

February 4th, 2024

SB365 Proponent Written Only Testimony

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your support of SB365.

I was reviewing some of the opponent testimony for SB209 which was the same bill as SB365. Some of the opponent arguments were about additional delays in the mail service. I truly want every legal vote to count, but the delays with the mail service will continue to grow. Do we continue to extend deadlines until ballots will be accepted for 30, 60 or more days after the close of the polls.

Another opponent argument was with respect to the disabled who need assistance completing their ballots or getting them mailed. With the exceptions of the new presidential primary and special elections, we all know when election day is. Scheduling voter assistance in advance should not be an issue.

We have become a society of convenience. In the minds of many, the easier something is to accomplish the better. However easy isn't always the best way. Election Day is no longer a single day event, but continues for weeks. Advance ballots are mailed out as early as 20 days prior to the election. Early voting for the August 6, 2024 primary in Sedgwick County is tentatively scheduled to begin July 17th. Multiple methods exist for delivering ballots including, drop boxes, mail, ballot boxes at polling locations, drop off at election office and delivery by an authorized individual. Even if a voter receives their ballot a day or two before election day, there are multiple options for delivery of their ballot prior to the close of polls at 7 pm on election day. There should be no reason a voter would need an additional 3 days after election day for their ballot to be received. Regardless of the deadline, you will ALWAYS have procrastinators and no matter how early they receive their ballot, they will procrastinate until the very last possible moment. At some point you must have a deadline.

Election Day is long enough and I encourage the Committee vote to pass SB365 out of committee.

Regards,

Kari Sue
Vosburgh
Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman
We The People Kansas
Senate District 30