

Amy Rostkowycz

From: Andrew Watts <andrew.m.watts@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 10:20 PM
To: Amy Rostkowycz
Subject: My Opinion HB 4132, HB 4133, HB 4134

Amy,

Please share this correspondence with the Elections and Ethics Committee. If you are not the right person for me to send this to, please point me in the right direction. Thank you.

Dear Election and Ethics Committee,

I am writing in response to the testimony from the League of Women Voters from February 16, 2021 regarding house bills 4132 and 4133. In their testimony before the committee, the League of Women Voters stated the increased penalties proposed by HB 4132 and 4133 would discourage people from making applications for absentee ballots.

I disagree with their stance.

The new language provided by HB 4132 creates criminal intent by requiring knowledge of false information on an application or knowledge of a forged signature, which is a more stringent standard. The wording in the current version of the law merely requires false information, which is a lower standard. The increased standard of knowingly submitting a false application or knowingly submitting a forged signature is why those crimes should become felonies. The same reasoning applies to HB 4133 and the changes it makes to 168.759 (9)(10)(11).

One would hope that under 4132 and 4133, simple error in filling out an application or signing the ballot (like the pen runs out of ink) would not be prosecuted.

I support HB 4134. Consolidating precincts could take away some complexity for Clerk's in managing multiple ballots, both in ordering, printing, and managing them in the machine software.

Best regards,

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