

# State of Kansas

## Senate Chamber



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Chairman Bowers, members of the committee:

I am pleased to testify today on SB-43. This legislation is one more tool in the tool box to increase voter turnout in Kansas elections. SB 43 does not hold the voter to any lesser standard, since all information that any voter must provide is required and the ballot is a provisional ballot.

I have met with a representative of the Kansas County Clerks & Election Officials to discuss how this bill could be amended to meet their concerns. By reinstating lines 17-30 on page 1, and the rest of line 34, and deleting lines 2-10 on page two, they will be able to have registration books available at the polling sites. We also discussed removing the word "satellite" and the need of providing "proof of residency." Both are no longer necessary.

Currently 17 states plus the District of Columbia have same day voter registration: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, in the states that have implemented this policy, research has shown that same-day voter registration increases voter participation by 3 to 7 percent and caused these states to outperform other states in terms of turnout percentages.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We know that government works best when citizens feel that they have opportunities to be involved SB 43 opens the door even wider to every Kansan to vote. I ask that the committee work to pass SB 43 out favorable.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Pettey".

Senator Pat Pettey