



Kansas House Elections Committee

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

SB208 Proponent Written Testimony

Chairman Proctor, members of the Committee, my name is Mike Brown, I am the Chairman of the Kansas Republican Party and I am submitting proponent testimony for SB208. I appreciate the amended version that was passed out of the Senate and is now before you today. I am thankful the legislature has decided to address the use of remote ballot boxes in Kansas and strongly encourage committee to support SB208 for the following reasons:

- 1) Statute is currently essentially silent when it comes to the use of ballot boxes in Kansas. Ballot boxes have been used for the last couple of election cycles even though the legislature has never directly codified their use.
- 2) The security of the ballots placed in a ballot box cannot be assured. Ballot harvesting cannot be prevented when unsupervised, unsecure boxes are available and most of our 105 counties depend on County Clerks and their staff to manage and monitor boxes with limited staff available.
- 3) Having traveled to all 105 counties and courthouses across Kansas in 2022 and having spoken to many County Clerks in those counties, I would offer the observation that our clerks are already spread very thin as they are mentioned in Kansas Statute with responsibilities over 1,000 times. The County Clerks made it known in my travels that they simply do not have the time or resources to also be in charge of watching a ballot drop box placed outside their office.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the passage of SB208 in its present form to help raise the confidence of all Kansans in the elections process.