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STATE OF KANSAS

House Committee on Elections

Testimony on House Bill 2210

Brad Bryant
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Secretary of State would like to offer support for House Bill 2210. This bill would prohibit party affiliation changes from the candidate filing deadline in an election year through the certification of the results of the primary. This provision would reduce the administrative burden on county election officers who must account for each party affiliation change in the statewide voter registration database and maintain records of the transactions. Party switches have become increasingly common during the busy period leading up to elections, which is the period when election officers can least afford to devote the time and resources to keep voters' records updated.

We ask the committee to consider amending House Bill 2210 as indicated below.

Proposed Amendment to House Bill 2210:

In Section 1(b), lines 20 and 21, we recommend deleting the words "the time when the primary election results are certified by the secretary of state" and inserting "September 1". The secretary of state does not certify the results of the election; the state board of canvassers is charged with this duty. The statutory deadline for the board of canvassers to certify the primary election is September 1. Providing a specific date in the law will make this provision easier to administer.

We urge the committee to amend House Bill 2210 as proposed and to recommend the bill, as amended, favorably for passage in order to reduce the administrative burden on county election officers.

Thank you for your consideration.