

March 7, 2023

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

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BILL NUMBER: SB 208, restricting number of ballot boxes

OPPONENT: Opponent

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I write to voice my opposition to SB 208.

I have used a drop box to vote several times. It's convenient. It is secure. My closest drop box is located at my public library on Johnson Drive in Shawnee, KS. I encourage my neighbors to use this convenience.

The idea of limiting drop boxes in a populous county makes no sense. In Johnson County, there are over 400,000 registered voters. In 2022, over 14,000 Johnson County voters used drop boxes. As you were elected in 2022, many of those voters likely voted for you. Why would you want to make it more difficult for your voters to vote? We need more drop boxes, not fewer drop boxes.

Also consider that limiting drop boxes in rural counties is ludicrous as it would require voters to drive long distances order to cast a ballot. Many voters would need to allow time to drive to another town or county seat.

Secretary of State Scott Schwab opposes this bill. Kansas elections are safe and secure. SB 208 also includes unfunded mandates requiring the hiring of additional election office staff.

Why not focus on ways to encourage voting? Make voting convenient. Drop boxes add to the convenience for busy citizens.

Please vote NO on bill SB 208.

Ann Norbury

Shawnee, KS