



**2021 - 2022 Executive board**

Tina Spencer, Marion County  
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February 10, 2022

Honorable Kansas State Representative John Barker  
Chair, House Committee on Federal and State Affairs and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: House Bill 2570, relating to election audits – Neutral

Chairman Barker 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 publicly elected county clerks, charter appointed county clerks, and additionally, four election officers from the most populous counties in Kansas. The duties of the County Clerk are significant under statute. 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. Our organization has a legislative platform adopted by the membership. I have attached that platform to this testimony for your use.

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. For these reasons, we are appearing as neutral conferees today.

We believe that the current audit processes sufficiently ensure that the processes and tabulation equipment function as intended without adding a significant additional burden of time and cost during the very busy period between Election Day and canvassing. Every county in Kansas has been conducting these post-election audits for a number of years and the result of every audit has been consistent with the original results. We do not believe that the provisions currently in this bill would substantially affect election processes, procedures or outcomes. We would like to note that the provision regarding the hand counting of 10% of the precincts in the jurisdiction for races within a 1% margin would require additional time and non-budgeted costs for the county when this occurs. The additional time and costs could be significant and the reporting of final results could potentially be delayed.

The KCCEOA is neutral on HB 2570 as currently presented, but we ask that the committee hear our concerns and act accordingly. I will not be able to attend the hearing so we are providing written testimony only on this bill.

Sincerely,

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



## **2022 Legislative Priorities**

The members of the KCCEO want to bring special focus to the following with regard to elections:

- Encourage legislature to complete redistricting in a timely manner.
- Maintain the status quo with regard to election, registration and canvass schedules and with regard to partisan/non-partisan elections.
- Advocate for protecting the integrity of the anonymous ballot.
- Advocate for measures that allow provisional ballots to be counted for registered voters who moved within the state.
- Advocate for expansion of eligibility requirements for permanent advance voting status while also making requirements more stringent for all permanent election applicants to maintain status.
- Support initiatives which build on already secure and transparent election equipment and processes.
- Advocate for establishing lawful, consistent and workable timelines for special elections.
- Maintain local control of usage and placement of drop boxes for advance ballots.
- Ease pollworker employment restrictions for KPERS and unemployment.

The membership of the KCCEO reviews, discusses and participates in drafting the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) annual legislative policy. The members of KCCEO want to bring special focus to the following with regard to county governance:

- Retain and enhance county home rule authority and maintain local decision making, standing on the principle that government closest to the people will best understand and serve the community's needs.
- Support local control of property taxes.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and support state funding for any current statutory mandates.
- Support allowing choice of alternate sources or methods for distributing official publications, including legal notices.
- Support flexibility to utilize preliminary values when calculating mill levy rates for shared districts.
- Join with other county office holders in opposing deferment of payments to KPERS and the sweeping of funds intended for transportation.



**Statement:** The Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEO) serves the residents of all Kansas Counties through professional training for our members, presenting the Association's position on state issues, advocating policy positions which increase access for our constituents to county government and safe, secure, free and fair elections.

## **2021 - 2022 KCCEO Executive board & legislative committees**

Tina Spencer, Marion County | President  
Ashley Mannis, Sherman County | Vice president  
Janet Paddock, Franklin County | Secretary  
Rick Piepho, Harvey County | Treasurer

The **Election committee** formulates policy and education for election-related topics. Members also work with the Secretary of State's office and legislative committee on any election legislative initiatives.

**Rick Piepho, Harvey County (chair)**  
**Sarah Rains, Hodgeman County (vice-chair)**

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County  
Kayla Wang, Clay County  
Angie Kirchner, Coffey County  
Karen Madison, Cowley County  
Don Pyle, Crawford County  
Jamie Shew, Douglas County  
Debbie Cox, Ford County  
Rebecca Nordyke, Geary County  
Fred Sherman, Johnson County  
Crystal Rucker, Logan County  
Chris Treaster, Mitchell County  
Stacey Rein, Pawnee County  
Rich Vargo, Riley County  
Angela Caudillo, Sedgwick County  
Stacia Long, Seward County  
Andrew Howell, Shawnee County  
Keesa Mariman, Thomas County  
Rhonda Willard, Wilson County  
Michael Abbot, Wyandotte County

The **Legislative committee** is tasked with proposing and monitoring any legislation not dealing with elections.

**Karen Madison, Cowley County (chair)**  
**Jamie Doss, Saline County (vice-chair)**

Kyle Rennie, Cherokee County  
Janet Paddock, Franklin County  
Ashley Rogers, Gray County  
Rick Piepho, Harvey County  
Linda Buttron, Jefferson County  
Somir Hassan, Johnson County  
Dawn Harlow, Lincoln County  
Sandra Wilson, Marshall County  
Janet White, Miami County  
Chelsey Schmidt, Morris County  
Rachel Finley, Rawlins County  
Donna Patton, Reno County  
Mary Nuss, Russell County  
Pamela McDaniel, Scott County  
Kelly Arnold, Sedgwick County  
Debra Norris, Sumner County  
Brett Deichler, Wyandotte County

**KCCEO Lobbyist - Dick Carter, The Carter Group**

[www.kcceo.org](http://www.kcceo.org)