

**** Voter Participation**

* Assistance for language minority voters outside of Voting Rights Act mandates

I support general assistance.

I oppose specific mandatory measures on poll workers.

If legally registered voters need assistance voting, then they should be allowed assistance, but they should not demand any further assistance of the poll workers than voters with disabilities. If they need assistance reading the ballot and communicating in their own language, the poll workers should not be obliged to provide translation services. Voters needing language assistance should bring friends that can translate their ballots for them.

* Automatic restoration of voting rights for ex-felons

I oppose automatic manipulation of the voting records except when a voter has been determined to have moved, died, or become ineligible to vote for some reason.

Former felons may re-register for themselves when they are allowed to vote. Such automatic manipulation of voter registrations may lead to centralized authoritarianism.

* Automatic voter registration

I oppose automatic sharing of personal information without the explicit permission of each person.

If people "opt-in" for a service that shares their personal information for verifying voter records, then that is acceptable.

* Continuation of National Voter Registration Act

The Motor Voter Act is fine so long as standards of verifying that people are legal residents of Kansas in a single precinct are maintained. A relative of mine worked at a Department of Motor Vehicles office, and there were many obvious attempts by illegal aliens with false paperwork to get driver's licenses every day; it was an industry. Therefore, any questions of the validity of a person's eligibility to vote must be resolved before the registration is accepted. Mail-in registrations should only be allowed for changes to existing registrations.

* Early voting in person

I support early voting in person at the county elections office, provided the vote is on a paper ballot that will be counted in the same manner as the ballots on election day and that is retained to allow the votes to be recounted.

* Election Day registration

If it is possible to verify that a person is allowed to vote, then I support registration up to the day before the election. For those whose residency and eligibility to vote cannot be determined, they will have to satisfy those issues before registering; they could try submitting a provisional ballot. Election-day registration is too great a temptation for voting in multiple polling places, and it should be avoided.

* Facilitate student voter registration at colleges

I oppose any sharing of anyone's personal information without their explicit permission and knowledge.

Any institution or organization may facilitate voter registration by making voter registration forms available and by reminding eligible voters to register and keep the registration current.

* Full access to polling places for people with disabilities

Polling places should make reasonable efforts for access by voters and volunteers, but I am against imposing great financial and other burdens for extreme considerations. If a current polling place is clearly inaccessible to many voters, and reasonable accommodations cannot be made, then another more suitable location in the nearby area should be considered.

* Full implementation of Help America Vote Act under current deadline

I am against the use of electronic voting machines that count votes stored only in computer memory or storage. The counting of votes must be done with verifiable, hand-countable ballots, and if a voting device has not recently been sufficiently verified for accuracy, then a hand count must be done to ensure the integrity of the vote and to identify any inaccuracies or fraud in the device.

* High school early registration programs

I oppose any sharing of anyone's personal information without their explicit permission and knowledge.

Any institution or organization may facilitate voter registration by making voter registration forms available and by reminding eligible voters to register and keep the registration current. This includes encouraging 17-year-olds that will be old enough to vote by election day to register.

* Longer polling hours

I support extending the polling hours, up to an hour earlier and/or later, if the times are consistent across the state and if adequate staffing can be arranged.

* More polling places/ voting stations at current locations

I support having more polling places and having more voting stations at current locations, to reduce waiting times and to reduce fraud by having more local voting places where polling volunteers and voters are more likely to know each other and to reduce questions of identity.

* No excuse absentee voting

I support the use of absentee voting by lawfully registered voters, with confirmation of the acceptability of the absentee ballot and with notification to the polling officials to prevent a second in-person vote by the same voter.

* Voter guides sent in mail

The expense of printing and mailing voter guides should discourage sending them to all registered voter households, I believe, but it would be possible to make them available for people to request, to send them to city and county offices, and/or to make the information available on a web-site for voters to print for themselves and to share with others. Private voter guides should be encouraged.

