



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612  
785-272-2585 • [www.kansascounties.org](http://www.kansascounties.org)

House Elections Committee  
January 24, 2023  
HB 2013

Kansas Association of Counties  
Opponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer Opponent testimony on HB 2013, which would amend existing law by requiring a runoff election between the top two vote getters in a statewide election in which no candidate received more than 50% of the vote in the general election.

The Kansas Association of Counties opposes this bill as an unfunded mandate for counties. Counties oversee the administration of elections. This includes purchasing and maintaining election equipment, recruiting and training poll workers, and other tasks necessary for the successful operation of an election. Each of these tasks has a cost, but all are necessary to successfully and efficiently administer an election. Requiring a runoff election would increase the cost of election administration in an unpredictable way because you would essentially be tasked with administering back to back elections, which would increase the burden on local taxpayers to fund elections. This could result in higher property taxes, which is the primary funding source for county government.

In addition, the timelines under this statute are unworkable. Advance ballots are required to be mailed twenty days prior to an election. This bill would require that the runoff occur twenty-eight days of the general election. County canvass of the election results can occur up to thirteen days after the general election. The overlap of these timelines would essentially require county election officials to begin preparing for a runoff, including mailing ballots, prior to the canvass being complete.

KAC and its member counties would instead advocate to maintain the status quo with regard to elections, particularly since this bill does not include a provision to transfer the expense for potential future runoff elections to the state on a permanent basis.

The Kansas Association of Counties would respectfully ask that the committee reject this proposed legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to present this perspective on this legislation.

Jay Hall  
Deputy Director and General Counsel  
Kansas Association of Counties  
[hall@kansascounties.org](mailto:hall@kansascounties.org)  
(785)272-2585