

Deposition before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

February 1, 2024

SB368

This disposition is in opposition to SB368

Name of conferee: Gilbert Leland Moore

Representing himself

My name is Gilbert Moore. I'm here in opposition to Senate Bill 368. This bill would prevent the use of Ranked Choice Voting anywhere in the state.

I became very excited when learning about Ranked Choice Voting at the end of January 2022. That was almost exactly 2 years ago. Since then, I have been an activist promoting Ranked Choice Voting to at least one person per day on average. I have picked up some additional good political improvement concepts along the way. However, I always explain Ranked Choice Voting first.

This presentation will have 3 parts.

1. A short explanation of what Ranked Choice Voting is and some of the benefits.
2. Where is Ranked Choice Voting being used in other countries and the U.S.
3. How well is the idea being received.

The summary will include a stark explanation of why we are here today and a forecast of the political future as related to Ranked Choice Voting and SB368. The forecast of Ranked Choice Voting will be based on the brief history of the last few years and the movement afoot of voting and lawmaking changes in progress now.

Ranked Choice Voting is the simple process of ranking candidates as first choice, second choice, third choice and so on. A voter can rank all the candidates or not. The election winner must have the majority of votes. When the votes are first counted, if any candidate has the majority of votes, that candidate wins. If not, the candidate with the least votes is eliminated. The voters for the eliminated candidate are transferred to the voters respective second choice. The votes to the remaining candidates are tallied to see if any candidate now has the

majority. If not, we repeat the process till one candidate is the winner with the majority of votes.

The beauty of this is all the benefits. A popular benefit is there is no spoiler effect. A party that could win with just one candidate will still win if that same party runs other lesser candidates along with their winning candidate.

The second benefit is Ranked Choice Voting. over time, can allow new blood and new parties to emerge. Example: Let's say you know a new candidate or a new party that really appeals to you but doesn't have the votes to win. You and others can still vote for your preference and reveal the true number of followers. These new candidates or new parties will lose but your vote will not be wasted. Your vote will go to your second choice. Our current voting system never reveals how many voters prefer the new less-seasoned candidates and parties. However, with Ranked Choice Voting, new candidates and parties can demonstrate electability based on the revealed numbers growth at each election.

Candidates are much more civil with Ranked Choice Voting. Candidates that viciously attack other candidates are less likely to be picked as a second or third choice by voters.

A lesser know benefit is for major existing parties. Voters complain that the major parties keep running the same old tired candidates on platforms not so popular. The party can run multiple candidates with variations in personalities. Candidates can be run that vary amongst themselves as to methods of obtaining party objectives.

The average person in Kansas is not familiar with Ranked Choice Voting and the breath of it's use. So, the average Kansas has now idea that there is a far superior system of voting. Most of Europe uses Ranked Choice Voting. Australia does. A few of the U.S. east coast cities have used it for years in city, school board elections, and various other purposes. The Republican and Democratic parties use it in some states. The state of Maine has had it for a while and Alaska has it. On the west coast, many of the cities have had the early versions of Ranked Choice Voting.

Now the U.S. is gradually undergoing political changes. We have become so badly divided and politically dysfunctional citizens are desperately looking for

solutions. Ranked Choice Voting has found great favor. The early versions of it have been revised to a popular system that is spreading to large and small cities all across our country. Now states are adopting it. Maine was first, second was Alaska, then Tennessee. In Tennessee's case, the state legislatures at the last minute quickly made a constitutional change to ban it even though the citizens adopted it by ballot initiative. Massachusetts nearly voted it in. The list of cities is quite long. In cities that had voting machines that could not do Ranked Choice Voting, Approval Voting was voted for. St. Louis and Fargo ND did that.

The point is, Ranked Choice Voting is a superior system to what we have. Informed people want it. In the two years of promoting Ranked Choice Voting, well over 95% of the people loved it. I really do a good job of explaining it with the other political improvements. I just need enough time. There are more choices and this system rewards good candidates and does not reward bad candidates. We can't say that of party bosses. Party bosses are happy to continue giving voters the same lame choices.

Once Ranked Choice Voting is in place, the people don't go back. The parties that have not delivered good choices to voters suffer with Ranked Choice Voting. The losing parties of an election try to pass laws to revert back to plurality voting. The voters would have nothing of it.

The Reason we are here today is an overreach of one party. This overreach is to outlaw a superior system of voting before the citizens of Kansas even know what it is. This is a tactic that is being shared and implemented across our country. This is voter rights suppression while the voters don't know it. The right thing to do is not outlaw this. Then wait for the voters to get informed and tell you representatives what the voters want.