

# *ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE*

*Sherrie L. Riebel*  
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March 14, 2019

To: Honorable Kansas State Representative William Sutton, Chair, House Elections Committee  
And Honorable Members of the Committee

Re: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 131

From: Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk/Election Official  
and Kansas County Clerks & Election Officials Election Committee member

Honorable Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 131. Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association support this legislation.

Currently the extension district and drainage district candidates have until noon on September 1st (for 2019 it will be September 3) to file for office. This causes time problems with programming and printing when you have 105 counties wanting such done at the same time so that the ballots can be mailed out in a timely manner. A few election officials program their own ballots. Example - UOCAVA ballots are to be mailed out 45 days (which is September 21, 2019) before the City/School General Election to be held on November 5, 2019. This leaves 13 days this year for our ballots to be programmed and printed to go into the mail on September 21<sup>st</sup> for UOCAVA. My point is the Election Officials could start work on their General Election ballot right after their Primary Election, if they don't have to wait on the September 1st filing date. This would leave the Election Officials more time to program and double check their programming and ballots in a timely manner.

The second portion of Senate Bill 131 would be when township officials take office. Currently they are supposed to swear in within 20 days of them being elected. It would just be nice and less confusing for them to take office at the same time other local officials are taking office.

KCC&EOA urge the committee to report Senate Bill 131 favorably for passage in its current form as amended and passed by the Senate Committee of the Whole. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sherrie L. Riebel  
Allen County Clerk/Election Official  
& KCC&EOA Election Committee Member