

Chris Huntsman Testimony 2023 Special Committee on Elections

I can testify to the security and safety in the Shawnee County Election Office because I worked there in 2012 (in the old office off 37th). I did data jobs.

Here are examples:

1. Process mail ballot applications, mainly temporary. They were mostly paper applications, but signature had to match what was on the computer. If it didn't we had to get an employee of the opposite party to cross check, then we went to the "card file" to see their voting registration card, and if we were in doubt, we sent a new signature card for them to return....
2. Prepare ballots for mailing, a detailed job to match name with ballots for that residence, mainly in the primary by party, precinct or township.
3. As mail ballots returned (tubs and tubs of them) we had to make sure the envelop had the matching signature, click "returned" , alphabetize them in boxes of so many to be opened during the counting.
4. Field phone calls, mailing mail ballot applications to voters, and other questions.

Our League of Women Voters committee toured the new Shawnee County Election office in 2023. So much more security –was totally impressed. One example is office employees had been trained by some government entity on matching signatures. Windows for observers to watch this secure process, many voter registration cards were scanned so no more digging in drawers!

I have also worked as a poll worker; one time as a judge. That is where you really see the safety/security in action. The training is extensive and excellent.

Poll workers are of different parties, double check many things with another worker, handle the public with integrity, and etc. The last election I worked was the General in 2022 with the ballot questions (not the primary ballot questions!), and one voter came up to ask us to explain what this all means – the judge calmly took him aside, said we could read the questions, but not interpret them. We suggested he go online to get his help. Another young voter had reading difficulties, so another worker and I read the entire ballot, alternating on items, quietly in a corner and he/she marked the ballot.

In recent years, I have voted by mail, and can track my ballot online like an Amazon package. One year, I did take the mail ballot envelop to the mobile return box, staffed by employees, near Seaman High School. The mobile unit was there; maybe from 1-4 on a given afternoon.

In the primary of 2021, my husband and I both applied early for a mail ballot; we were also looking to move. Real estate at that time was crazy, and we looked at a house late in June, put an offer in right away, and closed and moved August 2, 2021. I changed our address at the PO about the time the mail ballots went out without thinking of the problem this created. So, I called the election office and the ballots would not be forwarded and they sent out provisional mail ballots (counted during the canvas) and that is how our address got changed for the move.

I hope you can see Kansas has safe and secure voting from my examples. Our SOS Scott Schwab had been quoted saying that as well.

What Kansas does need is more voting access such as satellite voting around the county, Saturday voting, more ballot drop boxes.

We consumers totally trust our bank's money machines located all over. We put in our card, we have a code, we deposit/withdraw; we trust this safe system. Why not vote that way? Voters get a "card", insert it in a voting machine, out pops our ballot (down to the precinct), we vote (maybe paper, maybe touch screen) with a camera watching us.

OR we vote from our device, security would be that six digit code sent to our phone or email, we make our selections, hit send and it is done safely. Write-ins would be easy....We pay our bills like that all the time.

I have no idea of the cost of this, but if Dillons, Evergy and MasterCard trust me to pay my bills online, it must be more profitable or they would send paper statements and require checks.

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