

Election Committee members,

I am Rob Hodgkinson a fifth generation Kansan from Stilwell KS.

I am here to oppose this bill -- HB 2013.

The negatives of a runoff include the continued discord of an either/or vote. You, instead of voting **FOR** a candidate will vote **against** a candidate – continuing a growing atmosphere of *negativity in politics*.

Kansans have a MUCH better option -- using **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**. I as a Kansan prefer to be able to choose from multiple candidates, just as I want to be able to grocery shop and pick between multiple brands on the shelves.

I have testified in past years, including in front of a 2017 special committee hearing testifying about the positive effects of Ranked Choice voting. RCV accomplishes the EXACT same end results of this proposed runoff bill. A winner who has a majority of the vote.

RCV will however be much less expensive and time consuming. It will increase voter and candidate participation. It will help us dramatically slow down the partisan angst/anger in elections we deal with today. We must return to civility in elections, Kansans deserve that respect. Others here today will talk about all the positives of ranked choice voting, and they are spot on. I can also continue to go into the extensive list of the benefits of ranked choice voting and would love to do so, however, to stay on point lets look at Kansans voter “perception” of what this bill really is, and why I oppose it.

HB 2013 is simply attempting to solve a perception that there is spoiler effect from third party and independent candidates. Ranked Choice Voting satisfies the “*Independence of Spoilers*” criteria in elections, so it is free of the spoiler effect.

I can tell you as one of the outlier voters (and as a past third party candidate who twice ran for KS Secretary of State) this bill will have the opposite effect of what the bill creators think will happen. This is a knee jerk reaction to the 2022 & 2018 KS governor results. You republicans believe that if Pyle and Cordell were eliminated from the 2022 race, and if Caldwell, Kloos and Orman in 2018 also had also been eliminated you would get those votes and you would have won the governorship as well as the legislature.

You are wrong! The recent Georgia runoff results show that.

The reality is that your candidate was not good enough, and to voters like me, when *forced* to vote in a duopoly only situation, we will pick the person that can help stall and slow down the stampeding majority.. Pyle voters had already broken ranks with the republican party and were unlikely to return, Cordell voters also are not fans of the republican party. I (using Ranked Choice voting) would have ranked Cordell #1, Pyle #2 & Kelly #3 in 2022 and would have ranked Caldwell #1, Orman #2, Kloos #3 and Kelly #4 in 2018. Most voters that will go ahead and vote in a runoff (not giving up and abstaining) would have voted for Kelly rather than Schmidt or Kobach, as would most of the voters that did not vote for the R or D candidates originally.

This is not the expected results of the bill creators.

Stop this bill here in committee, before you end up wasting taxpayer time and dollars on a system that quite frankly will backfire and become a detriment to Kansans.

Thank you for your time.