be restricted. Election integrity is best protected by maximizing lawful participation, not by restricting the avenues through which eligible Kansans engage with democracy.

Conclusion

HB 2438 is a solution in search of a problem. It suppresses lawful civic participation, burdens free speech and association, limits voter choice, and risks depressing voter registration at a moment when democratic participation should be encouraged. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 2438.

Logan DeMond
Director of Policy and Research

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2438

House Committee on Elections

Molly Deschamp - Registered Voter

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

I am writing to address why I believe this bill must not pass, and I will articulate the rationale in three points:

1) Passing this bill would impede the ability of Kansans to vote, regardless of their internet connection, access to voting services and election offices, etc;

2) This bill would place services under the discretion of the Secretary of State, minimizing transparency and making them the overarching authority;

and 3) It would negatively impact Kansans and lead to voter suppression.

Impeding the Ability of Citizens to Utilize Positive Voter-Registration Tools

This legislation would impact how voters can access voting resources, navigate the process if they may be first-time voters and receive helpful information about the status of their registration, and make the process more time-consuming.

As this tool has been available for almost a decade, it has become vital for Kansans.

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

Jan 16th, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

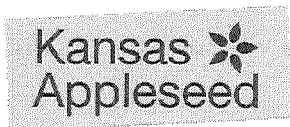
My name is Donnavan Dillon and I am Lawrence Resident, KU graduate, and lifelong Kansan. As someone who takes great pride in being from our amazing state, a lot of that pride comes from being connected to my community through civic engagement. From volunteering at local nonprofits to voting in every 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.



January 15, 2026

Mike Fonkert, Deputy Director
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
mfonkert@kansasappleseed.org
Written Testimony in Opposition of HB 2438
House Committee on Elections

Committee Chair Proctor, Ranking Member Haskins, and Members of the House Committee on Elections:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Kansas Appleseed opposes HB 2438, which would place restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications. We oppose this bill for the simple fact that the Legislature should be making it easier for Kansans to fulfill their civic obligation to vote, not harder.

Part of Kansas Appleseed's mission is helping Kansans understand the importance of civic engagement and how their vote matters; we want every Kansan who is legally able to vote to exercise that right, because our communities are stronger when more people participate. Central to making this happen is voter registration. According to the Movement Advancement Project, Kansas is one of 43 states and Washington, DC that allows citizens to register to vote online.¹ HB 2438 would move Kansas backwards in our approach to civic engagement, instead of forward by imposing restrictions on websites that have proven to be successful, such as KSVotes.org.

In 2024, 14,491 were registrations processed through KSVotes.org². That's proof online registration through a non-government website works — and should be expanded, not taken away. Thousands of Kansans found a non-partisan website that worked for them; without it, they may not have been able to register and exercise their right to vote. Amidst efforts in the legislature focused on government efficiency and modernizing systems, HB 2438 is both counterintuitive and counterproductive. The Secretary of State's office should be promoting this proven website and partnering with other vendors to increase accessibility to online registrations.

HB 2438 would impede local county elections offices' efforts to register as many legal voters as possible unless approved by the Secretary of State. Local officials — who know their communities best — should have the flexibility to use the tools that make registration accessible and user-friendly for voters.

Independent, non-partisan vendors are required to utilize the federal voter registration application, so it is the same application process provided by the government with the same information collected for local officials to verify.

Voting in Kansas is safe and secure. Online registration, whether through the Secretary of State's website or KSVotes.org works and should be expanded. We urge you to vote no on HB 2438.

¹ https://www.lgbtmap.org/democracy-maps/online_voter_registration

² <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pjiN48LhbNE6q7equH330kuJyAkBjEWNZEbG0iCyYqU/edit?gid=631185466#gid=631185466>

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Jenna Gorton – Private Citizen
January 15, 2025

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Support for HB 2438 will result in community backlash.

Voting is an important cultural practice in American society. It is a right that many hold dear. Inconveniencing your constituents for no reason with bills like this is unconscionable and will make it much easier for folks to give compelling arguments to unseat you. With matters of economy or healthcare, there are many plausible reasons that could be given to persuade people to one side or the other. Removing access to voter registration options for literally no reason is not defensible and only serves to make you look like you don't support the American tradition of voting to your constituents. I strongly hope you reconsider your support of HB 2438.

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.

I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB 2438 for these reasons:

1. Online voter registration tools, such as KSVOTES.ORG make it easy for Kansans to register to vote. Banning secure online tools makes it more complicated for citizens to register to vote and participate in our state's elections.
2. Changing voter registration rules before an election is confusing and could make voters unsure of what they need to do to properly register to vote. It gives the impression that politicians are rigging the system in the politicians' favor instead of making it easier for all eligible voters to participate in our democracy.
3. KSVOTES.ORG, or other authorized online voter registration tools, are safe and secure tools for voter registration. It has been used securely for almost a decade and helped countless Kansans—Republican, Democratic, and Independent voters—register to vote.

