



Date of Testimony: Monday, March 20, 2023

Bill Number: HB 2053: Authorizing the secretary of state to adopt rules and regulations for the use of remote ballot boxes for the return of advance voting ballots.

Disposition: Proponent; Written and In-Person Testimony

From: Cille King, League of Women Voters of Kansas, Advocacy Chair

To: Chair Senator Thompson and members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

The League of Women Voters of Kansas supports HB 2053, providing that **best practices** are used for creating rules and regulations for remote ballot boxes. We believe that ballot drop boxes are an important asset to voter participation. County election offices should have and follow rules and regulations for the use of remote ballot boxes..

The goal of a representative government is to have as many citizens participate in elections as possible. Greater participation in government and voting is shown to create a healthier, more stable society. Accessible ballot drop boxes help with voter participation.

However, county election offices should be able to determine how many ballot boxes should be used, as they know their county population centers. Other requirements for secure boxes should be specified so that County Election Offices are clear in understanding secure, best practice rules.

The Election Assistance Commission (eac.gov) is one source for rules and regulations for ballot drop boxes: https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/electionofficials/vbm/Ballot_Drop_Box.pdf. Included:

- A ballot drop box provides a secure and convenient means for voters to return their mail ballot.
- Unstaffed drop boxes are typically available 24 hours a day and permanently anchored in place.
- Have one drop box for every 15,000 - 20,000 registered voters.
- Consider adding more drop boxes to areas where there may be communities with historically low vote by mail usage.

We ask you to vote YES on HB 2053 so that the SOS will develop clear, reasonable, best practice rules and regulations for the use of drop boxes.

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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