



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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House Elections Committee
January 31, 2023
HB 2057

Kansas Association of Counties
Opponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer Opponent testimony on HB 2057, which would prevent counties from utilizing more than one ballot drop box per 30,000 registered voters. HB 2057 would also require that a ballot drop box be either continuously monitored by video equipment or be monitored by an employee while open and accessible for the deposit of ballots.

KAC opposes HB 2057 because this bill would prevent counties from utilizing ballot drop boxes that have already been purchased. Drop boxes exist for the convenience of voters. Limiting drop boxes inconveniences Kansas voters. The 30,000 registered voter threshold means that only a handful of Kansas counties could have more than one drop box.

The continuous monitoring requirement would also limit where drop boxes could be located. Again, drop boxes should ideally be placed in areas that are convenient. They exist so that an employee does not have to actively receive ballots, but instead the ballots can be securely deposited in the drop box. If there is a concern for the security of ballots deposited in drop boxes, the legislature could alternatively criminalize the tampering with or destruction of a ballot drop box, or the contents within a ballot drop box to a similar level as tampering with US Mail, since ballots can also be mailed in.

The Kansas Association of Counties would respectfully ask that the committee reject this proposed legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to present this perspective on this legislation.

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