



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

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TESTIMONY OF THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
TO THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
ON HB 2006

JANUARY 24, 2017

Chair Williams and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill. We appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2006.

HB 2006 addresses the situation where the voters have elected to expand their board of county commissioners. Kansas statute allows for a public vote to expand the size of the board of commissioners, and then directs the Governor to appoint the new commissioners. A recent situation employing this statutory process was Saline County, which elected to increase its board of county commissioners from three commissioners to five commissioners, with the Governor filling those vacancies instead of the electorate.

We believe the citizens of the community served by the county commission should vote for their new commissioners. It is my recollection that the Governor said as much when he appointed the two new commissioners in Saline County.

When this bill was heard last year, Sedgwick County suggested a few amendments that may be in order to guide the election process: a filing deadline of 15 days after the resolution is passed; a primary election to be held no sooner than 90 days and no later than 120 days after the resolution is passed; and a general election no sooner than 60 days and no later than 75 days after the primary. We believe these amendments would clarify the election process in HB 2006.

We ask that you support the legislation. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel