

To: Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: January 23, 2020

RE: Neutral Testimony for SB 260

I want to thank Chairwoman Bowers and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide neutral testimony for SB 260.

As written, SB 260 would allow a recount of any municipal election where a candidate was defeated by ½ of 1% or less of the total votes casts and if the candidate requests a recount. The League and our members believe in the sanctity of the ballot box and agree our citizens should have confidence in election results.

As currently written, the State would bear the cost of any recount. Provided the bill stays in its current format, the League supports this idea; however, our members want to ensure this does not simply become another unfunded mandate cities are forced to cover.

In the most recent election in the five largest counties, this bill would have allowed for recounts in 2 races in Sedgwick and 1 race in Wyandotte.

We would respectfully ask that if this committee passes out SB 260 favorably for passage, it does so unamended.