

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2447

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2447, as amended, would provide for a presidential preference primary election on the first Tuesday in March starting in 2028 and every four years thereafter. The bill would also provide for administrative procedures to carry out provisions of the bill, amend the definition of “special election” in election law to mean any election held on the first Tuesday in March or on the same day as a general or primary election, and make conforming amendments.

[*Note:* Current law defines “special election” as any election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of any year or on the same day as a general or primary election.]

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of a representative of the Kansas Republican Party.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was presented by representatives of the 3rd District Republican Party, Kansas Democratic Party, Kansas GOP, Shawnee County Republican Party, and a private citizen. The proponents generally stated the current caucus system to

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

determine presidential preference held on a Saturday is not a feasible option for a portion of the Kansas electorate, and the bill would increase voter accessibility.

Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by Johnson County Republican Party, Kansas Appleseed, Kansas College Republicans, and three private citizens.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Secretary of State. The conferee explained there is a statute directing the Secretary of State to reimburse counties for the costs of a presidential preference primary that is not currently addressed in the bill.

Written-only neutral testimony was submitted by the League of Women Voters of Kansas and Loud Light Civic Action.

Written-only **opponent** testimony was submitted by a representative of the City of Overland Park.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee made a technical amendment to the bill.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the Secretary of State would utilize existing resources to provide training and update manuals for county election officials. Additionally, existing law directs the State to reimburse counties for direct expenses for conducting a presidential preference primary election. After consulting with the counties, the Office estimates this could cost \$5.0 million from the State General Fund in FY 2028. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates the bill could increase costs to counties; however, the Association was unable to determine a fiscal effect.

Presidential preference primary; special election