

HB 49 -- Advance Voting

Sponsor: Frame

Beginning January 1, 2010, this bill allows voters to cast advance ballots starting on the third Wednesday before any election. Any registered voter may vote by advance ballot at the central voting location designated by the election authority. Voting will be allowed on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays until 12:00 p.m. through the close of regular business hours on the Wednesday before the election.

For federal elections, election authorities must provide up to six satellite voting sites, with one satellite site established for every 50,000 registered voters. For other elections, the use of satellite sites is discretionary. Election authorities must provide information about the location of these satellite sites on their web site and at their offices and may publicize the location of the other sites through other means. These satellite sites will be subject to the supervision of election judges with at least one judge from each major political party at each site.

Any voter casting more than one type of ballot during the same election will be guilty of a class one election offense. The disclosure of voting lists containing the names of those using either advance ballots or absentee ballots to unauthorized persons will be a class four election offense. Persons voting by advance ballot will receive the same protections as those voting by absentee ballot.

The bill also increases from 25 to 100 feet of a polling place's outer door the prohibition of exit polling, surveying, sampling, electioneering, distributing election literature, posting signs, or placing vehicles bearing signs regarding any candidate or question on an election day.

Certain provisions requiring the election authority to record information regarding advance and absentee ballots in St. Louis and Kansas City and the counties of Jackson and St. Louis are removed to require all election authorities to record the information.