



Fwd: Fwd: HB15-1130 Concerning Voting by Military and Overseas Voters in Municipal Elections...

Mary Eberle

to:

Jessika Shipley

02/25/2015 09:08 AM

Cc:

Senator Leroy Garcia, Senator Owen Hill

Hide Details

From: Mary Eberle <m.eberle@wordrite.com>

To: Jessika Shipley <jessika.shipley@state.co.us>

Cc: Senator Leroy Garcia <leroy.garcia.senate@state.co.us>, Senator Owen Hill <owen.hill.senate@state.co.us>

History: This message has been replied to.

Dear Jessika,

Please place this message into all the House State Affairs Committee members' bill folders also. And, as for my message to the committee, it would be helpful if Margit Johansson's message could be read into the record.

Thank you so much, and do be save on the roads this evening.

Mary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Margit Johansson** <margitjo@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 25, 2015 at 4:08 AM

Subject: Fwd: HB15-1130 Concerning Voting by Military and Overseas Voters in Municipal Elections...

To: joseph.salazar.house@state.co.us, rephumphrey48@yahoo.com, susan.lontine.house@state.co.us, patrick.neville.house@state.co.us, jack.tate.house@state.co.us, Max Tyler <max@maxtyler.us>, yeulin.willett.house@state.co.us, mike.foote.house@state.co.us, dianne.primavera.house@state.co.us, Dan Thurlow <danthurlow55@gmail.com>, su.ryden.house@state.co.us, dan.nordberg.house@state.co.us

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

HB15-1130 is focused on extending deadlines in municipal elections so that military and overseas citizens who are far from their home municipality can vote successfully in such elections.

I am with the volunteer non-profit non-partisan group Coloradans for Voting Integrity, which works for fair, accurate, verifiable and verified elections.

I have two suggestions for HB15-1130, and both have to do with the security of ballots.

First, HB15-1130 will probably affect a relatively small proportion of the military and overseas voters it purports to serve. This is because few of those who are serving or living far from their home address will be familiar with municipal candidates or issues, and hence will not be motivated to vote on them. If this is the case, it leaves the way open for fraudulent votes to be created in the name of the many persons who are eligible to vote, but choose not to.

To minimize the chance of fraudulent votes, if the municipal election is conducted by mail, mail ballots should not automatically be sent to all UOCAVA voters eligible to participate in the election. Rather, after potential UOCAVA voters are sent details on the nature of a municipal election, **blank ballots should be sent ONLY to those who then request them.** Careful records should be kept of the names of those requesting blank ballots, and whether or not their voted ballot is received by the municipal clerk.

My second suggestion concerns an amendment to the bill which I understand may be offered. This amendment includes allowing return of voted ballots not only by mail but also by "electronic transmission". Any form of such internet voting, including return of voted ballots by email, is very insecure and hence should not be permitted. Any responsible, reputable computer security expert will tell you this. Any vendor or other person who tells you that internet voting, including return of voted ballots by email, can be made secure is misinforming you. It should make you wonder who that party is really working for; it is not for the voting public. There is a good reason that the federal MOVE Act of 2009, which modifies the original UOCAVA bill, allows blank ballots to be sent to UOCAVA voters electronically but **makes no mention of allowing** voted ballots to be transmitted electronically.

(If there is concern about voted ballots arriving in time to be counted, and a relatively small percentage of possible UOCAVA members actually vote in municipal elections, return of voted ballots by expedited or express mail should be considered, and perhaps the municipality could pay for the cost.)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB15-1130.

Sincerely,
Margit Johansson
Coloradans for Voting Integrity (CfVI)
303-442-1668