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STATE OF KANSAS

House Committee on Elections

Testimony on HB 2507

Bryan A. Caskey, Director of Elections
Office of the Secretary of State

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 2507. This bill, if passed, would remove the requirement of listing the city in which the candidate resides from the official ballot. The Secretary of State's office supports this bill for three reasons.

First, by eliminating the ballot city, the ballot may end up being shorter. Although this may not necessarily equal a decrease in costs due to constitutional amendments, or local question submitted elections, it may allow counties the flexibility to keep the ballot as short as possible.

Second, eliminating the ballot city may also increase the amount of white space on a ballot. State and county election officials are constantly looking at ways to ensure that ballots are clear, concise, easy to read, and easy to vote. Increasing the amount of white space will allow county election officials to potentially design a ballot that is easier for the voter to understand, view, and cast.

Third, there are some offices where there is no legal requirement to reside in the jurisdiction you are representing. Listing a city of residence that is not within the jurisdiction may provide confusion to voters concerning the legal qualifications of the candidate. Election officials make a determination on the qualifications of the candidate at the time of filing. Once that is completed, political questions concerning city of residence are best answered through the political process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill this afternoon, and I stand for questions.