



2022 - 2023 Executive board

Ashley Mannis, Sherman County
President
Janet Paddock, Franklin County
Vice President
Rick Piepho, Harvey County
Secretary
Dori Munyan, Finney County
Treasurer

March 9, 2023 - hearing on SB 221, relating to affidavits of write-in candidacy for certain races –
Proponent testimony from Rick Piepho, representing KCCEOA.

Chairman Proctor and Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Rick Piepho, Harvey County Clerk and Chairman of the Elections Committee of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA). The KCCEOA is a statewide organization with 109 members including all county clerks and election commissioners in Kansas. Our duties are significant under statute and one of our most public facing functions is free and fair administration of elections. We take this duty very seriously. We prepare for every possible, and impossible, scenario which could occur.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the KCCEOA membership. We believe that the legislature sets the policy and we implement it. You pass the laws, the Secretary of State works with you to develop and adopt rules, and we follow the law and regulations in an attempt to allow the public to participate in free and fair elections while complying with your intent and the Secretary's guidance. We understand and agree with the intent to build on the already secure election processes in Kansas and increasing voter confidence. The KCCEOA prepared a legislative agenda which was developed through a policy committee process and agreed to by a majority of the members.

We support expanding the list of races that require an affidavit of write-in candidacy be filed prior to each applicable Election Day. Countless hours are spent statewide recording, tabulating and compiling the individual names written in for these races, many of which receive only 1-2 votes each. The affidavit of write-in candidacy process works well for the offices that it currently applies to and should be applied to the additional races listed. We agree that these provisions should not apply to local races such as school board members, officials of cities of the second and third class, township officers, special district officers and precinct committee persons.

We would like to note the discrepancy in filing deadlines. The filing deadline is noon on the 2nd Monday preceding the election for some races (sections c, d & e) but changes to between 21-30 days prior to the election for the added races (sections f & g). We suggest changing the deadline for all affected races to noon on the 2nd Monday preceding the election.

The KCCEOA supports SB 221. We ask that the committee hear our concerns and act accordingly. I will not be able to attend the hearing so we are providing written testimony only on this bill.

Sincerely,

Rick Piepho
Harvey County Clerk & Election Officer – KCCEOA Elections Committee Chair