Sincerely,

Patricia A Harrigan
3717 W 83rd Ter
Prairie Village, KS 66206

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Joseph Harrington—Douglas County resident and Kansas voter
January 15, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Why does the majority party believe it has to cheat to win in 2026? Why do they think they have to prevent people from voting in order to win the vote?

That's precisely what HB 2438 would do—make it harder for Kansans to register to vote. It would bypass rules and regulations governing online registration for the next election cycle and place that power in the Republican Secretary of State's hands alone.

Discouraging people from voting, centralizing power, and substituting the rule of law for the will of one person—all of these aspects of the law are profoundly anti-democratic.

Please save the state a lot of money in lawyers' fees and kill this misguided measure. Thank you for your attention.

January 15, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Amy Hinrichs

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: aloramy.hinrichs@yahoo.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2438

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2438. Voting is the basis for our democracy and registering to vote should be easily accessible to everyone.

I believe this bill stems from fears around voter fraud. However, time and again, statistics show voter fraud is extremely rare. Kansas's very own Secretary of State continues to say elections are safe. Putting this law into effect will lead to voter suppression by creating a gate keeper for voter registration.

I urge the Committee to protect the right to vote by rejecting HB 2438.

Amy Hinrichs

Olathe, KS

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Sean Hinton - Overland Park District 48
January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor and House Election Committee Members,

Voter registration websites have become a staple of our modern democratic system. They have served as a great equalizer in voting access, and they have functioned as a cornerstone in helping voters exercise their rights. Mister chair and the committee, I oppose Section 2 of HB 2438 because the state of Kansas should not hinder the operation of proven and effective voter registration websites that many voters rely on.

It would be a great disservice to Kansans if these foundational tools for voting rights are hampered. Many Kansans who have any difficulties registering through mail or other methods depend on these services, and a restriction on their access would simply be unfair for these people. Websites like these also help protect the voting rights of Americans and Kansans by helping them exercise their right to vote, and by making it fairer and easier for eligible voters to register, our democracy will be strengthened. Because of the integral function of these voter registration websites, a fundamental ban on these sites until 2027 as provisioned by Section 2 of this bill would effectively weaken our democracy and attack our most sacred right of voting.

I also understand the need to protect voter information. Registration does require sensitive information like dates of birth and ID numbers. I do agree this information should be secured by registration sites however the state should not be enforcing a regulation and ban when it will not allow any websites to pass its requirements until 2027. Therefore, I recommend that the committee remove Section 2 from this bill and create an amendment requiring the Secretary of State to proactively provide a legitimate way for existing sites to meet these regulations starting after the publication of this bill. If neither of these protections for our voting rights are met, I recommend the committee oppose HB 2438 in its entirety.

Overall, restrictions and an effective 1 year ban of voter registration websites would be an attack on the voting rights of every Kansan, and it would be utterly disrespectful to voters and our democracy if well established websites that many Kansans depend on were taken down. Therefore, I recommend this committee oppose Section 2 of HB 2438, so Kansans can continue to depend on these foundational websites for our democracy.

Opponent Written Testimony on HB 2438

House Committee on Elections

M Horowitz

January 15, 2025

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

As a disabled voter, I have serious concerns about HB 2438. Like many disabled and elderly Kansans, I rely on online options to handle many aspects of my life. Voting is important. Kansans deserve to be able to use online tools to register to and participate. Kansans who have just moved to an assisted living facility, etc., do not need to face new barriers to voting.

I rely on Ksvotes.org to track my ballot. It is a safe, secure tool.

It is your job to make it easier for Kansans to participate in our democracy. I sincerely hope you will out that responsibility first.

Thank you for your consideration.

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2438

House Committee on Elections

Allison Jeffery

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Increased Violence at Election Polling Places

The outcome of this bill passing would be many new voters being turned away from polling places, not because of their own fault, but due to the fault and error of people they have never met. Election workers would face the fury and rage of large numbers of people if even one website was determined to not be “safe enough” according to one person. The social impact of multiple eligible voters turned away from polling places would fuel conspiracy and discord.

Perception of Partisanship This gives one politician the sole power to pick and choose which political groups get to register voters. There is no committee hearing or appeals. Even a purely neutral secretary of state would appear to be targeting certain groups if this power is exercised, as many of these websites are run by one party or another. The perceived harm of people having their data stolen could surely be mitigated in ways that do not give an appearance of vote interference.

Vague Language and No Oversight This short bill leaves the standards of data security (a constantly changing field) and what would constitute acceptable standards up to one person, with no method of challenging those standards from any party involved, and no committee to determine what those standards should be.

