



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612
785-272-2585 • www.kansascounties.org

House Elections Committee
February 8, 2024
HB 2571

Kansas Association of Counties
Opposition 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 2571, which would deem all advance voting ballots deposited in remote drop boxes to be provisional ballots, and not be counted unless they are verified by the county election officer.

HB 2571 could potentially disenfranchise voters by having their timely and properly delivered advance ballots not counted in the election if the county election officer does not verify the voter deposited, or authorized someone else to deposit their ballot in a remote drop box. County election officers may have to hire additional staff to verify advance voting ballots. Additionally, this treats advance ballots deposited in drop boxes differently than it treats the *same type of ballot* if it were deposited in the U.S. Mail potentially disenfranchising a voter that opted to deposit their ballot in a drop box to ensure its timely arrival.

This bill contains no standard or process for the county election officer to verify that the ballot was deposited by the voter or their designee. If this provision is designed to curb fraud, it should be noted that it is already an election crime to either suppress advance voting (See [KSA 25-2433](#)) or falsely impersonating a voter (See [KSA 25-2431](#)).

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.

Jay Hall
Deputy Director and General Counsel
Kansas Association of Counties
hall@kansascounties.org
(785)272-2585