



Jim Howell
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner – Fifth District
Board of County Commissioners
Sedgwick County, Kansas

DATE: February 17, 2023

TO: Senator Mike Thompson and Committee on Federal and State Affairs

FROM: Commissioner Jim Howell, Chair Pro Tem

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 208

As Sedgwick County Commissioner, I am submitting written testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 208.

Currently, Sedgwick County has 14 remote ballot boxes on government property that are locked and secured with surveillance cameras on site. Senate Bill 208 would take away 13 remote ballot boxes and leave one remote ballot box for each election in Sedgwick County. Additionally, this bill would impose additional costs on Sedgwick County, as the one ballot box would need to be continuously observed by two individuals who are affiliated with a recognized political party but not of the same political party while it is open for deposit. In Sedgwick County, election integrity is a top priority, and there are safeguards in place to keep our elections safe, secure, and accurate. Advanced mail ballots have proven to be convenient and secure for voters because of the many safeguards in place that prevent fraud.

I am opposed to SB 208 due to concerns that it takes away a mechanism for our voters that is safe and convenient while adding an additional layer of oversight that, in the end, will cost our taxpayers.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Howell, Chair Pro Tem
Commissioner – Fifth District