Conclusion

HB 2438 Does the Opposite of What it Claims to Solve - Less Safety and More Partisan Control

This is a short bill summarized as a question— Do committee members believe Kansans who attempt to register to vote be allowed to, or should their vote not count based on the alleged “data insecurity” of those who engage them in the process? When one’s right to vote is meddled with at the sole discretion of the secretary of state the perception of partisan rigging is increased, not decreased. I recommend this committee oppose HB 2438 and count all eligible citizens' votes.

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438

House Committee on Elections

Delaney Jones

January 15, 2026

To Chair Proctor and members of the committee,

Citizen Participation is Crucial to our Democracy

Online tools that help citizens register to vote and participate in elections are a key factor in ensuring civic engagement – it increases the accessibility of registering, checking one's registration, and updating one's registration. The ease of this tool does not present a security risk or incentive for election tampering, instead it provides a safe, secure, and far easier way for Kansans to do their civic duty and vote. In 2020, when voter turnout was at its highest in the last decade, **only 2/3** of Kansans showed up at the polls. In 2022, that number was **less than 50%** (Ballotpedia.org/ voter_turnout_in_Kansas). We should be encouraging our fellow Kansans to utilize their unique and powerful right to vote for what matters to them, and this bill seeks to further inhibit voter turnout, thereby negatively impacting the crucial lawmaking and election process.

Hurting Rural Kansas

By introducing a bill that seeks to kill such a critical and helpful civic tool, you are directly impacting rural Kansan voters. People in rural communities don't have easy, immediate access to their local voter registration office. Could you imagine driving for over an hour each way just to double-check that you're still registered, when you could do it in mere minutes for free online using a tool that's been trusted for nearly a decade? Imagine how much this one scenario alone discourages rural voters from doing their civic duty and voting in their best interests. It's your duty as representatives to encourage the civic process, not hinder it.

Politically Driven Timing

It comes as no coincidence to anyone that this bill is being introduced during an election year. Instead of encouraging greater participation in our democracy, it is clear that politicians are seeking to sway the system in their favor. Changing voter registration rules and tools for access before an election is not only a blatant attack on the election system, but a shameful tactic to silence voters. Furthermore, the fact that this bill would go into effect **immediately** without further clarification on regulations for online registration tools moving forward illustrates that this is a flagrant attempt at suppressing Kansan voices.

Conclusion

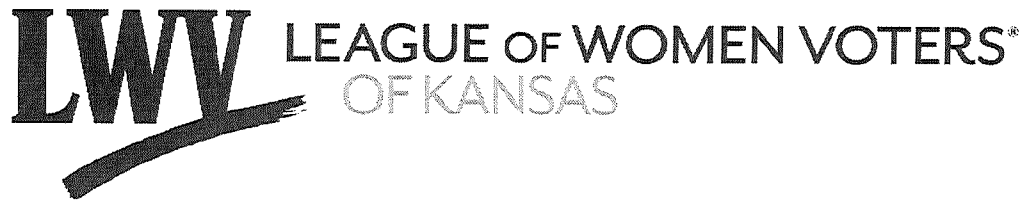
One of the biggest problems across the nation is the lack of voter turnout, especially in local elections. House Bill 2438 is a bill that seeks to **eliminate** all the strides we have made to help **solve that problem**. HB 2438 seeks to make voter registration more difficult, suppress Kansas voices and demands, and specifically target rural Kansan voters. Do committee members believe that more engagement in the democratic process is a bad thing? Do you not believe in and trust the democratic election process that America was founded upon? If you support fair elections and increasing voter turnout for eligible citizens, I implore you to oppose HB 2438. Thank you for your consideration.

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Kathy Kappes-Sum, private citizen
January 15, 2026

Representative Proctor and Members of the Committee,
I'm writing to urge you to vote no on HB 2438, which will hurt potential voters in Kansas. I don't understand why there's a push to make it harder for Kansans to vote. In an ideal world, it would be easy to register to vote and easy to vote. There's no reason to make it harder to register. We should be allowing use of tools that make it easier to vote, including [KSVotes.org](https://ksvotes.org), which is safe and secure. Additionally, this bill would take away local control from election officials, forcing them to use only voter registration tools that are approved by the Secretary of State.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this issue. Please vote no on HB 2438.

Kathy Kappes-Sum
Shawnee



Date of Testimony: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Bill Number: HB 2438: Imposing restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications.

Disposition: Opponent; Written Only Testimony

From: Cille King, Advocacy Chair; League of Women Voters Kansas

To: Chair Representative Proctor and Members of the House Committee on Elections

The League of Women Voters of Kansas opposes HB 2438 - Imposing restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications.

The goal of a representative government is to have as many citizens participate in elections as possible. Greater participation in government and voting is shown to create a healthier, more stable society. Being able to register to vote is the first step in having access to the ballot in Kansas. This bill would restrict methods and voter access to the ballot.

