



Date of Hearing: Thursday and Friday, September 28 & 29, 2023

Committee: Special Committee on Elections

To: Chair Senator Thompson and members of the Special Committee on Elections

From: League of Women Voters of Kansas, Martha Pint, President; Cille King, Advocacy Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. By not giving time for oral public testimony during this two-day hearing, you are not allowing all perspectives the chance to be heard. We urge the Committee to thoroughly read all written public comment, much of which is being submitted by organizations with decades of experience working in Kansas elections. We share testimony today in the best interests of all Kansas voters.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas condemns the continuation of misinformation regarding the security of elections. We agree that our election systems need constant monitoring and continual security checks, but misinformation and false accusations have undermined the public trust in our election process and are a threat to our democracy.

CISA.gov is the official website of the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and contains a wealth of information about Election Security. Please visit <https://www.cisa.gov/rumor-vs-reality> to find a section dedicated to providing factual responses to common rumors about elections. The following items on your Committee Agenda are addressed in depth at the link above, but here are the highlights:

- **Voter roll maintenance:** “Election officials regularly update their voter registration lists based on voter requests and data from varying sources that may indicate that a voter has died, moved, registered elsewhere, changed their name, or become otherwise ineligible.”
- **Advance voting:** Election officials utilize various security measures to protect the integrity of the mail-in/absentee voting process, including requiring every voter to fill out an application form for the mail ballot, and requiring their photo ID information and their signature. The ballots are identified as advance ballots, and the envelopes require their signature.

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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- **Remote ballot drop boxes/ballot harvesting:** “Drop boxes located outdoors are typically made of heavy and high-grade metal, bolted to the ground, and include security features such as locks, tamper-evident seals, minimally sized ballot insertion slots, and fire and water-damage prevention features...Many election offices monitor their drop boxes via 24 hour video surveillance. Ballots returned via drop box are retrieved by election officials or designated individuals, often in bi-partisan teams, at frequent intervals.”
- **Voting machine integrity:** Voting machines are tested and certified by accredited laboratories on the federal and state level prior to procurement. Local election officials do public testing of the machines prior to an election. Testing is designed to meet state and /or federal requirements for accuracy, privacy, and accessibility, such as the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines set by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Certification usually includes a review of source code, environmental, security and functional testing.

Our elections are grassroots in that friends and neighbors volunteer to staff the precinct polling locations. The precinct supervisor has signed for all the equipment and paper ballots. Poll workers check each voter’s photo ID against the voter registration database. If a voter isn’t on the list, they are either sent to their correct polling location or given a provisional ballot (which will be analyzed by the election office). At the end of the voting day, all ballots are accounted for, whether cast, spoiled, or provisional. Log in files have to match the number of ballots. The Election Office then has to do a random audit of 10% of the precincts and any election within .5% can get a recount.

Please consider the source when weighing all testimony, either oral or written. We ask you to rely on provable information from unbiased, nonpartisan national, state, and local sources.