

To: Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
Issue: SB74
Position: OPPOSE

SB74 is an attempt to improve voter access by allowing electronic transmission for registered voters under certain conditions. It imposes a new duty on the Secretary of State to adopt a cyber-incident response plan.

Both of these provisions appear beneficial at first glance, but upon reflection they also pose serious risks.

Electronic voter data is considered high-risk, as it can impact vote integrity and tabulation. It also involves system vulnerabilities because Internet-connected voting systems are exposed to hacking risks. Data integrity concerns also arise in that electronic voter data and transmission require strong security controls to prevent manipulation. These issues alone make expansion of internet-based voting systems suspect, especially given the fact that the National Institute and Standards and Technology has indicated that the risk of electronic transfer of election data is so laden with risk that return to paper ballots is preferable.

Although the Fiscal Notes indicate little extra expense related to cyber interference incidents, the mandate for the Secretary of State to install, test, and oversee additional cyber security controls could be formidably expensive.

For these reasons, I urge a NO vote on SB74 as amended.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Perine

Reno, NV