

Chairman Thompson and members of the House Local Government Committee,

Kansas Representatives -- I am writing to you concerning the subject bill. Current law (25-2711) regarding placement of political signs during election periods provides that no city or county shall regulate or prohibit the placement of or the number of political signs on private property or the unpaved right-of-way for city streets or county roads on private property during the 45-day period prior to any election and the two-day period following any such election.

Changing this law impacts the freedom of speech rights of citizens who wish to publically state on their own property their political views on candidates and issues. That some candidate supporters or organizations have stolen opponents signage testifies to the importance of free expression of ones views. I would like to further argue that he current 45 day period is reasonable, prudent and provides consistency so candidates and citizens don't have to guess what each city's regulation is. The current law allows sight line and size restrictions protecting the public safety. Signs increase voter awareness and civic duty by reminding them there is an election likely increasing voter turnout.

I'm asking for you to vote against any changes to 25-2711.

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