

March 16, 2023

Opponent, and written testimony only, of HB 2086

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am an opponent to this bill, mainly for the reason it gives our Secretary of State even MORE power, and in my opinion, when it comes to anything election related, he needs less power. This bill provides no way of holding him and all future Secretaries of State accountable. I have listed a few of my concerns below:

Making poll agents stay 3' away from close review of the procedures is far 'too far'. I've always had good eyesight but there's no way I'd be able to sign off on anything printed, short of the top row of my eye doctor's chart if I were 3' away.

The precinct committee people lose power in this bill but the Secretary of State gains power. This takes local power away, which is really the root of all our problems. We need the best and brightest in power in our local capacity. We precinct people could no longer be poll agents which means we could no longer be able to appoint poll agents. We know better who to appoint to these positions, and why in the world would we want the Secretary of State, who doubtfully knows any of the precinct people except possibly those in his/her own home town, be the one to object to a particular precinct person?

I understand there are changes to the custody for a ballot image. Do we have security measures for the computer which maintains the ballot images? The use and accounting for paper ballots is spelled out and quite specific; would this be the same for the ballot images?

For these reasons, I would ask that you vote NO on HB 2086.

Thank you.

Most sincerely,

Jill O'Connor
Overland Park, Kansas