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## STATE OF KANSAS

### **Testimony on HB2086 (Oral Proponent)**

House Committee on Elections

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 2086. Our office introduced this legislation as part of our ongoing commitment to modernize, improve, and secure our elections without causing voter confusion.

Over the past several years, our office has reviewed lessons learned from past elections, best practices from other states, and areas for improvement in our current election statutes. As a result, this legislation comprises 90 statute changes to update the election code. Many of these improvements are responses to specific incidents in recent elections, while others address contradictory or vague statutes.

HB2086 consists of the following clean-up provisions:

- 27 provisions improve the administration of elections to make them more effective, affordable, and achievable for county election officers and their staff
- 22 provisions remove obsolete statutes or requirements in statute
- 15 provisions clarify vague or outdated terms
- 13 provisions address conflicting or inconsistent election laws, especially timing provisions
- 9 provisions improve transparency by mandating that any election notice required to be posted in a newspaper must also be posted on the county website
- 4 provisions enhance election security by strengthening the protection of passwords and the physical security of voting equipment

Specifically, HB2086 would improve election administration by:

- Addressing the recount process, which currently requires the recount request to be filed before there is a vote count available
- Enlarging the available qualified applicants from which to select election commissioners and replace county clerks and sheriffs
- Reaffirming that Kansas does not permit the mass mailing of advance by mail ballots to voters without an individual request

Please see the attached document describing each provision and the purpose for each action. We respectfully request the committee's consideration and approval passage of HB2086.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Barker  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
General Counsel

Attachment