

POLICY PRIORITIES: STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY IN KANSAS



IMPROVING VOTING ENGAGEMENT STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES

Civic engagement and voting are vital to building stronger and healthier communities. Voting restrictions get in the way of making Kansas a better place for everyone to live, prevent voter engagement, and lead to lower representation among communities most impacted by policy decisions.

Kansans are healthier when voting is made more accessible.

Kansas county-by-county data show a correlation between voter turnout and health outcomes. Counties with the lowest voter participation also experience worse health outcomes than counties with higher turnout. This relationship demonstrates a significant opportunity to increase both civic and physical health simultaneously by expanding access to the ballot box.¹

**HIGHER VOTER TURNOUT
CORRELATES WITH
STRONGER HEALTH
OUTCOMES**

The relationship between voting and health outcomes is so significant, the American Medical Association passed a resolution in June 2022 declaring voting access to be a major social determinant of health.² Removing barriers to voting can be addressed in the statehouse.

OVERALL IMPACT OF VOTER ENGAGEMENT



Engaging voters, building community leadership, and increasing voting accessibility



Rise in civic participation and community involvement



Improved health, safety, and economic outcomes for towns, counties, and Kansas overall



Geographical distance is one of the strongest negative influences on voter turnout. Defending access to advance voting and ballot box accessibility are key to overcoming these obstacles.

- There have been virtually zero indicators of election fraud in Kansas over the past several years, even as the use of advanced voting and ballot boxes has become more widespread.³
- Voters with disabilities are among experience disparate challenges created by traveling to a polling location, leading to 40 percent of voters with disabilities utilizing absentee ballots to participate in elections.⁴
- A study on the effectiveness of drop boxes found that the accessibility of drop boxes can increase existing voter turnout by as much as seven percent, which is more than some of the most effective voter turnout efforts employed by political campaigns.⁵ Another study has shown that a 0.245-mile increase in distance reduced the number by ballots cast by as much as two to five percent overall.⁶

Kansans deserve safe, accessible access to voting across the board.

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Sources:

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