

**February 8, 2022**

Written Testimony to Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs

NAME: Kate Kemper

TITLE: Douglas County, Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: katekemper13@gmail.com

CITY: Lawrence

BILL NUMBER: SB 388

BILL DESCRIPTION: Requiring the use of USPS for ballot return

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

Dear committee members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 388. As written, SB 388 notes that “a voter shall return such voter’s advance voting ballot to the county election office by personal delivery or by mailing the ballot using the United States postal service.” I notice that the use of a ballot drop box is not included as an approved option for returning a ballot—this is where my concern lies. I have used a ballot drop box when voting in every election since I became a Kansas resident for a number of reasons- accessibility, convenience, and safety:

**Accessibility:** Once I receive my advance ballot in the mail, research candidates and ballot initiatives, and fill out by ballot, I drop it off in the ballot drop box outside of the Douglas County Courthouse while running errands or driving home from work.

**Convenience:** Since the drop box I use is outside of the County Courthouse, I don’t need to worry about stopping by during typical building hours. I can drive right up to the drop box and deliver my ballot without getting out of my car.

**Safety:** By using a ballot drop box, I don’t have to interact with a single person and risk exposure to COVID-19.

Currently, there are three secure ballot drop box locations listed on the Douglas County Government website. According to the site, all boxes are checked twice per day by non-partisan board of election officials when they are in use. I have trust in my local election officials and am confident that they are successfully ensuring voting security to the best of their ability.

I ask that you oppose bill SB 388 to ensure that community members are provided the flexibility in order to participate in this civic duty.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kate Kemper