

**February 3, 2026**

**Richard Pund  
Self  
Bill #HB2453  
Opponent  
Written Testimony**

Chair Proctor and members of the Committee,

I oppose HB2453. I believe that an earlier voter registration deadline is a barrier to voting and will reduce voter turnout. Earlier voter registration deadlines increase the burden on voters. As people move around they may not think to update their registration until shortly before the election. Moving the deadline earlier and earlier means more and more otherwise eligible voters will leave that until it's too late.

I recall during the HB2452 hearing that supporters of that bill want to increase voter turnout. If that is a sincere goal of the committee, then I suggest it passes bills that make it easier to register to vote and cast a ballot as well. Instead of an earlier voter registration deadline, I think it's possible for Kansas to implement election-day voter registration. This can be done in time for the 2026 primary and general elections by processing the registrations of provisional ballots before the canvass.

In 2024 thousands of provisional ballots were thrown out because the voter was not registered. In [Johnson County alone](#), 2,298 ballots were thrown out for this reason. It's not that these voters weren't eligible, they just didn't register ahead of the deadline. Provisional ballots include a standard voter registration form which proves the eligibility of these voters. Election offices are already processing the registrations on these provisional ballots so these voters can cast a normal ballot in the next election. I don't think it would be that hard to register these voters before the canvass is complete so their provisional ballots can be counted too. According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#), this is how Nevada, Utah, and Virginia allow election day registration today.

If the committee is sincere in its goal to improve voter turnout, then it should oppose HB2453 or amend it to allow election-day registration. Doing so would immediately increase voter turnout across the state by thousands.

Thank you for your time,

Richard Pund  
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