

SB 208

Proponent Testimony

Written Only

Michelle Eagleman, Lawrence

Senate District 3

Honorable Chairman Thompson, Vice Chair Rick Kloos, and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on an issue that is of grave concern to voters in Kansas. Senate bill 208 is a step in the right direction. The controversy surrounding mail in ballots and drop boxes has caused concern for both Democrats and Republicans in recent years. Drop boxes are a cause of controversy. Period. The documentary *2000 Mules* gave a startling example of how these can be abused. Multiple ballots being put in boxes multiple times by multiple people in multiple cities. These are problems that we do not need to have. Even if we can't control 100% of fraud, we can certainly make elections *more* secure than they are now by cutting down or eliminating these elements, which have run their course and found to be problematic.

The ostensible reason for the drop boxes was covid. Covid is no longer an issue. Joe Biden has even said the pandemic is over. But even if it wasn't, a virus is not a reason to redesign our election system making it less secure. Other countries manage to hold elections without drop boxes. Surely, we can too. If these drop boxes cannot be eliminated completely, it goes without saying that there should be as few as possible, and they should be monitored at all times. That is a no-brainer. This is our country and only the best practices should be followed. Americans deserve better. We surely can expect that only ballots that are requested and notarized, or else filled out in person at a voting location should count. And they should be counted promptly.

At the training I attended prior to being a poll worker, which was very thorough and serious, every thing that we were told to do and not to do had a KS Statute number next to it—as authorization. It seemed like we were bending over backwards to cross our t's and dot our l's in order to be in compliance and make sure the poll station would run smoothly. Here we were, studiously straining out a gnat, but the county was swallowing a camel! On voting day, we had to see photo ID, make sure names were correct (or fill out a form), send everyone with even an apartment number change to the provisional table, re-do mail-ins depending on whether the envelope was open or closed...it was very strict! Juxtaposed with this are the drop boxes. Who knew who put ballots in it? Who knew how many? Or how many times? Were the ballots harvested? Why be so, so meticulous about ballots at the polling station if the ballot drop boxes really have no regulation?

Hundreds of voters come through the line on election day. Each one was very concerned that they do everything right so their vote would count. We even had a man who insisted on staying and watching the ballots be taken from the machine. People care. Every vote cast illegally is one of those citizens whose vote is effectively canceled. Fraud disenfranchises citizens. Fraud negates a vote. It is for these reasons I wholeheartedly support SB208.

Thank you,

Michelle Eagleman, Lawrence, KS