



February 16, 2021

Re: House Bill No. 2319; OPPOSING; WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO: Honorable Chair Rep. Blake Carpenter, Honorable Vice Chair Rep. Emil Bergquist, Ranking Minority Member Rep. Vic Miller and members of the House Election Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to express the opinion of the League of Women Voters of Kansas regarding the deadline for returning advance voting ballots and proposed amendment of K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-1122.

Kansas Statute 25-1122 as currently written, provides for the County Election officer to contact a voter if the Application for a Mailed Ballot lacks the necessary ID requirements or if the signature does not match the signature on record. The addition of another requirement, *letter (j) on page 4, line 23 of HB 2333*, for an incomplete application, should have a similar remedy: if an Application for a Mailed Ballot is incomplete, the County Election Officer should notify the voter to correct the error.

We object to the addition on *page 6, line 13*, that singles out candidates as not being able to assist a voter in filling out a ballot or in transmitting the completed ballot to the County Election Office, polling place, or drop box. Candidates have relatives, friends and neighbors who might need their assistance. There is already a signature line for anyone who assists a voter in filling out or transmitting a ballot. It is already unlawful to unduly influence a voter in filling out a ballot. We need to allow a voter to have the help they need, even if that person is a candidate, someone who is working for a candidate or a party, or as most voters, has a strong desire to see certain persons elected.

Reducing the number of days for ballots to be received by each county's election office does not make a vote any more secure but it does risk creating a burden for voters who may be elderly, ill, or a shut-in, in particular. If the proposed change is based on what may have occurred in an election during the pandemic, the chances are that the number of voters requiring any more than three days to ensure the receipt of their votes at their election office will be reduced as the pandemic is controlled.

Please vote 'NO' on HB 2319.

Respectfully,

**Teresa Briggs and Cille King, Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Kansas**