

9 March 2023

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Hilary Junk

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

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BILL NUMBER: SB 209, requiring mail ballots by 7 PM Election Day

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Chair & Members of the Committee:

I am voicing my opposition to SB 209 because it encroaches on voting rights: Kansas voters are following the rules and voting before or on Election Day, and their right should not be shortchanged by bureaucracy or logistics out of their control.

The bill doesn't solve a problem, it exacerbates one: Mail processing centers remain closed and mail delays have only increased. When the bill that added three days passed in 2017, it was unanimous in the Senate and had only one no vote in the House. What has changed since then? It made sense then when mail processing centers closed, and it makes even more sense now with increased mail delays.

Last year my county received 575 ballots within the three-day period after Election Day. Are you willing to restrict their rights when they were following the rules and voting before or on Election Day? The figures are small, but they are still votes from Kansans expressing their right.

Campaigns are evolving right up to election day, so voters may not have all information needed to vote for a candidate until the day before an election; should their vote not count if the mail is delayed?

I respectfully request that you vote no on SB 209 as it encroaches on Kansans' right to vote.

Sincerely,

Hilary Junk

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