

TO: Chair Rep. Emil Bergquist and members of the House Committee on Elections.

FROM: League of Women Voters of Kansas

RE: OPPOSING HB2555, AN ACT concerning elections; requiring a county election officer to send a confirmation notice if there is no election-related activity for any four calendar year period.

DATE: Hearing Thursday, February 10, 2022; Testimony written and requesting virtual access for testimony

The League of Women Voters of Kansas opposes HB2555, which would allow county election offices to remove registered voters from the voter roll if the voter has not had any election-related activity for any four calendar year period.

The League understands that 52,000 Kansas voters voted in 2008, but hadn't voted again through the 2012 election.

Making this change, allowing dis-enrollment of Kansas voters without any verification that they had moved or died, is a dis-service to our low voter engagement Kansas citizens and should not be allowed.

The League recommends that Kansas enroll in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a USA non-profit, organization that is operated and financed by state elections agencies and chief elections officials. States created ERIC to improve the accuracy of state voter registration rolls and boost access to voter registration for all American citizens. ERIC was launched in 2021 by elections officials from seven states, and now has enrolled 30 states and the District of Columbia. Kansas' neighboring states of Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado are enrolled in ERIC.

ERIC uses the most sophisticated matching software available to identify voters who have moved, died, and voters with duplicate registrations within a state's database. States may also request National Change of Address (NCOA) reports using official data from the US postal Service and, after federal general elections, participate in a fraud check to see if voters cast ballots in more than one state. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_Registration_Information_Center)

The League urges the Kansas Legislature to authorize Kansas Secretary of State to enroll in ERIC in order to clean our voter rolls without disenfranchising any legal voters.

We ask you to vote NO on HB2555.

Cille King
LWVK Advocacy Chair
cilleking@gmail.com
Testifying for:

Martha Pint and Jacqueline Lightcap
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Kansas
copresidents@lwvk.org