

My name is Louis Goseland and I am involved in the KanVote coalition.

I think the most effective way to voice my concern about rushing voter registration restrictions is to share KanVote's experience in attempting to engage voters under the active voter ID portion of this new law.

On December 29th the Sedgwick Co. Election Commissioner announced that free voter ID affidavits would be available at her office starting Jan 1st. On January 3rd, a volunteer from our coalition went to the Sedgwick Co. Election office to get information on obtaining a free voter ID. Though it was over 8 months after the SAFE act was signed into law, and two days after the law took effect, the election office could not provide the free voter ID affidavit and said the SOS office had not yet published it. Later that afternoon a draft affidavit was emailed to me from the election office. The draft didn't match the actual affidavit published on January 5th.

On January 10th KanVote assembled a carpool of people who either lacked a photo ID or needed to determine the validity of their current form of ID. The group traveled to the DMV in Wichita to find out who could get a free voter ID and how. When we arrived at the DMV we stepped in line to take a number. Instead, when a DMV employee asked how she could help one of us, everyone who was there to request a free voter ID was asked to step out of the line. We were addressed as a group by a DMV supervisor who informed us that her employees would be unable to help us. She then excused herself as she contacted her higher ups in Topeka to get more information. When she returned she was unable answer our questions though she did inform us that a proof of citizenship document, such as a birth certificate, would be required to get a free voter ID.

That same day KanVote contacted the Department of Vital Statistics to find out about obtaining a free birth certificate. When we heard that none were available we contacted Brad Bryant, Elections Director at the SOS office. Bryant informed us that free birth certificates would not be made available until Jan 1st 2013. For the time being, those without proof of citizenship and photo ID would be required to pay for proof of citizenship before gaining a free voter ID. We thought about that and realized we had discovered a functional poll tax.

We brought this concern directly to SOS Kobach at a Rules and Regulations Hearing held at his office on January 24th. Kobach responded by stating that the KDHE was confused, that the officials in his office were probably the only ones who really knew the law, and that the confusion was created by the KS Legislature.

He was right, Brad Bryant understands the law. Section 13 of the SAFE Act grants fee waivers for birth certificates only to those who swear they are doing so for the purpose of registering to vote. Nevertheless, Kobach went on to work beyond the law with the KDHE to correct this blunder.

In the first month of voter ID, every related agency fell short in its ability to implement what has been described as the simplest portion of this law. Each of these agencies will be required to participate in the implementation of voter registration restrictions. At the very least this will require additional training, but we have already heard of necessary infrastructure overhauls.

It was recently reported that implementation of voter registration restrictions depends on a \$40 million tech overhaul at the DMV. This is because the DMV is required to automatically register people who are

receiving their services to vote under the National Voter Registration Act of '93 (AKA Motor Voter Law). To remain compliant with new voter registration restrictions the DMV will have to be able to scan proof of citizenship documents and transfer them to the election office along with the registration information. Hence the determining tech upgrades.

The DMV is not the only agency subject to the NVRA '93. Our SRS offices are also required to register those applying for their services under this federal law though there has been no discussion regarding how they will fulfill this requirement while remaining in compliance with new state restrictions, and what the cost for infrastructure and training will be.

There has been no discussion as to whether or not entities, defined as voter registration agencies under Kansas Statute 25-2303, are prepared to deal with these new changes and what the cost of infrastructure and training will be.

Until the administrative complications of the first portion of this law have been corrected, until the employees of the related agencies have been trained and the voters have been educated on what is currently required of them, we should not consider adding more complicated restrictions to the voting process.

Let's stick to the plan. Let's allow time for important questions to be asked. Let's make sure state agencies can stay in compliance with state and federal law. Let's allow time for training officials and employees who will be required to implement new restrictions. Let's allow time for them to put the necessary infrastructure in place. Let's make sure that a program to educate voters on the new changes is ready before the changes go into effect.

