



— **PRESS RELEASE** —  
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# **Secretary of State Carnahan Testifies in Support of Sen. Days' Election Bill**

JEFFERSON CITY – Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan today testified in support of Senate Bill 1082, sponsored by Senator Rita Heard Days, D-St. Louis. SB 1082 modifies the ballot requirements for elections by requiring the opportunity vote a paper ballot.

Sen. Days says the bill will give voters in the 116 voting jurisdictions in Missouri the choice to either vote by paper or by electronic voting machine. She testified today before the Senate Financial, Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee that power outages have interfered with electronic voting in the St. Louis area more than once.

“Just as the grocery store offers you a choice of paper or plastic, I think voters should have the choice of voting by paper or by machine,” Sen. Days said.

Secretary Carnahan testified today that the state has seen record voter turnouts recently. Carnahan said the turnout for the February 5<sup>th</sup> Primary in Missouri was triple the normal turnout for a primary election.

“We don’t want voters to have to wait too long to cast their ballots,” Carnahan said. “Marking paper ballots is actually faster than having to wait in line for a voting machine to become available.”

SB 1082 requires all election authorities to provide ballot cards for every primary and general election equal to 1 1/3 times the number of voters who cast ballots in the previous election of the same type. Ballot cards do not include a paper vote record produced by a direct recording electronic unit. The measure states “all voters shall have the opportunity to vote a paper ballot and those ballots shall be counted.”

Sen. Days said some voters are uncomfortable using the electronic voting machines or do not trust the machines to accurately record their vote.

Carnahan noted that until the 2006 election cycle, 60% of all Missouri voters cast a paper ballot.

SB 1082 requires an affirmative vote in committee before moving to the Senate floor for debate.

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