



2022 - 2023 Executive board

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February 7, 2023 - Kansas House Elections Committee hearing on HB 2190, relating to election procedures and election crimes – Neutral testimony

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 Elections 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. This legislation aligns with multiple items on our agenda.

We support this bill that will cleanup multiple election statutes and timelines, enhance security, clarify roles of election officials, and increase transparency. Comments on selected areas of this bill:

- We support the various provisions in this bill that will enhance the security of elections: processes, data, systems, ballots and election officials.
- The KCCEOA supports defining special elections and the timelines for conducting them.
- We support the provisions to provide privacy protections for voter registration data and provisional voter information.
- We agree with the intent to ensure the security of voter registration information, but unfortunately the official government sites are currently inferior and more difficult for users to navigate than some non-governmental agency hosted sites.

The KCCEOA is neutral on HB 2190 as currently presented, but we ask that the committee hear our concerns and act accordingly. I will gladly stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

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