We ask you to vote NO on HB 2438 to allow citizens easy access to voter registration.

January 15, 2026

Testimony to the House Committee on Elections

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**

TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**

EMAIL ADDRESS: **ldmark61@gmail.com**

BILL NUMBER: **HB2438, AN ACT concerning elections; relating to voter registration; imposing restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications.**

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: **Opponent**

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: **Written Only**

Chair Proctor & Members of the Committee,

I am voicing opposition to bill HB 2438, which seeks to impose at-will bans by the Secretary of State on any voter registration tools. Of primary concern is more loss of local control. Secondly, though no less concerning, is the immediate implementation of this law without adopting rules and regulations for online registration by which operators might secure such an SOS endorsement.

This is not the first time that I've written this committee believing that legislators understood the US Constitutional requirement that all states have a representative form of government *with elections* and majority rule. Three years ago I wrote, "We all understand that [this bill] does not sit alone in the statehouse barn, but has been well-groomed with other limiting elections bills over the recess and now is trotted out of the stall for the [2026] Legislative session." It's aged well enough, I've used it here again.

Why so much effort by partisan committee members to make more complex one's right to register to vote by banning secure online tools that help citizens register and then participate in elections? Why would the people's representatives behave so cravenly to quickly bed their stalls and then slam the barn door shut behind them — right before an election? The ksvotes.org origin story is that Kansas election officials failed to create an online voter registration portal, so civic leaders stepped into the void and built one! It's got an excellent almost-ten-year track record. But now, by mid-2026, is the time Rep. Waggoner seeks to expand the state's power and limit local control?

Let's not dismantle the systems that have stood in such good stead for Kansas voters. In fact, if your hankering to tinker, let's remove **all** barriers to registration... say... by allowing rising young voters to pre-register at the DMV when they get their driver's licenses!

Vote NO on HB2438.

Leslie D. Mark

Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438

House Committee on Elections

Andrianna Matthews – Kansas Resident

February 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2438. Voting is a fundamental right and duty of all citizens of this state. It is a right that I take very seriously and exercise as much as I can, and believe every citizen deserves that as well. We live in modern times and have modern ways of accessing voting information and registering to vote. This right and technology should not be limited to the narrow scope and desires of one person. We should be encouraging people to vote and engage with the government. Road blocks for registering should be removed not put up.

Please vote no on this bill.

Sincerely

Andrianna Matthews

Shawnee, KS

Testimony to the House Committee on Elections

Adrienne Newlin - Kansas resident

adrienne.newlin@gmail.com

OPPONENT - HB 2438

written only testimony

DATE OF HEARING: January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you all with my OPPOSITION to HB 2438.

This bill is not what Kansas residents want and only works to disenfranchise voters. The job of legislators is not to limit the ability of residents to participate in elections. We have multiple secure online voter registration tools that are proven to work. This ensures more people can safely and securely get registered to vote and allows for flexibility when registering. The goal should be to get more people interested in our democracy, to allow for true representation in our state.

Instead of doing your job to make it easier to participate in our democracy, you all are trying to rig the system in your favor. You are working to change registration rules right before an election as a means to silence voters.

Kansans can see right through this and know what the motives are. I strongly oppose HB 2438 and ask that you vote NO on this bill.

Adrienne Newlin

KS resident

Overland Park

Testimony to the House Committee on Elections

Chris Newlin - Kansas resident

cnewlin@gmail.com

OPPONENT - HB2438

written only testimony

DATE OF HEARING: January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my profound and unequivocal opposition to House Bill 2438 (HB2438). This piece of proposed legislation, under the guise of electoral security, is in fact deeply detrimental to the foundational principles of democracy and the legitimate interests of Kansas residents. Its primary effect would be to disenfranchise voters, thereby undermining the very representative government we are sworn to uphold.

The fundamental role of legislators is not to erect barriers to civic participation, but to ensure that every eligible citizen has a free, fair, and accessible means to cast their ballot and register their voice. The assertion that we must restrict the ability of citizens to participate in elections runs directly counter to this responsibility.

Currently, Kansas utilizes multiple secure, proven, and efficient online voter registration tools. These systems are robust, have been audited, and are demonstrably effective in expanding access without compromising security. They ensure that a broader range of individuals—including those with mobility issues, those with non-traditional work schedules, or students temporarily away from home—can safely and securely register to vote. My kids used these tools to become registered voters when they turned 18. These tools provide essential flexibility in the registration process, a flexibility that is necessary for a modern, mobile populace. The overarching objective of this committee and this legislature should be singular: to increase participation in our democracy. By maximizing turnout and making registration easier, we allow for the authentic representation of the diverse populace within our great state.

