

**March 6, 2023**

**Testimony to the House Elections Committee**

**NAME:** Stephen Pantos

**TITLE:** Shawnee Co. League of Women Voters member, Shawnee Co. Democrats Precinct Committeeman, Retired USCIS Immigration Officer Supervisor

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** pandos21@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 208, removal of ballot boxes

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:**

Dear Chair & members of the committee, Rep. Kirk Haskins, Sen. Brenda Dietrich

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

In 2020 during the raging Covid-19 pandemic I discovered that my 90 year old mother's ballot had not been timely mailed. We were so glad that we could drive over to a ballot drop box at the Shawnee County Election Office where volunteer Election Workers assisted us in depositing Mom's ballot. Mom voted in every Presidential Election since she was old enough to vote. It meant a lot to Mom. And, it turned out, this was her final vote. She died in April of 2022. Without a drop box for ballots and reports of delayed mail service there was little likelihood her ballot would have reached the Election Office on time.

All reports indicate that ballot drop boxes in Kansas are safe and secure. Reports to the contrary are hooley.

Rural Kansas voters like drop boxes as much as urban voters. This is a solution to no problem.

Vote No on SB 208

Stephen Pantos, Topeka