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STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony on HB2486 (Proponent)

House Committee on Elections
Thursday, February 10, 2022

Chairman Bergquist and members of the Committee:

The Kansas Secretary of State's office appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2486. Each of the provisions in this bill are aimed at reinforcing the safety and security of Kansas elections. HB2486 prohibits voting systems in Kansas from being connected to the internet, increases security of electronic pollbooks, and sets a statutory timeframe for when post-election logic and accuracy testing of tabulators may be conducted.

Since 2006, it has been policy for Kansas voting systems to not be connected to the internet – including ballot-marking devices and tabulators. HB2486 codifies this policy into state law. Additionally, HB2486 prohibits Kansas counties from purchasing voting equipment that possess capability to connect to the internet and requires county election judges to ensure such voting equipment is not connected to the internet.

Second, HB2486 enhances security to electronic pollbooks by providing certification through the Secretary of State's office. Pollbooks must have a secure internet connection to provide instant updates and accurate voter data. Currently, there is no requirement for electronic pollbooks to be certified. HB2486 creates a statutory standard for certification in the identical manner as electronic voting machines and tabulators to provided added layers of security to our election systems.

Finally, HB2486 provides a statutory time requirement in which post-election logic and accuracy testing must be conducted. Current Kansas law requires logic and accuracy tests to be conducted at least five days prior to the election, and after the county canvass vote without a time limit in statute. HB2486 amends current statute to require post-election logic and accuracy testing to be conducted within five days of the county canvass vote. This provision ensures logic and accuracy testing is completed prior to the deadline to file an election contest.

On behalf of the Kansas Secretary of State, we respectfully request the committee's consideration of this bill to enhance and strengthen election security in Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Barker
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General Counsel