* Voter participation comments:

If electronic voting machines are used without tangible, hand-countable ballots, voters can quickly perceive that their votes are completely in the hands of the election officials and therefore become apathetic. Voters need to be confident that their votes will be counted as they cast them and not as the developers and administrators of the voting machines might decide. The voters should have convenient access to copies of the ballot so they can investigate any races or decisions before casting their votes.

** Election Integrity and Fairness

* Inter-state coordination to avoid double registration

I support communication among county offices at least to notify prior county officials that a voter has moved and re-registered, but the voter's new address should not be disclosed without the knowledge and permission of the voter. Without this permission, the prior county official would be notified that the prior registration should be removed and only the new state where the voter is registered.

* Laws prohibiting deceptive election practices designed to confuse would-be voters

Deception and fraud are already illegal, I believe. Why are more specific laws needed?

* Mandatory poll worker training standards

There should be education of the poll workers of the mandated procedures and the possible repercussions of failing to follow them. They should also be advised to perform their all their tasks with adequate public observation.

* Non-partisan, un-elected chief election official(s)

How are appointed officials non-partisan? The one appointing the officials is probably elected and partisan. There should be multiple independent election officials, including some that are not in a major political party.

* Photo ID required at polls

If the identity of a voter is not well known by the poll workers, then they should demand proof of identity. A trusted photo ID is commonly used to prove identity, but I would not require it if the voter's identity is well known to the poll workers.

* Prohibit election officials from campaign work

Election officials should strive to appear unbiased toward candidates, and they should all be well known to support our constitutional form of government.

* Quick and full disclosure of campaign contributions

Disclosure of contributions is required due to the rampant lobbying of candidates and elected officials by corporations and other groups. However, candidates should have reasonable time frames in which to submit their records. It is not uncommon for a family situation to completely consume a candidate's time for several days. Many families have been displaced ever since Hurricane Katrina, over a year ago.

* Standardized statewide recount procedure

We should require countable, tangible ballots that can be recounted, and that should be statewide. Counties should reasonably prove to the secretary of state that their election process is fair, reasonably accessible, accurate, and free of opportunities for hidden fraud, and the same is true of their process for recounting ballots.

* State review of local decisions and performance after elections

Records of county elections should be retained for review, and any accusation of fraud or suspicious activity should be recorded by the county and by the state. Currently, the Kansas Secretary of State does not record accusation of vote fraud. That is reckless and irresponsible, since they endanger the republican form of government that they should be protecting.

* Statewide voting equipment

Electronic voting machines without tangible, hand-countable ballots must not be used, since there is no way to prove that the votes are being accurately counted, and malfunctions can destroy or alter the vote counts. Hand-counting of ballots must be a standard procedure statewide, and used in all elections unless a trusted tabulation device has been used and the margin of victory is clear and consistent with available polling information. If untrusted machines (e.g.: Scantron) are used or if the results are inconsistent with polls, then a hand-count must be done to ensure the accuracy of the vote count.

* Transparency in voting roll purges

There are still duplicate names in registration lists at different addresses. These should be checked for in the data regularly and followed up on to keep the voter registration lists up to date, to avoid voter fraud under duplicate names.

* Uniform ballot design

Ballots should be made fairly uniform, allowing for varying numbers of races and lengths of items on the ballot.

* Uniform standards for counting provisional ballots

Counties should prove to the secretary of state that their policy of counting provisional ballots is fair, accurate, and resistant to fraud. If a registered voter submits a provisional ballot in the wrong precinct, then they should be given to the correct precinct to determine that the voter didn't submit another ballot. Duplicate submissions should be checked for possible voter fraud, and it would be up to the county and the secretary of state to determine how to treat votes on races that the voter would have had on the correct ballot.

* Voter-verified paper ballot

I support a paper ballot for all public elections for accurate and verifiable counting and recounting of ballots. I would support the generation of a paper ballot by an electronic device, if the voter verifies the choices on the ballot and that the ordering of the choices on the ballot are the same, and if that paper ballot is used for counting and recounting.

