



**2021 - 2022 Executive board**

Tina Spencer, Marion County  
President

Ashley Mannis, Sherman County  
Vice President

Janet Paddock, Franklin County  
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Rick Piepho, Harvey County  
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Re: February 14, 2022 hearing on Senate Bill 351, relating to electronic poll books and equipment – Neutral testimony, ORAL virtual by Rick Piepho, representing KCCEO – cell: 316-217-3759, email: [rpiepho@harveycounty.com](mailto:rpiepho@harveycounty.com).

Honorable Kansas State Senator Rob Olson  
Chair, Senate, Committee on Federal and State Affairs and Distinguished Members of the Committee

My name is Rick Piepho, Harvey County Clerk and Chairman of the Elections Committee of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEO). The KCCEO is a statewide organization with 109 members including publicly elected county clerks, charter appointed county clerks, and additionally, four election officers from the most populous counties in Kansas. Our duties are significant under statute and one of our most public facing functions is free and fair administration of elections. We take this duty very seriously. We prepare for every possible, and impossible, scenario which could occur. Our organization has a legislative platform adopted by the membership. I have attached that platform to this testimony for your use.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the KCCEO membership. We believe that the legislature sets the policy and we implement it. You pass the laws, the Secretary of State works with you to develop and adopt rules, and we follow the law and regulations in an attempt to allow the public to participate in free and fair elections while complying with your intent and the Secretary's guidance. We understand and agree with the intent to build on the already secure election processes in Kansas and increasing voter confidence. For these reasons, we are appearing as neutral conferees today.

We believe that defining electronic poll books and specifically including them in statutes regarding election equipment is appropriate. We also support adding requirements to law that ban connectivity of electronic equipment used for voting and tabulation; this is already the current practice but it is not statutory. We agree with the provisions to require that electronic poll books be certified by the secretary of state, like other election equipment, unless the certification process, requirements or security standards are so onerous that electronic poll books are effectively eliminated. Electronic poll books are a critical component of the voter check-in process for many counties and they are essential for counties that operate vote centers to ensure that individual voters cannot check-in at multiple locations. The process of checking in and receiving the appropriate ballot is faster and more efficient for the voter, poll workers and election office staff. Unlike other election equipment, electronic poll books must be connected to each other and/or to a secure website to ensure that once an individual has checked-in they cannot check-in again on any other unit. Electronic poll books are completely separate systems from other election equipment and are not part of the process of casting or tabulating ballots, they just capture the voter signature and record that a ballot was issued to that voter. We agree with the provisions to specify the time frame and notification for the public testing of voting equipment after each election. We do have some concerns about how election judges will be able to ensure that electronic voting and tabulation equipment is not connected to any network throughout the day.

The KCCEO is neutral on SB 351 as currently presented, but we ask that the committee consider our comments and act accordingly. I will gladly stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Rick Piepho, Harvey County Clerk & Election Officer – KCCEO Elections Committee Chair



## **2022 Legislative Priorities**

The members of the KCCEO want to bring special focus to the following with regard to elections:

- Encourage legislature to complete redistricting in a timely manner.
- Maintain the status quo with regard to election, registration and canvass schedules and with regard to partisan/non-partisan elections.
- Advocate for protecting the integrity of the anonymous ballot.
- Advocate for measures that allow provisional ballots to be counted for registered voters who moved within the state.
- Advocate for expansion of eligibility requirements for permanent advance voting status while also making requirements more stringent for all permanent election applicants to maintain status.
- Support initiatives which build on already secure and transparent election equipment and processes.
- Advocate for establishing lawful, consistent and workable timelines for special elections.
- Maintain local control of usage and placement of drop boxes for advance ballots.
- Ease pollworker employment restrictions for KPERS and unemployment.

The membership of the KCCEO reviews, discusses and participates in drafting the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) annual legislative policy. The members of KCCEO want to bring special focus to the following with regard to county governance:

- Retain and enhance county home rule authority and maintain local decision making, standing on the principle that government closest to the people will best understand and serve the community's needs.
- Support local control of property taxes.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and support state funding for any current statutory mandates.
- Support allowing choice of alternate sources or methods for distributing official publications, including legal notices.
- Support flexibility to utilize preliminary values when calculating mill levy rates for shared districts.
- Join with other county office holders in opposing deferment of payments to KPERS and the sweeping of funds intended for transportation.



**Statement:** The Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEO) serves the residents of all Kansas Counties through professional training for our members, presenting the Association's position on state issues, advocating policy positions which increase access for our constituents to county government and safe, secure, free and fair elections.

## **2021 - 2022 KCCEO Executive board & legislative committees**

Tina Spencer, Marion County | President  
Ashley Mannis, Sherman County | Vice president  
Janet Paddock, Franklin County | Secretary  
Rick Piepho, Harvey County | Treasurer

The **Election committee** formulates policy and education for election-related topics. Members also work with the Secretary of State's office and legislative committee on any election legislative initiatives.

**Rick Piepho, Harvey County (chair)**  
**Sarah Rains, Hodgeman County (vice-chair)**

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County  
Kayla Wang, Clay County  
Angie Kirchner, Coffey County  
Karen Madison, Cowley County  
Don Pyle, Crawford County  
Jamie Shew, Douglas County  
Debbie Cox, Ford County  
Rebecca Nordyke, Geary County  
Fred Sherman, Johnson County  
Crystal Rucker, Logan County  
Chris Treaster, Mitchell County  
Stacey Rein, Pawnee County  
Rich Vargo, Riley County  
Angela Caudillo, Sedgwick County  
Stacia Long, Seward County  
Andrew Howell, Shawnee County  
Keesa Mariman, Thomas County  
Rhonda Willard, Wilson County  
Michael Abbot, Wyandotte County

The **Legislative committee** is tasked with proposing and monitoring any legislation not dealing with elections.

**Karen Madison, Cowley County (chair)**  
**Jamie Doss, Saline County (vice-chair)**

Kyle Rennie, Cherokee County  
Janet Paddock, Franklin County  
Ashley Rogers, Gray County  
Rick Piepho, Harvey County  
Linda Buttron, Jefferson County  
Somir Hassan, Johnson County  
Dawn Harlow, Lincoln County  
Sandra Wilson, Marshall County  
Janet White, Miami County  
Chelsey Schmidt, Morris County  
Rachel Finley, Rawlins County  
Donna Patton, Reno County  
Mary Nuss, Russell County  
Pamela McDaniel, Scott County  
Kelly Arnold, Sedgwick County  
Debra Norris, Sumner County  
Brett Deichler, Wyandotte County

**KCCEO Lobbyist - Dick Carter, The Carter Group**

[www.kcceo.org](http://www.kcceo.org)