

## **House Committee on Elections**

### **Testimony on SB 8**

Bryan A. Caskey, Director of Elections  
Kansas Secretary of State's office

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 8. This bill changes the deadline to submit an advance voting ballot by mail. Current law requires any ballot cast by mail be received in the county election office by close of polls on Election Day. There are no exceptions to this law. This bill would allow ballots that are cast by mail, with a postmark on or before Election Day, be counted if the United States Postal Service delivers the ballots by the third day following the election. A special election board, or the county Board of Canvassers, would be convened to canvass the ballots in a manner consistent with all other ballots submitted in advance. In addition, this bill changes the deadline to submit an application for an advance voting ballot to be transmitted by mail from the Friday before the election to the Tuesday before the election. This bill would also give the Secretary of State the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement these provisions.

This testimony is offered as neutral. The Secretary of State's office welcomes a discussion on the best manner in processing ballots that are transmitted and returned by mail. The United States Postal Service has decreased the number of locations that process mail in the state of Kansas. As a result, an increase in the amount of time needed to transmit mail has occurred in the last few years in Kansas (and across the country). There is a concern that in a few years, many people will wait until the last minute to return by mail their ballots and flood election offices with returned ballots prior to the meeting of the county board of canvassers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, and I stand for any questions.