

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

Name: *Mary Boyles*

Title: *Kansas Citizen*

Email address: *4840 NW Pottawatomie, Topeka, KS 66618*

Bill Number: *SB 209, Removal of Three Day Voter Protection/Grace Period*

Proponent, Opponent, or Neutral: *Opponent*

Written Testimony Only

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee and Representative Patton:

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 209.

There is absolutely no valid reason to get rid of the three day grace period for mailed ballots. As long as the ballots are mailed on or before election day and received within the current grace period, they should be counted. Back when mail was sorted in Topeka and not sent to Kansas City, mail posted on one day in Topeka was generally received the next day. Now it can take up to two days or longer. Voters should not be penalized for doing everything properly due to a problem with the mail service. Since you are trying to get rid of ballot drop boxes, this will have even a larger impact on voters.

All ballots are not currently counted on election day due to a decision has to be made with provisional ballots. This grace period has been in effect for a number of years without major issues. Shawnee County received 217 valid ballots during this grace period in 2020 and 291 valid ballots during the grace period in 2022.

Your committee should be finding ways to assure that more people vote and that their vote is counted. This bill, if passed, will do the opposite.

Vote **NO** on SB 209.

Mary Boyles
Topeka, KS