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Private Citizen  
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Opponent Testimony for HB 2453 (written-only)  
House Committee on Elections

Good morning Chair Proctor and Committee Members,

I am not seeing HB 2453 with a set hearing date yet, and I hope to see it *stay* that way. I appreciate you taking the time to hear my thoughts regardless, and I urge that you oppose HB 2453 if it ever comes in front of you.

HB 2453 directly impacts the exact way that I prefer to vote. For years now, I've gone out of my way to sign up myself, and all friends and family that I can, for advance ballots. There's nothing more clear and evident that "It's time to lock-in, focus, research your candidates, and get ready to vote." like seeing your big bright red envelope arrive in the mail (or see it in your email if you sign up for that service).

In my personal experience, "normies", or people that don't really "follow" politics, or really even think about it, don't realize an election is even happening until someone goes out of their way to tell them that the election is coming up OR if they get their ballot in the mail. A solution that I, myself, as well as my wife, have done for the past several years, every year.

Taking away the ability to request an advance ballot from its current reality of one week before election day to two weeks before election day, what problem is this solving? All you are doing is making it more difficult for people to receive their ballot at home. Additionally, according to page 7, lines 9 through 15, a voter can *still* return their ballot *on* election day. So what is even the point of disallowing an additional week's ability to request an advance ballot?

Last year, 2025, I made the assumption that because I had been following the local municipal elections incredibly closely, and even though a lot of my close friends were not following the campaigns as closely as I was, that they at least were aware that *an election* was still coming up. After the election, one by one, I found out that several of my close friends had *no idea* that an election even took place, *even* my friend who spoke about national politics with me almost *daily* did not realize that he missed an election. I was completely blind-sided by their lack of awareness.

I now know to *never* assume that one's average everyday friends and acquaintances are aware of elections happening around them, *even* if they *are* "into politics".

All of this to say that sometimes I find out that someone doesn't know that the election is happening soon *during* this time period in the last two weeks before an election. This bill would leave me with no ability to help inform them beyond trying to teach them how to look up their sample ballot (an option that was curiously missing in 2025), or to just tell them to look up each and every one of their voting districts to see where they live, and who their candidates are, and let me tell you...as someone who has spent years working in civic participation, for a lot of people, as soon as you tell them to do work on their own, for free, they're out.

Every year, I tell my friends and family, "Look, fill out this advance ballot application, or let me help you fill it out. Then, either you can send the application into our local Elections Office yourself, or *I* can do it for you (they always ask me to do it for them), and your ballot will be mailed to your house, and have exactly the candidates that you need to research right there and in front of you with plenty of days left to research before election day." Being able to do that has done more for these folks, in regard to facilitating a smooth, convenient, and educated voter experience than simply telling them to "Go look up your candidates" because a lot of these people have no idea *how* to research their candidates.

Shortening the length of time in which I can catch that someone I know has no idea who their candidates are, does **not** make for a better voting process, only a more difficult one for the average voter.

Thank you for your time, and obviously, vote **no** on HB 2453 if it comes before you. I'm not sure what the goal behind this bill is, but from someone who works really hard to keep their friends and family enfranchised every year, this is going to make that process far more tight, stressful, and less productive if it passes. And for a county that had a registered voter turnout of 22% last year, the legislature should be working to *increase* voter turnout, rather than depress it.

Thank you again,

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