

Testimony in opposition to HB 2013

House Committee on Elections Thursday, January 24, 2023

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

The Kansas Civic Engagement Table strongly opposes runoff elections because of their costs, the confusion they create, and the historically lower turnout in those elections in other states.

The financial burden of additional balloting and counting is something that a lot of local election offices, especially in rural areas of the state cannot afford.

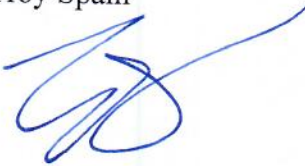
Runoff elections create confusion in voting as they create additional potential dates and locations for voting.

Disenfranchisement of voters occurs, and turnout drops, in a predominance of run-off elections. Those that don't vote in the run-offs do not have their opinions counted. Citizens are already burdened with voting on workdays, at locations sometimes far from their homes.

We recommend, if runoffs are important to the legislature, to consider ranked choice voting. In practice this accounts for the votes runoffs capture while not increasing the burden on county voting officials and state citizens.

We appreciate your consideration on this matter,

Troy Spain



E.D. Kansas Civic Engagement Table

troy@kansastable.org