

February 19, 2019

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill-43

Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
Chairwoman – Senator Elaine Bowers
Vice Chair – Senator Randall Hardy
Ranking Minority – Senator David Haley
Committee Members

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill number-43.

I support Same Day Registration. Allowing eligible voters to register and vote on the same day greatly reduces the need for provisional ballots, helping to assure voters that their ballots will be counted, and saving elections officials the time and expense of processing many provisional votes.

Many citizens become most interested and engaged with elections in the last few weeks before Election Day, when candidate debates and campaigns reach their peak. But registration deadlines may already have passed at that point. Many states unnecessarily close voter registration 25 to 30 days before an election.

Many previously-registered voters lose their eligibility merely because they have moved. Others are never added to the voter rolls because of bureaucratic errors. Failure to discover these problems prior to Election Day, when registration deadlines have passed, results in eligible citizens losing their vote. With Same-Day Registration, these voters can simply update registration records or register anew at the polling place and vote a ballot that will be counted.

Thank you,

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