Instead of focusing legislative efforts on facilitating democratic participation and addressing the genuine needs of our constituents, the proposed bill, HB2438, appears to be a transparent and cynical attempt to manipulate the electoral system. The timing of this bill is particularly telling. By seeking to fundamentally alter established voter registration rules—rules that have served us well—immediately before a critical election cycle, the intent appears to be nothing less than the suppression of voter turnout and the gerrymandering of the electorate itself. Such actions erode public trust in government and transform the electoral process from an exercise in representation into a strategic game of political advantage.

The residents of Kansas are discerning and are not easily fooled. They understand the true motives behind this bill. They see it not as a measure of election integrity, but as a deliberate

political maneuver designed to silence voices that may not align with a particular political agenda.

For the health of our democracy, for the integrity of our elections, and for the sake of true representation, I unequivocally oppose House Bill 2438. I implore each of you, as guardians of the public trust and proponents of democratic ideals, to heed the widespread opposition and cast a decisive negative vote on this measure. Do not restrict the vote; work to expand it.

Christopher Newlin
Overland Park

Opposition Written Testimony on HB 2438

House Elections Committee
Claudia Patrick, Private Citizen
January 14th 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

I am writing you today to voice my opposition to HB 2438 because this bill will allow the Secretary of State to ban any online voter registration tool for no reason at all. I don't care what political party they are, no Secretary of State should ever have this power.

This bill will also take away local control of election officials by banning them from accepting online voter registration from anywhere the Secretary of State hasn't personally endorsed. Again, this is not a power any Secretary of State should have. With the law going into effect immediately, there would be no rules or regulations required for online voter registration tools to follow in order to be endorsed by the Secretary of State until after the 2026 elections.

It seems to me that Instead of doing their job to make it easier to participate in our democracy, politicians are trying to rig the system in their favor. They want to change voter registration rules right before an election. This silences voters and makes voting tougher for everyone.

You must protect Kansans right to vote, that is why I urge you to vote No on HB 2438.

Thank you
Claudia Patrick
Bonner Springs KS

Opponent Written Only Testimony on House Bill 2438

House Elections Committee

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time and allowing a concerned citizen to share my thoughts on HB 2438. My name is Alison Poore, a resident and voter in Sedgwick County, and I am urging the committee to please vote no on the proposed HB 2438.

First and foremost, democracy should be easy to take part in and instead of keeping tax paying and participating members of society at the forefront of decisions, politicians continue to waste time by prioritizing rigging the system in their favor. A platform we are specifically speaking about today is ksvotes.org. When elected officials *failed* to create an online voter registration tool, civic leaders filled the void and created a safe and secure tool for regular people. This tool has been used for nearly ten years and allowed countless Kansans (including myself) to register to vote. It's incredibly frustrating to feel like lawmakers do not care to make voting accessible to Kansans. It feels like they would rather make it more difficult to sway outcomes their favor. Free and fair elections begin with easy and accessible voter registration.

This bill specifically allows the Secretary of State to ban online voter registration tools for *any* reason and would *only* allow online tools that have been personally endorsed by the SOS. A huge concern is that this bill would go into effect immediately without laying out regulations required for an online voter registration to be endorsed by the Secretary of State until *after* the 2026 elections. With the primary coming up in August, this should be a driving force to vote no to HB 2438.

We must end the attack on safe and secure voter registration tools which encourage voters in our state to participate in democracy. Free and fair elections should be fully accessible to all Kansans.

Thank you for hearing the thoughts of a concerned citizen and again I urge you to please vote no on House Bill 2438. Thank you.

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Samiya Rasheed- Private Citizen
January 14, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time. I'm Samiya Rasheed, a Kansas voter from Douglas County. In the past few years I have had the pleasure of canvassing in Douglas, Wyandotte, and Johnson County to increase voter engagement. I've been able to do this both on years where there were intense federal elections and years where the ballot only contained local names. Often meeting with my neighbors for the first time and understanding what they are concerned most about in the community has been an incredible joy. Through that process, I've seen many people on the fence or hesitating decide to make the choice to vote. It's an incredible experience and one that is made fundamentally possible by sites like [KSvotes.org](https://ksvotes.org).

Online voter registration tools like [KSvotes.org](https://ksvotes.org) are crucial and non-partisan tools to reach all Kansans. Time and time again, these tools have proven to be a safe and effective way to register to vote or to check registration. In our digital age, more and more people default to using these tools—especially if registering in person is physically difficult. If HB 2438 was passed, this tool would suddenly be unavailable—likely without clear media coverage and leaving hundreds of people who intended to use it scrambling. This bill will cause incredible confusion and distrust right before a midterm election.

