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STATE OF KANSAS

February 6, 2025

Testimony on HB2016 (Oral Proponent)

House Committee on Elections

Submitted: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Chair Proctor and members of the Committee:

The Secretary of State introduced HB2016 which expands the authority of county election officers to use not only newspaper obituaries, but also online funeral home obituaries, as a basis to remove deceased voters from the voter rolls. Other resources to remove deceased voters from the rolls are the weekly KDHE list of death certificates issued in Kansas and the Social Security Administration's annual death index.

Current law provides that a voter may be removed from the voter rolls if "*An obituary notice appears in a newspaper having general circulation in the county reports the death of a registered voter.*"

Changes in society have resulted in far fewer obituaries appearing in newspapers and far more obituaries appearing in on-line funeral home listings.

This bill merely recognizes the change and expands the source of actionable obituary by adding that a voter may be removed from the voter rolls if "*An obituary notice published online by a funeral home located in the county reports the death of such registered voter.*"

As always, only county election officers have the authority to remove voters from county rolls. They must exercise prudence to ensure a complete and accurate match before removing any individual from the voter rolls.

Respectfully,

/Clayton Barker

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