

SB 394

PROPONENT TESTIMONY - Webex

Senate Federal & State Affairs

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Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

As a Kansas citizen and active advocate for election security and the integrity of our electoral processes, I stand in strong support of SB 394.

While I believe signature verification is a common sense, simple security measure, it seems as though this body will never be able to legislate common sense security without immediate litigation as a response. I personally favor immediate revocation of the mail ballot process as is laid out in the judicial trigger, providing for only federal regulations. I would support this bill even more if it were to simply revoke all no-excuse mail ballot voting. Mail ballots are open to substantial fraud and coercion, that is not just a narrative, it is a well-studied and verified fact since 2009 with bipartisan committee and has since been proven with indictments and convictions.

The State of Kansas holds broad authority over the time, place, and manner of elections, but this authority need not result in overly complex systems or redundant and ridiculous amounts of litigation and argument. Elections could – and should – be streamlined to the most fundamental safeguards, including:

- PRECINCT LEVEL VOTING – as the primary method
- HAND-COUNTED PAPER BALLOTS – for maximum auditability and trust
- FEDERALLY REQUIRED MAIL BALLOTS ONLY – UOCAVA with no broad no-excuse absentee voting
- STRICT VERIFIED CITIZENSHIP WITH VOTER ID
- SINGLE DAY DESIGNATION TO CONDUCT ELECTIONS
- PROHIBITION OF DROP BOXES
- ELIMINATE ONLINE REGISTRATION

Broad acceptance of mail ballots is a privilege extended to Kansans, not a constitutional right. When common-sense validation practices such as signature verification are attacked as unlawful, they are actively working to expand potential fraud. Significant fiscal burdens from repeated court costs are simply not worth it when fundamentally and foundationally mail ballots can fully be revoked. I personally believe it is prudent and responsible to revoke this process to swiftly end the conflict here and now.

I commend SB 394, its carriers, and the revisors who have worked on this and offered up the judicial trigger piece. I have no objection to the complete elimination of election procedures that are not constitutionally mandated, if core voter access and security are preserved.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony here today.

Best Regards,

Missy Leavitt