

3/6/2023

House Elections committee members:

SB 208 and 209 are an affront to democracy and historic fairness in Kansas politics of the Republicans of mid 20th Century, such as my grandfathers: a farmer-dentist in McPherson & a Presbyterian college administrator in Emporia.

Our state should not become a place for a small minority of well-off voters (largely by accident of ancestry, financial well-being, and location) controlling the lives of those who do much of the hidden hard work of our relatively rich society. Humans are all flawed and so was our constitution, largely created by the privileged. But we privileged with good transportation and some control over our work schedule, or with democracy-supporting bosses cannot presume to know what all others need. We should be promoting others' basic right of their perspective at the ballot box, by expanding the right to vote, not trying to keep the less privileged from voting.

With all the tools of the 21 century at US Americans have let our US postal service become less reliable to allow less service-oriented profit making organizations in the mix. As a result we cannot trust them to deliver mail as quickly as they did decades ago at a reasonable cost. We must keep the added 3 day grace period available for those who are less privileged or want to prioritize their time better than the 3 day grace elimination might allow.

If you want to outlaw all drop boxes, or seriously cripple many counties' ability to make them available, and reduce flexibility for mail-in ballots, then change election day to 2 days including a Saturday.

Surely many rural constituents, as well as many Kansans who have moved away into more populated areas, are not so afraid of people with busy schedules or without good transportation and control of work schedules, voting easily. A basic right of good democracy should not be made more difficult with all the tools of the 21 century at our disposal.

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