

**TESTIMONY**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS**  
**HB 2503**

On behalf of *Southwest Kansas Coalition*  
February 3, 2026

OPPONENT - *Written Only*

Chair Proctor and members of the House Committee on Elections, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 2503.

The Southwest Kansas Coalition collectively represents the cities of Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal and is commonly known as SKC. We are a group of communities united in our desire to secure a strong future for the southwest region of Kansas. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks on behalf of our communities to express concerns about House Bill No. 2503 and its impact on local governance, voter access, and election administration.

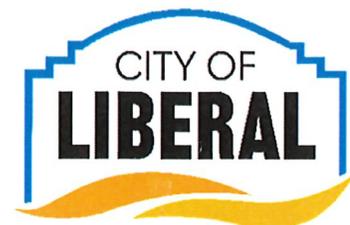
House Bill No. 2503 repeals the Mail Ballot Election Act and removes the ability of municipalities to use mail ballot elections for an array of local purposes. House Bill No. 2503 also reduces local flexibility and limits the tools cities rely on to conduct efficient, accessible, and cost-effective elections.

Municipal mail ballot elections in Kansas have historically been conducted for narrow, local questions such as bond issues, annexations, and special assessments. These elections, which often occur outside regular election cycles, are designed to address specific community needs and are frequently the most practical way to ensure voter participation while managing administrative costs. Requiring in-person elections in every instance increases expenses, strains local staff resources, and can delay time-sensitive projects.

From a voter perspective, mail ballot elections reduce barriers to participation, particularly for working families, seniors, voters with disabilities, and residents with limited transportation options. Removing this option increases the time and logistical burden of voting and risks lower turnout, allowing important local decisions to be made by a smaller portion of the electorate.

House Bill No. 2503 also imposes a one-size-fits-all approach on communities with very different sizes, resources, and geographic realities. What may be feasible in larger jurisdictions is often far more challenging for smaller municipalities with limited staff and budgets. Local officials are best positioned to determine how elections can be conducted securely, efficiently, and in a manner that best serves their residents.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to oppose House Bill No. 2503. Thank you for your time and consideration.



*Southwest Kansas Coalition is a membership organization that includes the Cities of Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal with associate membership from City of Hays that actively advocates for issues impacting the region.*