

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 368

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 368 would prohibit any form of ranked-choice voting (RCV) methods from being used in determining the election or nomination of any candidate to any federal, state, county, or other municipal elected office.

The bill would define “ranked-choice voting” to mean a form of voting where voters rank two or more candidates in order of preference. Votes are tabulated in multiple rounds, often electronically, where the lowest vote-receiving candidate is eliminated after each round until a candidate receives the majority of the votes cast.

The bill would declare null and void any ordinance, resolution, or regulation prohibited by the bill and adopted before July 1, 2024.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Blasi.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Honest Elections Project and the Opportunity Solutions Project. The

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

proponents generally stated that RCV complicates elections and jeopardizes public confidence in the process.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Association of Mature American Citizens Action, Honest Elections Project, and six private citizens.

Opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the League of Women Voters of Kansas, Loud Light Civic Action, and six private citizens. The opponents generally stated that RCV has never been used in Kansas, and the bill would undermine constitutional home rule. One opponent also highlighted the 2017 Special Committee on Elections, which discussed RCV and did not recommend any changes to current law.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Libertarian Party of Kansas and seven private citizens.

Neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the Office of the Secretary of State and League of Kansas Municipalities.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Secretary of State and the Kansas Association of Counties indicate that enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect.

Elections; ranked-choice voting