These sites are a crucial way to access our democracy. While there is an online registration tool hosted on a .gov site, this form requires Driver's license to move forward whereas [KSvotes.org](https://ksvotes.org) requires a driver's license OR a social security number. Both are secure methods of identification, but driver's licenses will exclude thousands of eligible Kansas voters. While canvassing, I remember meeting teenagers that had just become eligible to vote but didn't have driver's licenses or seniors that no longer drove but could get their children to help them to the polls; we were able to engage them into registering to vote and hopefully paying more care to local issues. This once again, was made possible but the sites that HB 2438 is targeting.

HB 2438 is a damaging bill that will lead to fewer eligible and engaged Kansans from being able to take part in the process at the heart of our country. It's paramount that this committee can help these voters and defend the voting rights of your constituents. For that reason, I ask that the committee opposes HB 2438. Thank you for your time.

Alejandro Rangel-Lopez
Private Citizen from Dodge City, KS
Opponent Testimony of HB2438
For the House Committee on Elections

Jan 15th, 2026

Chair Proctor and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on such short notice. My name is Alejandro Rangel-Lopez, and I am submitting testimony today as a private citizen from Dodge City, KS. Since I turned 18, I've used online voter registration tools to help family members, friends, classmates, and anyone in my community get registered to practice the most sacred and fundamental act in our republic; voting. I stand in strong opposition to HB 2438 as it stands in clear conflict with our values as Kansans to promote participation in our elections for all who want it, avoid blatant corruption in our public institutions, and keep our elected officials accountable to the public.

Concern: HB 2438 gives the current committee chair the power to pick and choose which election websites are acceptable or not during an election year in which he is on the ballot. This is blatant corruption before the eyes of Kansas voters. Kansans aren't stupid, we know that if it walks like a duck, sounds like a duck, and looks like a duck, then it's probably Pat Proctor in a duck suit. This is blatant corruption and an attempt to limit voter registration tools that are disproportionately utilized by young folks and rural Kansans. Leadership in the legislature can pontificate all they want about election security and ensuring only U.S. citizens are voting but can't bring up concrete examples to back up their claim. In high school, I would get an F on an essay if I had absolutely no sources and my arguments essentially boil down to "...trust me bro". There is no such thing as an alternative set of facts, just a denial of what is real.

Concern: It ain't normal and it ain't right that Kansans get less than 24 hours to submit testimony on a bill that would fundamentally alter how they are able to register to vote. Every year leadership decides to push through whatever bill their favorite lobbyists (donors) want to force on the people of Kansas without so much as a chance to whisper opposition. It's clear this body is divorced from the reality that Kansans work, have kids, and full lives to take care of outside of following every whim of the legislature. Unless that's the point? To have as few eyes on what is happening as possible because you're not interested in democracy, you're interested in preserving your power over people.

For these reasons, I stand STRONGLY against HB 2438 and urge members of this committee to stand with Kansans and their right to vote. If you have to limit who can vote, how they register, and shut the window curtains so they can't see what's going on inside their house, you aren't interested in democracy, you want to preserve your power and money. If your ideas can't win on merit and in the court of public opinion, the answer is to change your ideas, not the electorate. It's childish to change the rules in the middle of a game and it seems we've forgotten simple etiquette. If legislators demand respect in this body, they must respect the people who they are supposed to serve.



PO Box 654
Lawrence, KS 66044

KansasInterfaithAction.org
KIFA@kansasinterfaithaction.org

Rabbi Moti Rieber, Executive Director
Rev. Dr. Annie Ricker, Board Chair

Written-only Testimony by Rabbi Moti Rieber in Opposition to HB 2438, Imposing restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications.
House Election Committee, Rep. Pat Proctor, Chair - January 15, 2026

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

I serve as Executive Director for Kansas Interfaith Action, an multifaith advocacy group that works for justice and equality for all people across the state of Kansas. I submit testimony today in opposition to HB 2438.

We believe that every voice in our community is important and necessary, and that every eligible voter should have a clear, accessible path to the ballot box. KIFA and the congregations that support it often work with individuals who face significant hurdles to civic participation, including seniors, the homebound, students, low-income families, and people in rural areas with limited access to government offices. By restricting online voter registration exclusively to .gov websites and those personally approved by the Secretary of State, this bill effectively dismantles successful community-based voter registration and outreach efforts of which our congregants are a part. These have worked well for years without any security problems. Folks should be allowed to use trusted, secure third-party platforms to help their neighbors navigate the registration process. Forcing these citizens to navigate complex government portals without the assistance of their trusted community resources will lead to lower registration rates among the very people our faith calls us to serve.

