



Kansas Democratic Party

Testimony for Hearing on Monday, February 16th
House Elections Committee
HB 2214

The Kansas Democratic Party is testifying in Support of HB 2214.

Two of the issues which the bill addresses actually clear up confusion in areas of the law which I have personally experienced: the death of a public official and the ability of the party to make rules concerning administrative matters for replacement reasons.

Setting the date of the death notice to trigger the 21-day time period makes the statute clear and is helpful. Having general rules set by the party will make the replacement meetings easier to manage.

Although our party doesn't seem to have many primaries, having rules to allow the party to replace the candidate that withdraws in a primary within 21 days seems reasonable.

I would propose an additional amendment to this statute, 25-3002(a) (1) which would allow the state committee to call the district convention if the vacancy occurs in a county where the party is not organized. In a situation where an elected official died in a county where there was no organized county Democratic Party, what do you do? The statute says, "If the county chairperson is absent or for any reason is unable to call..." then the vice-chairperson calls the meeting. But, in an unorganized county that cannot happen. I would leave it to the committee and the Revisor to determine the correct statutory language.

We have had the situation occur with a Democrat county elected official that died in office in an unorganized county and the Party was unable to recommend a candidate to fill the vacancy.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Wagnon".

Joan Wagnon
Chairperson, Kansas Democratic Party



Kansas Democratic Party

Testimony for Hearing on Monday, February 16th
House Elections Committee
HB 2212

The Kansas Democratic Party is testifying in Opposition to HB 2214.

The Kansas Democratic Party Bylaws contain no provisions for city parties. In as much as the new language in HB2212 on page 4 indicates any city political committee would have to be established by the state committee, it is permissive and would not require us to change our structure.

As a general principle, our objection is based on the need to strengthen county parties, rather than creating structures that might weaken them. As a practical matter, city parties would only be viable in one or two areas of the state. The Kansas Democratic Party has had no requests for such additional parties and has no plans, should this legislation pass, to initiate a city party. We already have many clubs in larger counties that meet specific needs—Sedgwick County is a good example of a county that meets the needs and interests of its residents by having clubs that meet to discuss topics, enjoy fellowship, etc. in different areas at different times. However, anything that would weaken the county party should be avoided.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Wagnon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joan Wagnon
Chairperson, Kansas Democratic Party