



Testimony on SB 43 and HB 2092

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill number-43 and/or HB 2092.

I support Same Day Registration.

It's the day before the election and you remember, even though you had good intentions, you failed to register to vote. No problem. At least that's the case in 17 states plus the District of Columbia. They offer same day voter registration (SDVR).

These are states that want to encourage in as many ways as legally possible, participation in the voting process.

Since 2015, the Kansas Black Leadership Council has continued to be a strong voice for the passage of SDVR bill in Kansas. This items has been on our annual platform since the Leadership Council was formed in 2016. We're glad to finally be getting some action on this bill in both the Kansas House and Senate.

We're glad to see Kansas has entered a period where it is looking to encourage voter participation rather than taking measure to limit access to the poll and to this most basic citizen rights.

To us, Same Day Voter Registration only makes sense, especially in a day of modern technology where the technology exists to make this process safe and secure.

There is strong evidence that same day and Election Day registration increases voter turnout, and if you're concerned, these measure don't tend to help any political party over the other.

We just know that for many of our state's lower income residents who don't have access to transportation, extra time off work or access to the internet, measures like this help where others don't necessarily feel a pinch.

Please remember the least among us and those like me, who often have the best of intentions, but have an awful busy schedule and are often known for putting things off to the last minute.

We're pleased that you're holding this hearing on this bill and look forward to a favorable vote on this bill, which to us is a vote for increased participation in Kansas' voting process.

Thank you,

Bonita Gooch, president
Kansas Black Leadership Council