

Alexandra Shoup
Private Citizen
alexshoup8@gmail.com
Opponent Testimony for HB 2453 (written only)
House Committee on Elections

Good morning,

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my thoughts, and I urge you to oppose HB2453. In my opinion, HB 2453, if allowed to be law, would only make it more difficult for voters to participate in elections.

There is already a low turnout of voters without these barriers. Johnson County said that in the 2025 election, there was only a 25% turn out. Shawnee County had 22.43%. That's out of 116,000 registered voters, only 26,023 people voted. There are many people that depend on advanced voting ballots like the elderly and those with disabilities.

There is a serious lack of informing people of when elections are happening. I have had many conversations with people that have absolutely no idea when elections are going on. If those people unfortunately hear about the election after fourteen days, they are denied the opportunity to request an advanced ballot. If those with a disability don't have the ability to vote because they can't request their ballot, then isn't that essentially losing a potential voter for YOU? There is no reason why the current system needs to change.

The bill states, on page three lines eleven through sixteen, "for question submitted elections not occurring on the date of a primary or general election, between the time of the first published notice thereof and the 14th day before such question submitted election." What does "first published notice" mean? How many people do you think actually pay attention when things are first published? And just because it has been published, where would it be published? Is it widespread where many people will hear about it? How can you guarantee that voters will know when the notice has officially been posted? How are voters supposed to know when it's the 14th day before the election if they have no idea when the notice has been posted? Again, that is a potential vote that YOU could've received. You are denying someone the ability to vote when that vote could be beneficial to you.

This all comes back to there is a lack of information regarding when elections are happening and an already low turnout rate of voters. It is unreal the about of registered voters there are that don't show up for elections. It is unfathomable to think about continuing to lower the amount of voter turnout. I urge you to focus more on policy choices that would increase voter participation in elections. To me, it seems as though the abysmal election turnout numbers strongly correlate 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 more difficult for voters to participate in elections.

Thank you for your time, and vote no on HB 2453. I wouldn't want to sign a bill that takes away the ability for a voter to potentially vote for you. It seems quite silly, doesn't it?

Thank you again,
Alexandra Shoup
Voter in Shawnee County
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