

Opponent Oral Testimony on House Bill 2057

House Committee on Elections

Davis Hammet – Loud Light Civic Action

January 31, 2023

Chair Proctor, Members of the Committee,

Justification – What problem is being solved?

Any bill that has the potential to increase the burden on a citizen casting a ballot or reduces the likelihood of their vote being counted should be treated with extreme caution. An evidence based problem should be documented and a solution should be carefully crafted to address that problem.

Sec. 1(a) Limit counties to one remote drop box per 30,000 registrants

This arbitrary number would require some counties to decrease the number of remote drop box options they provide voters, likely having the most disproportionate impact on rural counties.

Sec. 1(b) Effectively eliminate evening and weekend advanced ballot drop off

By only allowing advanced ballot drop boxes to be accessible when the county election office is open, this bill effectively eliminates evening and weekend voting across much of the state.

Sec. 1(d) Require recordings of voters faces to be public record

Creating a public record of the face of every voter who exercises their right to vote by casting their ballot in a ballot drop box raises a wide range of privacy concerns.

Sec.1(f) Definition – Technical Concern

The definition of “remote ballot box” appears to include ballot boxes used for advance ballots returned to a poll site on Election Day. I assume this is an oversight and recommend this section be modified to prevent any legal uncertainty around the ability to return a ballot to a county polling site on election day.

I recommend this committee oppose HB2057. I’m happy to stand for any questions when appropriate.