



WATKINS & SCHNEIDER
CONSULTING, LLC

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding H.B. 2210. Sedgwick County is supportive of the underlying concept of changing from appointment to election for open positions on a county commission when the number of seats has been expanded.

However, the bill in its current form creates a handful of concerns. First, there is no mention of a filing deadline after a commission passes a resolution. Secondly, the 45-day election requirement makes it impossible to comply with UOCAVA (Military and Overseas) requiring ballots be mailed 45 days prior to any election. In addition, there is no provision for a primary election process.

With this in mind, we would make the following suggestions. First, add a filing deadline that is 15 days after the resolution is passed. Second, require the primary election be held no later than 120 days and no sooner than 90 days after the resolution is passed and then provide for a general election no sooner than 60 days and no later than 75 days after the primary. These additions to HB 2210 would allow election commissioners to comply with the law and conduct special elections in a successful and efficient manner.

Thank you,

Jason Watkins

Sedgwick County