

January 25, 2023

Testimony to the House Committee on Elections

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**

TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**

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BILL NUMBER: **HB2056, *Requiring advance ballots to be returned on Election Day***

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: **Opponent**

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: **Written Only**

Dear Chair Proctor & Members of the Committee,

I write today voicing my opposition to bill HB 2056, requiring all advance voting ballots to be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

I do not need to school legislators on the US Constitutional requirement that all states have a representative form of government with elections and majority rule. Likewise, you might be spared a history refresher on the number of laws that have sought both to expand (as well as to shrink) access to the voting booth. We all understand that HB 2056 does not sit alone in the statehouse barn, but has been well-groomed with other limiting elections bills over the recess and now is trotted out of the stall for the 2023-24 Legislative Session.

Absent a national Voting Rights Act requiring KS Leg to level up, the kinds of elections bills we should be discussing today are those that remove barriers to voting and restore confidence in the public that their election officials support everyone being able to exercise their voice equally and fairly. Let's make casting a ballot as easy as possible (not more fraught). Let's stipulate that we will move to correct the limitations that USPS problems impose on our advanced voting efforts. Let's remove barriers to registration. Let's make sure high school students can and do pre-register. Hello, while we're at it, let's even pass a state-level voting rights act!

Until such time as we agree what true integrity for elections means as a state or even for our country, I can only advise you not waste effort on such feeble, unnamed / unsponsored bills as HB 2056 in this committee. We can do better.

Leslie D. Mark

Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7