

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA
SENATE CHAMBER

MARK STEFFEN, M.D.
SENATOR 34TH DISTRICT
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2/5/2024

SB 365- Requiring the return of advance voting ballots by 7:00 PM on the day of election.

Proponent Testimony- In Person

Dear Senators,

Having just concluded a campaign that took me to every corner of the state of Kansas, I feel particularly attuned to the concerns of our citizens. The clear leader was election integrity. More so than the border and inflation. Granted, these were people particularly sensitive to political issues. As such, this bill takes the absolute smallest of steps to create security within our elections.

- 1) Every minute between the closing of the polls and counting the final ballot is the time in which malfeasance may occur.
- 2) We live in the intellectually accessible society in the history of mankind. Coupled to the fact that people are just as intelligent as they were 1000 years ago, this bill imposes on no one.
- 3) If Mary and Joseph could travel the 94 miles between Nazareth and Bethlehem on foot and the back of a donkey to be counted, then we could have our vote in by this deadline.
- 4) If the pioneers could traverse the unbroken prairies among the buffalo, grizzly bears, and wolves, then we can get our votes cast in a timely fashion.

Bottom line- People today, just like people of the past, are as responsible as the times demand. For the sake of our elections and the viability of our Republic let's take this small step for election integrity. It hurts absolutely no one.

Senator Mark Steffen, M.D.