

To: House Committee on Elections
From: Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director
Date: February 7, 2023
RE: HB 2190 – Expanding Certain Election Crimes; Defining Special Elections
Neutral– Verbal Testimony

Thank you to the Chair and Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

The League of Kansas Municipalities is neutral to the majority of the policy decisions outlined in HB 2190. However, we are requesting a change that impacts cities in Kansas.

Section 5 would amend current law to require all candidates file for city elected office with the County election officer. Current law allows for candidates from cities of the first and second class representing a district to file with the city clerk.

The League supports filing locations for city elections being available in the city clerk's office. Our communities are best served when multiple good candidates have access to filing for office. Filing locations within the city encourages a higher number of candidates to file and make the process easier for those in the city limits.

We recognize some cities may not want to handle election filings and would rather they be handled by the County. However, those cities who are capable and wish to handle candidate filings should be allowed to continue to do so, with perhaps the possibility of concurrent filing locations at the City and County. We request the Committee either strike the Section 5 changes or we welcome the opportunity to work with proponents to find agreeable language.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues. I am always available to provide additional information and answer any questions you have.



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