

Jan. 26, 2025

Bill: HB 2021

Opponent - written only testimony

Conferee: Patricia DeDamos

Representing: self

Chairman Elections Committee and members,

Webster's Dictionary describes: A Constitutional Republic is a form of government in which the head of state and other officials are **representatives of the people** and must govern according to existing constitutional law **that limits the government's power over citizens**. The constitution is the supreme law of the land, **defining the powers and limitations of the government**. This system of government is designed to prevent the abuse of power by those in authority and to protect the rights and liberties of the people.

Webster's definition of Tryanny: Arbitrary or oppressive government; **rule by one who has absolute power**. A government in which **absolute power is vested in a single ruler**; especially: one characteristic of an ancient Greek city-state.

I am absolutely opposed to HB 2021, as it allows ONE (1) elected official ultimate control of drop boxes without legislature oversight. One bad actor in the Secretary of State office and our Republic is in danger. See Arizona as an example.

I would argue that this situation is contrary to the principles of a fair and just government. The power to control drop boxes for an election **should not rest** in the hands of a single individual, as this opens the door to potential abuses of power and tyranny. The government's authority derives from **the consent of the governed**. Therefore, the processes must be transparent, fair, and subject to checks and balances to prevent any one person or group from usurping the will of the people.

In Liberty,

Patricia DeDamos