



Senate Bill 208

Kansas State Legislature
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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Chair Thompson and honorable members of the committee, my name is Madeline Malisa, and I am a Visiting Fellow at the Opportunity Solutions Project. OSP is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. We work in more than 40 states across the country with one clear goal—to help more people achieve the American Dream. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in support of SB 208.

Security and oversight are crucial to successful election administration and voter confidence in election results. Currently, Kansas law has no requirements that protect voters who choose to use remote ballot boxes to cast their ballots.

SB 208 will provide important security and transparency measures for ballot boxes. Specifically, the bill will allow each county election office to designate only one remote ballot box that must be:

- Monitored continuously by a bi-partisan team while in use.
- Locked and inaccessible when the office is closed and after 7pm on Election Day.
- Have conspicuously posted signage with the requirements for returning an advance ballot on behalf of another voter.

Additionally, advance voting ballots that are returned using a remote ballot box must be preserved separately from all other ballots collected at a county election office.

These security measures will greatly increase voter confidence in the advanced voting process. They will ensure that the ballots are protected from potential tampering, theft, or weather-related destruction. They will also bill provide clarity for officials who are tasked with deploying and administering them, particularly those in rural and geographically large districts.

Ballot boxes were largely unused before the 2020 election, and states across the country have recently enacted drop box reforms. Some states like Missouri and South Carolina have prohibited their use outright, and other states like Iowa and Ohio have enacted similar security measures that protect voters who choose to use them.

The commonsense solutions will add a high level of accountability to the election process. Kansas voters should have confidence that regardless of how they cast their ballots, their votes will count. For all these reasons, I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions.