



February 18, 2021

Re: House Bill No. 2333; **OPPOSING; WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Honorable Chair Rep. Blake Carpenter, Honorable Vice Chair Rep. Emil Bergquist, Ranking Minority Member Rep. Vic Miller and members of the House Election Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to express the opinion of the League of Women Voters of Kansas regarding the above referenced bill.

Overall, the Bill in its original form reflects appropriate requirements when applying for an advance ballot. Letter (j) on page 4, line 23, however, is a troubling exception. As worded, the Bill specifies that, in the event that a county election officer receives an "incomplete" advance ballot application, the ballot must not be processed. No mention is made that the voter is informed of the error, given the opportunity to correct the mistake or complete the ballot with any missing information. Said voter(s) could easily be notified to make the correction within a certain amount of time which would eliminate them missing an election while waiting for a ballot they expect to receive but that never arrives.

Applicants for an advance ballot either have a permanent disability or personal reasons for not going to the polls to cast their votes. Letter (j) of House Bill 2333 seems to impinge on these groups of voters unfairly. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (the "Motor Voter" law) requires state governments to *either* provide uniform opt-in registration services through drivers' license registration centers, disability centers, schools, libraries, and mail-in registration, *or* to allow Election Day voter registration, where voters can register at polling places immediately prior to voting.

One reason that contact information is placed on voter registration cards is so that county election officers can contact that voter to clarify a number or illegible handwriting, and voters are able to make changes and corrections to their registration, as needed. In fact, their voluntary effort to do so is welcome! When one feels compelled to vote by advance ballot and makes an error in completing that form, it should not result in the complete rejection of their application and, thus take away their right to vote.

Please vote 'NO' on HB 2333.

Respectfully,

**Teresa Briggs and Cille King, Co-Presidents**  
**League of Women Voters of Kansas**