

# STATE OF KANSAS



CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH  
TOPEKA, KS 66612

PHONE: (785) 296-3232  
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

### REGARDING VETO OF SENATE BILL 209

As the daughter of a career Army officer, I cannot support measures that would disenfranchise members of our armed services – who fight for our freedoms, including the right to vote – from casting their own ballot.

This bill eliminates the three-day grace period for mail-in ballots often used by those in the military serving across the country or overseas.

It would also likely result in too many rural Kansans not having their votes counted in important elections. That is unacceptable. We should be doing everything we can to make it easier – not harder – for Kansans to make their voices heard at the ballot box.

Therefore, under Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution, I hereby veto Senate Bill 209.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR

Laura Kelly

DATED

April 19, 2023

SENATE BILL No. 209

AN ACT concerning elections; relating to advance voting ballots; requiring the return of such ballots by 7 p.m. on the day of the election; amending K.S.A. 25-1132 and repealing the existing section.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. K.S.A. 25-1132 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1132. (a) All advance voting ballots that are received in the office of the county election officer ~~or, the satellite election office,~~ any polling place *or a county-maintained election drop box* within the county not later than the hour for closing of the polls on the date of any election specified in K.S.A. 25-1122(f), and amendments thereto, shall be delivered by the county election officer to the appropriate special election board provided for in K.S.A. 25-1133, and amendments thereto.

~~(b) Subject to the deadline for receipt by the office of the county election officer as set forth in this subsection, all advance voting ballots received by mail by the office of the county election officer after the closing of the polls on the date of any election specified in K.S.A. 25-1122(f), and amendments thereto, and which are postmarked or are otherwise indicated by the United States postal service to have been mailed on or before the close of the polls on the date of the election, shall be delivered by the county election officer to a special election board or the county board of canvassers, as determined by the secretary of state, for canvassing in a manner consistent, as nearly as may be, with other advance voting ballots. The deadline for the receipt by mail of the advance voting ballots by the office of the county election officer shall be the last delivery of mail by the United States postal service 7:00 p.m. on the third day following the date of the election.~~

~~(c) The secretary of state shall adopt rules and regulations to implement this subsection section.~~

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-1132 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the SENATE, and passed that body

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SENATE concurred in  
HOUSE amendments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President of the Senate.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

Passed the HOUSE  
as amended \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Speaker of the House.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Governor.*