

OVERLAND PARK

City Hall
8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
www.opkansas.org

Date: February 3, 2026
To: Chairman Proctor & the House Committee on Elections
From: City of Overland Park
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2503

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2503. The City opposes HB 2503 because it would end the City's ability to utilize mail ballot elections, which are popular amongst our residents, help increase turnout for special elections, and save our taxpayers money.

First, mail ballot elections are popular.¹ For example, a survey from Pew Research Center in 2020 showed that 65% of voters support no-excuse absentee voting.² We do not think the State should end election procedures that are popular amongst Kansans.

Additionally, mail ballot elections increase voter turnout.³ They're especially useful at increasing turnout in local special elections.⁴ We do not think the State should force local governments to utilize election procedures that will decrease voter turnout.

Finally, mail ballot elections save taxpayers money because mail voting can reduce the need to staff and equip traditional polling places.⁵ As an example, a 2016 study of Colorado from The Pew Charitable Trusts found costs decreased an average of 40% in five election administration categories across 46 of Colorado's 64 counties after it implemented all-mail ballot elections.⁶ The State should not force local governments to increase taxes to pay for more expensive types of elections.

Thank you for allowing the City to testify on this legislation. We respectfully request that the Committee not advance HB 2503 to the full House.

¹ <https://electioninnovation.org/research/voting-before-election-day-resources/use-methods-voting-before-election-day/>

² <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/07/20/as-covid-19-cases-increase-most-americans-support-no-excuse-absentee-voting/>

³ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3825939

⁴ https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ef45f5_fcc651c4d4f1456b8340bb4c2cc0ca12.pdf

⁵ <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/mail-voting-in-the-us-data-points-to-very-low-fraud-and-significant-benefits-to-voters/>

⁶ <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2016/03/colorado-voting-reforms-early-results>