

To the Honorable Members of the Senate State Affairs:

Please accept the following concerns in regards to Senate Bill 48. I am opposed to the bill, as amended, for the various reasons stated below. I am disappointed that the Secretary of State's office did not work with the Auditors in drafting this bill, as I feel that several of the concerns could have been addressed and remedied. We can do better than this – but it is going to be essential that the auditors are included in the conversation to help guide the verbiage and direction to something that is workable and usable. We all agree that this is an issue.....but please, let's make every effort to get it as close to right as we can the first time so we don't have to keep re-visiting it and doing corrections.

Senate Bill 48 – with the 48A amendment

- Section 2 is basically dealing with the homeless population. By requiring a person to use one of the four addresses as spelled out in the bill it guides the auditor to register them in the precinct of the address given. It also prompts the auditor to send the voter acknowledgement to that address. If the person chooses to use the Courthouse as their address it will cause confusion. Which office will be “assigned” the responsibility of receiving this person's mail? Will the mail even get delivered? Will the auditors be faced with the voter acknowledgement notice being returned undeliverable thereby requiring the auditor to implement the procedures spelled out in § 12-4.
- Section 3 “An individual who is eligible to vote may only vote in the election present where the individual is a resident”
 - This is concerning – if a person goes to vote on election day and it is determined that they do not live in the precinct that they are registered in – then what? They are not allowed to vote at all? Who is responsible for making the determination and what guidance is given to the voter. They meet all the requirements for voting except they are registered in the wrong precinct. They have missed the deadline to change their voter registration
- Section 5 – “The county auditor must reject any application that does not include the documentation”
 - Will this require the different agencies that are authorized to do registrations (municipal finance office, secretary of state's office and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services) to collect and provide this information to the auditors
 - What will happen with the voter registration drives that occur at various functions – fairs, stock shows etc. Will the person or group that is conducting the registration drive be required to collect and provide this information to the auditors
- Section 6 – creates a new ballot – a Federal ballot
 - While the premise is understandable there remains a lot of work to bring this into actually happening. It will not be as simple as 11 lines of words on a legislative bill. If this is something we truly want to implement let's do it correctly the first time and not have to revisit the law to get corrections because we moved too fast and without thought and input

- It is concerning that the auditor will also promptly cancel the voter registration of anyone that vote the federal ballot. Will there be a notice given to the voter that this will happen?
- Section 9 – should include the language of supporting documentation as required in Section 5

Please consider a no vote on the passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

Kathy Glines
Harding County Auditor