

Kristen MacDonald
Town of Harrison

On behalf of the Town of Harrison Clerk's Office and Clerk's staff, I am writing to strongly oppose LD 208.

With a resident population of nearly 2800, registered voters numbering around 1900, and a voter turnout (absentee and in person combined) of 80+%, this comes down to a manpower issue for our town. We are a staff of 3. We generally hire 6 Ballot Clerk's to work split shifts supporting us. Our Ballot Clerks are aging out and folks aren't lining up to replace them.

We close the Clerk's office during election days so we have "all hands on deck" at the voting location. We simply do not have the luxury to set one person aside to handle the multi-stepped process of issuing, accepting, and processing absentee ballots on election day.

In order to facilitate a trouble-free and efficient election, with the staff we have, the process of absentee voting must NOT be a factor on election day. Receiving absentee ballots that have already been issued, and feeding them to the tabulator machine is about all we can handle and still maintain the smooth function of the polling area.

So again, we are **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to LD 208.