



**2023 - 2024 Executive board**

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January 24, 2024 - hearing on SB 366, relating to advance ballot applications – Opponent testimony from Rick Piepho, representing KCCEOA.

Chairman Thompson and Distinguished Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee,

My name is Rick Piepho, Harvey County Clerk and Chairman of the Elections Committee of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA). The KCCEOA is a statewide organization with 109 members including all county clerks and election commissioners 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. The KCCEOA prepared a legislative agenda which was developed through a policy committee process and agreed to by a majority of the members.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the KCCEOA membership. We understand the intent to change some of the provisions regarding the mailing of advance ballot applications but disagree with the restrictions on the mailing of advance ballot applications by election offices. We believe that individual election offices should continue to have the option, based on the needs of their jurisdiction, to send unsolicited mailings to voters in their jurisdiction that include an advance ballot application. During the 2020 election, county election offices across the state mailed thousands of advance ballot applications and there are some counties in Kansas which regularly mail every registered voter an advance application prior to most elections.

We also disagree with the restriction on pre-filling any portion of an advance application that is allowed to be mailed. It is beneficial to pre-fill some sections of the application to ensure that the information is legible since many hand-written applications are difficult to comprehend. This provision would eliminate the ability to assist the voters who request an application including utilization of an option in the state voter registration system (ELVIS) to print AV2 Permanent Advance Applications that have most of the voter information included.

The KCCEOA opposes SB 366 as currently presented. We ask that the committee hear our concerns and act accordingly. I will gladly stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

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