

January 31, 2024

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

Chairman Mike Thompson, Vice Chair Kloos, Ranking Minority Member Faust-Goudeau, and members of the Committee. My name is Benee Hudson and on behalf of all voters in Kansas, I want to thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony in support of SB 368.

I also want to thank Senator Blasi for bringing this bill forward, which sets the table for an important conversation about how the practice of Rank Choice Voting will disenfranchise voters and the need to stave off any attempt to implement.

As we see many states like Florida, Tennessee, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota and now Georgia and Ohio are working to ban RCV, I appreciate the proactive approach this bill is taking.

Issues with RCV:

1. RCV is a secretive, black hole process to which an unknown algorithm would be used to determine who passes the first round of qualifying for the general ballot. We don't need further appearances for lack of transparency in voting as election integrity is a top concern for all voters, not only in our state, but the country.
2. How many candidates can run in a race with RCV? I am sure this would have to be limited, therefore not giving Kansans wanting to run for office the opportunity.
3. RCV gaming is already an issue in states using this process and is why those states are working to remove this. Valid candidates could be thrown out of the election and corruption becomes inevitable.
4. RCV causes lower voter turnout and low voter confidence. It is a confusing process and I have concerns certain segments of our population would opt out from voting. It is also proven that RCV vote counting is unacceptably lengthy. Johnson County had over 90 races last fall. Can you imagine having to process those ballots through RCV, then having to have faith that a machine was properly determining the winner?
5. RCV infrastructure, human capital and people resources would be costly.

I would appreciate the Committee voting in favor of SB 368.

Regards,

Benee Hudson
Overland Park, KS
Precinct Committeewoman
Johnson County Poll Worker