

Paris Raite
Resident of Lawrence, Kansas
Opponent Testimony of SB 208
For the Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

February 20th, 2023

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, I am opposed to SB 208 because of its extreme restrictions on ballot boxes. The most appalling part of this bill is probably the demand that a county only use one ballot box for the entire county in an election. Why is the legislature determined to make voting more difficult? You claim to care for all of Kansas yet don't consider the effect a bill like this would have on our rural voters and everyday working people. One locked and controlled box for thousands of people defeats the entire purpose of drop boxes. They are supposed to be easy to use for busy everyday Kansans.

Growing up in Kansas I watched my mother and her husband at the time who was in the military work long hours. My mother was a nurse at the time meaning she could be working 12 hour days, well outside typical office hours. These are not anomalies, many people have to work hours and hours a day to make ends meet. I myself have done it and I know that it is already hard to take time out of a working class schedule to vote. To have no ballot boxes past 7pm or unlocked outside the election office severely restricts the ability of someone to just drop off their ballot because they can not make it to the office when it is open.

I'm just gonna say it plainly. Please stop making it harder to vote for Kansans and disguising it under "election security" when we have had no cases of election fraud in recent elections in Kansas. Please listen to the experts, the Secretary of State, when their offices say that ballot boxes are safe and secure to use. Thank you for your time.

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