We're also concerned that the law would take effect immediately, while the Secretary of State has until January 1, 2027, to implement rules and regulations. This creates a legal limbo – a law without the rules to implement it – that is both dangerous and confusing. Citizens attempting to register through existing, legitimate channels may find their applications rejected by county offices overnight, with no clear alternative in place. County election officials will be forced to ban non-.gov sources immediately without knowing which third-party sites might eventually meet the "security requirements" the SOS has yet to define. Our volunteers face the risk of inadvertently violating a law that lacks clear regulatory guardrails, effectively chilling our mission to encourage civic engagement.

We agree that election security is important. However, security and accessibility are not mutually exclusive. Kansas should work to certify and partner with secure third-party platforms rather than issuing a blanket ban that takes effect before a replacement system is even designed. This bill creates unnecessary administrative burdens that will fall hardest on underrepresented communities. It punishes those who rely on community support to exercise their fundamental – even, we would say, sacred – right to vote.

We ask you to protect the sacredness of the vote by ensuring that registration remains open, accessible, and supported by the community resources that neighbors know best. We ask you to please vote NO on HB 2438.

Thank you.

Written Opposition to HB 2438
Submitted to the House Elections Committee
by Nancy Robinson
February 15, 2026

To Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee:

HB 2438 will take away control of election officials

This bill bans local election officials from accepting online voter registration from anywhere the Secretary of State hasn't personally endorsed.

HB 2438 would allow the Secretary of State to ban any online voter registration tool for no reason.

Under this law there would be no rules or regulations required until after the 2026 elections.

The law as stated would go into effect immediately, but there would be no rules or regulations required for online registration tools to follow in order to be endorsed by the Secretary of State until after the 2026 elections.

Opponent Written Testimony on HB 2438
House Committee on Elections
Rachel Roth - Wichita, KS
January 15, 2025

Chair proctor, Members of the Committee,

Online Voter Tools Are Secure And Necessary

Online voter tools have been used securely for over a decade in Kansas, and they fill a serious need. I have personally used ksvotes.org to verify my election information as recently as 2025 when voting for City Council. This is an invaluable tool which, frankly, the State should have created.

Address these concerns by creating better access tools.

If the concerns cited are important to the committee, I urge you to create secure, accessible options to expand voter registration in a way that addresses those concerns. You could consider solutions like automatic voter registration, which ensure fair and equitable access to elections for those who have the right to vote by eliminating the need for registration altogether.

Erasing access is blatant voter suppression.

Until similar tools are widely available to ensure access, do not silence the voices of your constituents by erecting new barriers. Do not obstruct everyday Kansans from participating in our democratic republic. We see bills like this for what they are: naked attempts to rig the voting system and attempts to shield politicians from reckoning with the people who hired them to govern. Suppressing voter participation never serves the public.

Conclusion

Because the House Elections Committee has presented no plan to address the reduction in voting access this bill would create, and because this bill offers no concrete guidance on how existing voting tools may achieve the endorsement of the Secretary of State prior to the Midterms, I urge you to oppose HB 2438.

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2438

House Committee on Elections

Christian Sinclair – Resident of Shawnee, KS

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Kansas is a modern state and online tools are important to help residents connect with one another, work, go to school and participate in civic life. Online voter registration forms are critical to help people get engaged with their representative government. Please make it easier to participated in the democratic process and do not remove helpful tools like online voter registration.

Respectfully,

Christian Sinclair

Shawnee, KS

Jonathan Smith
Private Citizen
JonathanSmith0502@gmail.com
Opponent Testimony for HB 2438 (written-only)
House Committee on Elections

Good morning Chair Hendricks and Committee Members,

I'm finding it increasingly strange how little warning Kansans are getting in regard to the ability to submit testimony before hearings this legislative session. I fear for the precedent that this practice is setting in regard to democratic transparency in government. Regardless, I appreciate you taking the time to hear my thoughts, and I urge that you oppose HB 2438.

It is my opinion that HB 2438, if allowed to be law, would only make registering voters harder than it already is, and strangely, it would give far more power to the singular secretary of state, rather than each county's election office. I don't understand the benefit of such a sweeping amount of power to one office, and this rapid consolidation of power regarding the ability to decide voter registration in the state of Kansas seems inappropriate in a time where we see the enormous downsides that come when power is consolidated and unchecked.

The current system works just fine, and our election office, to my understanding, hasn't expressed any concerns about irregular voter registration practices, and the fact that all voter registration has to go through our local election office and be checked against our county's voter roles, all-the-more proves how unnecessary, unneeded, and frankly unasked-for this legislation would be.

I urge you to focus more on policy choices that would increase voter *participation* in elections so that we can see far more than just the piddly 25% turnout that Johnson County reported in last year's election. Frankly, I see these abysmal election turnout numbers strongly correlated with a lack of creativity and productive legislation coming out of the Elections Committee. Please do try harder to increase voter turnout numbers, rather than make it harder to register new voters, or for voters to check their voter registration year after year.