* Voter identification cards

I support making voter identification cards available to voters that have no other acceptable form of identification, but I oppose making them mandatory.

* Election Integrity and fairness comments:

We must have a tamper-resistant and tamper-evident voting system, to make it clear to all voters that their votes will be accurately counted and will be available for independent recounts. Electronically stored and counted votes cannot be proven accurate, and so they must not be used.

** Electoral Reform

* Changing how your state allocates presidential electors

I support retaining the current all-or-nothing allocation of presidential electors. If a constitutional amendment is approved to change this uniformly and fairly for all the states, preserving the concerns of the founding fathers, then I would support the new method.

* Conduct city elections on the same day throughout state

Holding elections on the same day reduces confusion and the opportunities for voter fraud, and so I would support efforts to have them held on the same day.

* Election Day holiday

Having an election day holiday would be acceptable, if only as a means of supporting a patriotic focus on issues and candidates. A partial day might serve as well, e.g.: a half day.

* Instant runoff voting

I support the idea of instant runoff voting, provided the voters have sufficient information on how it works.

* Internet Voting

The Internet is too insecure and anonymous to use for a one-voter-one-vote system. I oppose Internet voting. Issue and candidate advocacy and discussion are great uses of the Internet.

* Mail-in balloting

The physical integrity of a ballot must be maintained to reduce voter fraud. Tampering with a ballot could disrupt counting by Scantron devices and even hand-counting of ballots (remember the Anthrax letters?). Advance voting should suffice in most if not all cases.

* Non-partisan elections

Non-partisan elections are fine for local elections; however, it might be good to indicate a candidates party affiliation on the ballot if they provide it.

* Non-partisan redistricting

Districts should consider regions and communities and not be contrived to achieve political advantage (a la Gerrymandering).

* Programs to have more students be poll workers

Participation in elections is best encouraged by making voters and future voters aware of the issues at stake. We should teach students more accurate history and political science.

If a student wants to be a poll worker, it would be up to their teachers and administrators to decide on when and for how long. I support a school's decision to have such a program, but I wouldn't make it mandatory.

* Programs to allow legal permanent residents to serve as poll workers / interpreters

If multi-lingual volunteers want to assist as interpreters, they should contact the county. Poll workers should be eligible to vote.

* Proportional voting systems for legislative elections

* Public financing of elections

Public debates of all candidates on the ballot would be great.

* Requiring citizens to be available as poll workers

I oppose mandating poll worker duty like jury duty.

* Term limits for state reps.

I would support a term limit in the 12 to 16 year range. The best term limit is an informed, active electorate.

* "Top two" primary system

If the party system were abolished, this would make sense. I would support both.

* Voting centers

If proof of registration and identity were maintained, and if the cost was deemed reasonable by the legislature, these could work. I would not say I recommend them.

** We realize that the following areas are national in nature. However, most of these federal issues would affect election administration in your state; therefore, we would like to give you the opportunity to comment on them.

* Congressional voting rights for people of the District of Columbia

I oppose this. They are there as employees of the federal government or as lobbyists. They already have great influence over national matters as it is.

* Direct election of President

I oppose this, unless a constitutional amendment were lawfully passed.

* Establishing a right to vote in the U.S. Constitution

This right already exists by common practice. We need to return to following the constitution, stopping the outrageous violations of our rights by the federal government, not quibble over subtleties.

* Lower voting age to 16 or 17

I support the current age limit of 18.

* Reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

I need to research this more, but my first reaction would be to oppose anything President L. B. Johnson signed.

* Uniform poll-closing times in presidential elections

The poll-closing times can be kept the same. We can avoid publishing results until after all polls are closed, which I support.

* National election reform comments:

We need to remove the electronic voting machines that have been the source of many accusations of vote fraud and have shown to be unreliable for their purported function.

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