

## **Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2571**

House Committee on Elections

Davis Hammet – Loud Light Civic Action

February 8, 2024

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

### **Concern - Impact on County Election Office Resources**

Thousands of Kansans vote each election using remote ballot boxes. Requiring the county election officials to treat each one of those thousands of ballots as provisional would be an incredible amount of work for their offices. It is unclear whether county governments would even be able to increase their elections budgets to cover the amount of additional staff hours that would be required to complete the level of additional bureaucracy caused by this unfunded state mandate.

### **Concern - Legislating rather than Educating on Election Misinformation**

Remote ballot drop boxes are safe, secure, and there is no evidence that they lead to issues with election security. It appears the only purpose of HB2571 is to coddle Kansans who have fallen victim to election conspiracies and misinformation. Misinformation and conspiracies that may be addressed more appropriately by accurate information and a commitment from all elected officials to assist in providing accurate information to explain why the conspiracies are inaccurate. Additionally, this would dramatically increase the number of ballots that are not counted until the county canvass, making it more likely that more election outcomes are unknown until weeks after the election.

### **Concern - Federal Law Compliance (HAVA)**

It is unclear in this bill language how HB2571 would be in compliance with Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act that states “(5)(A) *At the time that an individual casts a provisional ballot*, the appropriate State or local *election official shall give the individual written information* that states that any individual who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under the system established under subparagraph (B) whether the vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.”

### **Conclusion**

HB2571 would raise major concerns for our local elections offices, county budgets, and trust from voters. Additionally, the bill language appears to violate federal election laws related to provisional ballots. We recommend this committee oppose HB2571. Thank you. I’m happy to stand for any questions when appropriate.