

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PENSIONS
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET

ALLEN REAVIS
63RD DISTRICT

HB 2503

Proponent Testimony

2/2026

The Legislature has a duty to ensure that all elections are secure and accessible to all qualified voters. The purpose behind the original legislation to allow exclusively mail-in only ballot elections had good intentions. The reality is that this has discouraged voter participation, increased costs, no postal accountability and has inadequate verifiable voter ID .

This Bill addresses any election that is EXCLUSIVELY Mail-In only. This will not affect the use of Advanced, Overseas or Military Ballots.

Mail-in only election can be more costly than an in-person polling place election. That cost of a mail-in only election is borne by the municipality or school district which means it is paid by the taxpayers.

Our voter records are inaccurate. A hearing in October showed that there are more people registered to vote, 65 or older, than there are Kansans alive. All those people who are registered to vote get a ballot in a mail-in election which comes to their address of record. If they have moved or are deceased, these ballots can be voted and mailed in without any verification of identity.

These ballots appear much like a post card or like the many junk mailers that we all receive. Because of this, many are never returned, but thrown away. In the case of the USD 409 election in Atchison, the mailer was poorly designed, and the Post Office mailed hundreds of them directly to the County Clerk's office. Those voters were left out of the initial mailing. Of course, this led to corrective actions to get

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ballots to them. This narrowed the window of time to return the ballots and ultimately, we had a very low turnout and passed a 25+ million dollar Bond.

The United States Postal Service Rule that went into effect in December 2025 is also concerning. I have the web link here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/24/2025-20740/postmarks-and-postal-possession>

The USPS no longer assures a postmark at all, and if they do a postmark it may be within 2 days of mailing. The only guarantee of a postmark is to have it hand cancelled at a Post Office.

Thank you for the consideration of this Bill and making our elections better for all!

Allen Reavis

Kansas State Rep

District 63