



February 22, 2019

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 129, AN ACT concerning elections; relating to polling places; amending K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 25-2701 and repealing the existing section.

SB 129 would amend existing law concerning election polling places to give county election officers the authority to allow all voters within a county to vote at any polling place on Election Day, providing all rules and regulations as established by the Secretary of State are followed.

Current law allows for citizens to vote at advance polling locations throughout Sedgwick County. However, on Election Day, the law requires voters to vote at their assigned polling place. Voting machines and technology used for elections in Sedgwick County would allow for voters to vote at any polling location on Election Day. Sedgwick County believes this change would allow more citizens to vote.

By way of information I would point out that this allowance would be at the sole discretion of each county's election officer and no county would be required to offer this option for voting. In addition, I have spoken with Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab and he has stated that so long as the allowance is at the option of the county election commissioner or county clerk, then he has no opposition to the policy.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask that you report S.B. 129 favorable for passage.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins