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Support for SB 388
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SB 388 - Personal Testimony and Request for Amendment:

First of all I would like to Thank Senator Hilderbrand for his work and focus on this respective matter. As such, I offer my full support for this bill as it retains the security of the voter's ballot by specifying that ONLY the USPS be an option for mailing. Kansas constituents support this bill because it establishes that mailed ballots cannot be handled by private companies, such as FEDEX, UPS, etc. In addition, laws are already in place as to protection of federal mail, and we will not likely have those protections from private companies to the same extent of the law. If we do not specify the USPS as the proprietary agency, we leave open doors for multiple security risks from other distribution entities and matters such as this must be limited. Simply put, the fewer companies authorized to handle these critically sensitive documents the better!

In addition, Mr. Chairman I would like to request an amendment to this bill to state that all mailed and/or absentee ballots be notarized. I understand that voter selections and voter privacy is of the utmost importance, so guidelines within that amendment for notaries to refer to, is an additional valued approach concerning this matter.

We would also like to ask the committee and revisers to verify if the mail ballot terminology will be sufficient, or if Absentee, or other definitions should be included throughout the bill so that nothing is misconstrued as to what must be mailed by USPS and notarized.

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SB 389 - Testimony and Suggested Considerations/Questions

From a personal perspective & my research of numerous parts regarding Kansas elections, I support this bill, but believe that we can work together to bring some more action and function to it as well. I very much appreciate the notation of the cast vote records being a part of the audit process. I have major concerns that our audit process is simply lacking to verify integrity at all, especially without the cross examination of the cast vote records to paper ballots. I have seen an example of the Johnson County cast vote records and I can verify that this data would be very useful in the audit process based on what is being recorded into the machines.

My suggested amendments:

There should be a specific sample amount defined, such as a % of that race to be recounted. I will also add that I would prefer to see a step-up implementation of the samples be looked at as applicable by revisors. It seems logical that we increase the sample to as least 35% of the vote as it will better reflect actual results depending on the population of the precinct turnout. Whereas, if any discrepancies are found, the election officials/auditors should then implement a 50% randomized recount of that race. If discrepancies are still found after moving into the 50% sample, this will warrant a full 100% hand recount.

I am also aware that some counties may use tabulators that can be used for both tabulating and printing ballots. This may require additional factors considered for the different systems and more definition be given if required, since there are at least 3 systems allowed to be used in Kansas.

In my final support of this bill, I love that I am seeing the presentation of the voter-verified watermarked ballots! It seems odd that the money in our pocket, despite being a simple NOTE, has more security protocols and regulations to verify authenticity than our ballots.