

Exhibit No. 2Date 3-8-2013Bill No. HB 30

Testimony on HB 30

Members of Senate State Administration
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Members of the Committee, I have spent more than 15 years as an elections official in Missoula County. Missoula County has 28 polling places and I serve as a polling place manager at one of the largest polling places. Every election I deal with 4 to 6 individuals who believe that they have registered at the DMV but for some reason their registration has not been entered into the Montana registered voter file. These voters did their job by registering to vote and yet, when they came to the polls, their names were not on the register. It is been a relief that I can assure them that they can still vote, by going to the election center, registering and voting on election day. If the other 28 Missoula polling places each had 4 people with the same DMV experience, then approximately 112 people in Missoula would be denied their right to vote, even if they had registered at DMV. Please don't deny these voters their vote passing HB30.

Finally, what really is the demand for this bill to roll back citizen's right to vote? The Clerk and Recorders are not supporting this bill. Missoula's election officials aren't supporting this bill, in spite of the difficulty of processing increasing numbers of voters on Election Day. Let me use Missoula as an example. Last election, Missoula County cast 67,000 votes. Of those 67,000 votes, only 1,171 voters registered and voted on Election Day. I repeat, only 1,171 voters...the largest of any county. 1,171 voters is a very small percentage of the total votes cast. And while it was a lot of work by election officials, everyone voted. While you may think these are all university kids, you should know that approximately equal numbers of 18-29 year olds and 30-40 year olds took advantage of the opportunity to register and vote on Election Day.

There is no need for rolling back same day voter registration and denying qualified citizens their constitutional right to cast a ballot. Please vote no on HB30.