



**2021 - 2022 Executive board**

Tina Spencer, Marion County  
President

Ashley Mannis, Sherman County  
Vice President

Janet Paddock, Franklin County  
Secretary

Rick Piepho, Harvey County  
Treasurer

March 2, 2022

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

Re: House Bill 2715, relating to certification of election officials – 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 103 publicly elected county clerks, 2 charter appointed county clerks, and additionally, four election officers from the most populous counties in Kansas. Our duties are significant under statute and 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.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the KCCEOA membership. One mission of our association is to promote appropriate compensation and educational opportunities for our membership. As indicated above, 101 of our members serve in the dual role of County Clerk and Election Officer while the remaining 4 counties are served separately. We currently offer a multiyear training and certification program for County Clerk's that includes some election specific sessions along with sessions for the other duties and responsibilities of the County Clerk; we also offer some election specific training sessions at our annual conference. Additionally the Secretary of State office provides training at our conference along with other sessions throughout the year. The KCCEOA does not currently offer a certification program specifically for election officials, but we believe that in cooperation with the Secretary of State office we can create a comprehensive training and certification program for election officials. We would like to note that depending on the scope of the certification program the 2024 deadline may not be achievable and that the costs could be a significant burden on county budgets.

The KCCEOA is neutral on HB 2715 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