

March 7, 2023 3:30 pm
Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Isidro Marino
TITLE: Kansas Resident
EMAIL ADDRESS: isidromarino15@gmail.com
BILL NUMBER: SB 208, removal of ballot boxes
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 208.

So many Garden City residents and residents who live in Finney County benefit immensely by having ballot drop boxes across the area to ensure rural and urban residents can vote. SB 208 does the opposite of good, and will harm rural and urban voters of Kansas House District 123 and Kansas State Senate District 39. When I worked for a disability rights service, I witnessed how access to remote ballot drop boxes ensured members of the Disabled Community had greater access to vote. Like disabled voters, college students will lose access to voting if SB 208 becomes law due to transportation, monetary funds, work time, and extracurricular activities consuming much of one's day time. Also, don't forget about potential extreme weather conditions around election time that could hinder more people from gaining access to the polls and ballot drop boxes. SB 208 is a bad bill all around, because it undermines access to voting for thousands of Kansas residents. I know many Kansas residents would be outraged and opposed to SB208 if it becomes law, and the reason why there isn't much opponent testimony right now is because this legislature lacks transparency, time and access for all residents of Kansas to participate in our governing process.

Thank you committee members for reading and hearing my testimony. I urge you all to oppose SB 208.

Isidro Marino
Kansas Resident
Garden City, Kansas