



Testimony

**Senate Bill 86
Senate Local Government Committee
February 2, 2023**

The Kansas County Commissioners Association opposes Senate Bill 86 because it is ridiculous.

When was growing up in Wichita, we had family reunions every two years. My father's side of the family was very big. 200 people attended the last reunion I went to. I had first and second cousins I'd never met. I'm sure the same scenario could play out in smaller counties and communities. A local elected official may not know the landowner who wants to put wind turbines on his property is a relative.

This measure makes as much sense as saying a young lawyer who just graduated from Washburn cannot go to work for Legislative Research or the Revisors of Statutes because their second cousin is a Representative in the House... or a Senator in the Senate.

Ridiculous.

House Bill 2057 because it will disenfranchise thousands of Kansas voters who depend on easily accessible drop boxes to cast their legal votes and add unneeded expense to counties and their taxpayers.

According to Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab, if this bill had been in place in 2020, the legal ballots of more than 32,000 Kansas voters would have been thrown out.

Under the provisions of HB 2057, more than 30 counties would have to reduce or eliminate the use of secure drop boxes. The Secretary of State estimates many county election offices would have to hire additional staff to monitor the remote drop boxes or spend thousands on video recording equipment. The bill requires that the video equipment capture the faces of voters using the drop box which raises serious questions about the privacy of voters.

In many of our rural counties the drop boxes make legal voting more possible for many voters. The Secretary of State has testified that the drop boxes are more secure than voters mailing their ballots in with the United State Postal Service.

If you couple this bill with HB 2056 which will shorten the time voters have to return their mail in ballots, it seems the Legislature would be trying to make voting more difficult for thousands of eligible legal voters. The purported reason for these voting restrictions is to make sure elections are more secure. According to the Secretary of State, they are already secure and fair.

So what is the real reason for HB 2057 and HB 2056?