



To: Chairman Representative Sutton, Vice chair Rep. Blake Carpenter, Ranking Minority Member Rep. Brett Parker, and members of the House Elections Committee.

From: The League of Women Voters of Kansas, Cille King, Co-President

RE: HB2092 – Elections, registration: election day registration – Supporting

Date: February 19, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Kansas supports HB2092 in regard to elections, registration, and election day registration. Election day registration benefits all political parties and could increase Kansas turnout by 10-12%. Costs (from surveys of other states) are “minimal”, and the increase in other forms of civic engagement benefit the health of Kansas communities.

We do have a concern that this bill does not allow Kansas registered voters who changed their name or moved to another county can have their provisional ballots counted, and if this is the case, we would like to see amendments to allow those ballots to be counted.

Kansas ranked 48th of all states and the District of Columbia in handling elections, according to a 2018 MIT Report. One concern was the number of provisionals ballots cast and not counted was at least three times that of any similarly sized state in November 2016. Election day registration would allow the majority of those provisional ballots that were cast but not counted, to be counted. <https://www.hppr.org/post/mit-report-kansas-ranked-near-bottom-handling-elections-0>

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 required that all states adopt provisional ballot procedures. States that had Election Day registration or did not require registration were exempted. The MIT study used data from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Election Administration and Voting Survey. A large number of “uncounted provisional ballots may indicate a problem in the system – whether it be a citizen who erroneously believed, in good faith, that they were registered: a lack of easy-to-find, accurate voting information; unclear instructions about which precinct a voter was assigned to; or get-out-the-vote efforts that sent ineligible voters to the polls. An unusually high number of provisional ballots rejected is likely a symptom of an inefficient election process.”

Kansas should join the 19 states that have implemented Election-day registration; increase Kansas election efficiency, increase Kansas registered voters, increase voter turnout, and increase the numbers of Kansans who have their vote counted. The Kansas Health Foundation knows that increased voter engagement also results in more civically engaged communities, which also result in healthier citizens.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas asks that you vote YES on HB2092.

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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