

March 7, 2023
Testimony to the House Elections Committee

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BILL NUMBER: SB 208, removal of ballot boxes
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Oral

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am asking you to vote NO on bill SB 208.

When the Kansas Secretary of State who is in charge of ensuring our elections are safe, secure, and operate smoothly, takes the time to testify in opposition to a bill, I would hope the legislature would listen. I encourage you to read the SOS testimony that was provided to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs on 2/20/23. I'm including a link at the bottom of my testimony.

One thing the Secretary of State did not address are the mail delays Kansans are currently experiencing. As an example, for two weeks in a row in February, we didn't receive mail at our house Thursday-Saturday. Considering there is no mail on Sunday, we went four days until our mail finally arrived.

Thankfully, current law provides Kansans with options to ensure their ballot arrives to the election office on time, without having to worry about mail delays that are completely out of their control by:

- allowing counties to provide safe, secure, and conveniently located ballot drop boxes.
- providing a three-day grace period after Election Day for ballots postmarked by Election Day to arrive and be counted.

Unfortunately, the legislature seems poised to remove both of these voter protections.

One ballot box per county is not adequate. For me, it is an hour round trip to my election office. How is any voter going to be able to drop off their ballot during work hours with that long of a trip. And I imagine many have a longer drive than I do.

I also implore you to consider how the removal of conveniently located drop boxes, while we are experiencing long mail times, will impact disabled Kansans and the elderly? It is difficult for many to wait in line. Removing ballot boxes will also increase wait times at polling locations as those who use advance ballots for convenience will stop using them when they are subject to mail delays out of their control.

Ballot boxes are a convenient way for voters to confidently cast their ballot knowing it will arrive on time. Why are we making it harder for voters to cast their ballot and taking away voter protections from mail delays when we all know mail service is now more unreliable than ever?

Listen to Kansas voters and the Secretary of State. Please vote no on SB 208.

Erin Woods
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Link to SOS testimony opposing SB 208:

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/committees/ctte_s_fed_st_1/misc_documents/download_testimony/ctte_s_fed_st_1_20230220_07_testimony.html