Thank you for your time, and obviously, vote no on HB 2438. What a very silly thing to consider, and I would find it quite embarrassing to attach my name to such a bill.

Thank you again,

Jonathan Smith
Voter in Shawnee County
66605

Opponent Written Testimony on House Bill 2438
House Committee on Elections
Katherine Swenson 7070 Chinkapin Circle, Manhattan, Kansas 66502
January 14, 2026

Chair Proctor Members of the Committee

Banning ksvotes.org makes no sense. It is an easy, safe way for people to register online. It is very secure - it is even used by the League of Women Voters as they help people register. Why make it more complicated to help citizens register? You do want people to participate in our state's elections, don't you?

Sincerely,

Katherine Swenson

Opponent Written Testimony on HB 2438

House Committee on Elections
January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to ask you not to support HB 2438. This measure would prevent locally elected county clerks and elections officers from exercising their discretion over voter registration processes. This bill would allow the Secretary of State to ban any online voter registration tool for any reason, or no reason at all.

It's long been said that the best government is that which is closest to the people. This bill takes the opposite approach, substituting the Secretary of State's authority for that of officials who are closer to the people. What's more, this law would go into effect immediately, so there would be no rules or regulations for voter registration efforts to follow in order to be endorsed by the SOS until after the 2026 election. If what you desire is less participation in our democratic processes, congratulations. This bill is just what the doctor ordered.

As a matter of process, it is not good practice to propose and act upon legislation without allowing adequate time for public input and deliberation. If this bill is a good idea it will survive that process. If not, it should be killed.

Respectfully,

Bryan Thompson
851 Beatrice
Salina, KS 67401

Opponent Written Testimony on HB 2438

House Committee on Elections
Cynthia Thompson
January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Voting being one of our essential duties and freedoms, it is important that the state make it as easy as possible to vote. This bill does the opposite. It allows the Secretary of State to ban any online voter registration tool for no reason at all. It takes away local control of election officials by banning them from accepting online voter registration from anywhere the SOS hasn't personally endorsed.

This law would go into effect immediately, meaning there would be no rules or regulation tools to follow in order to be endorsed by the SOS until after the 2026 election. All rules and regulations should be clear, concise, and timely. To change the rules this quickly and so close to an election is just not fair to your voters.

Cynthia Thompson
851 Beatrice
Salina

OPPONENT Written Testimony on HB 2438

House Committee on Elections

Linda Uthoff-League of Women Voters of Manhattan-Riley County

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

I stand opposed to this bill which amounts to Voter Suppression.

1. It allows the Secretary of State to ban any online voter registration tool with little room for reason or debate.
2. It takes away local control of election officials by banning them from accepting online voter registration from anywhere the SOS hasn't personally endorsed.
3. This law would go into effect immediately, but there would be no rules or regulations required for online voter registration tools to follow in order to be endorsed by the SOS until after the 2026 elections
4. The League has successfully used KSVOTES.org to let voters register themselves for years with the blessing of our local County Clerk. It has been very useful for voters who are unable to get to the County offices.

Linda Uthoff, Leadership Team, League of Women Voters of Manhattan-Riley County

785-341-1324

4812 Lakewood Ridge

Manhattan, KS 66503

Opponent Oral Testimony on HB 2438 to the House Elections Committee

January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee:

I live in Johnson County and am proud to have been an election worker for many years. I also am active in voter registration and education efforts. I am strongly opposed to any efforts to ban online voter registration tools. Why is this a priority for the Kansas legislature and why is it being rushed through during the opening of the legislative session—unless the goal is to suppress voting? Kansans have many more pressing issues facing them and supporting voter suppression is not one of them.

Please do not support HB 2438. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Veglahn

5017 W 66th Street

Prairie Village, KS 66208

lveglahn@hotmail.com

913-449-5106

Opponent Written Testimony on HB 2438
House Committee on Elections
Amanda Winch, Lifelong KS Resident
January 15, 2026

Chair Proctor members of the committee,

I oppose HB 2438 because it makes voting harder for Kansans and it doesn't need to. I've used online voter registration tools myself, and I've shared them with friends and family. Because of that, more people I care about were able to register and vote easily. That's what we should want for every Kansan: a system that encourages participation, not one that puts up barriers.

Instead of making it simpler for people to take part in our democracy, this bill does the opposite. It bans secure, trusted tools that have helped Kansans register for nearly a decade. When the state failed to build a system that worked for everyday people, civic leaders stepped up and created ksvotes.org which is a safe, reliable tool that has helped countless voters. Now, instead of improving access, this bill would take it away.

Changing voter registration rules right before an election doesn't protect democracy; it weakens it. It silences voices and makes participation harder for everyone.

Voting should be easy, secure, and accessible. This bill moves us in the wrong direction, and I urge you to oppose it.

Thank you.

Amanda Winch
Overland Park, KS