

March 16, 2023

Bill number HB2086

Indication: Opposition

Name: Mary L. Buffo, Sedgwick County

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

The fact that HB2086 includes changes to sixty-six sections of statutes is genuinely concerning. I feel some of these changes to HB2086 should be stand-alone bills. For easy consumption to the public, and discussion in the Kansas Senate, fifty-three pages for a bill is too long! Let us not accept and approve these major election process changes by cramming it all into one huge bill.

This bill provides the Secretary of State with additional powers with respect to election and those processes. There is no method of holding the SOS accountable with this new centralized power. Kansas residents are asking for accountability. In fact, America is asking for accountability nationwide. And why is this bill asking to remove power from the precinct committee position? Why should the State or County Party Chair to object to a precinct person? Objections should only be based on residency, voter qualification, and party affiliation, and statute is already providing for that. So why a need for objection? Let us not follow other states that have been eliminating powers of their precinct people!

The statute regarding the use of ballots has been modified/written by the current's SOS's office to agree with the Rules and Regulations, to allow for the use of ballot images. Unless the ballot images are to be printed out, the only way to view them is via computer screen. What is the chain of custody for a printed ballot image? What are the security measures for the computer containing the ballot image? This is concerning for anyone following all the ongoing mess happening in Arizona and other places. Security. Checks and Balances. Transparency. That is what your Kansas constituents want! AND, do not mess with the 3-foot rule for poll agents! Extending that distance would be detrimental to observation process.

Personally, I will be following our state's actions (or lack thereof) until this state (and our nation) see the truth that PAPER BALLOTS ARE THE ANSWER! For security, checks and balances, transparency.

These are only a few concerns I have with Bill H2086. Too many controversial changes to pass as is. Please, I encourage the committee to listen to these concerns and vote to oppose HB2086.

Sincerely, Mary Buffo Sedgwick County

