

Dear House Elections Committee,

I recently learned of HB 2013 that proposes that a runoff election be required if the top candidate does not receive a majority of votes cast. I fully support the idea that a state elected official should receive support from a majority of voters in order to be elected. However, I believe there is a much easier and less expensive process for that rather than holding a separate runoff election.

Ranked Choice Voting, also known as Instant Runoff Voting, is a voting method that directly addresses the issue that the winner should receive a majority of support. It does this by asking voters to provide a full list of preferences on a ballot of more than two candidates. If no candidate on the ballot gets a majority of votes, then the candidate with the least votes is eliminated and the voters who chose that candidate as their first choice can have their second choice applied instead. This is exactly the same process as a runoff election, but it can happen on a single ballot with a single trip to the polls for the voter. This will save the state millions of dollars that would be needed to hold a separate runoff election.

Ranked Choice Voting is already used in dozens of cities around the country, and statewide in Maine and Alaska. It was even already used in Kansas for the 2020 Democratic presidential primary. Kansas State University also uses RCV for their student government elections. I hope that Kansas will consider using this proven money saving method for all statewide elections instead of the separate runoff elections proposed in HB 2013.

Thank you,
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