



2023 - 2024 Executive board

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February 1, 2024 - hearing on HB 2559, prohibiting the use of generative artificial intelligence in campaign media – Proponent testimony from Rick Piepho, representing KCCEOA.

Chairman Proctor and Distinguished Committee Members,

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.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the KCCEOA 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. The KCCEOA prepared a legislative agenda which was developed through a policy committee process and agreed to by a majority of the members.

We support any efforts to reduce the spread of misinformation or disinformation regarding elections especially section (2)(B) of this bill which prohibits the use of synthetic media to alter the appearance, action or speech of an elected or appointed state official. We would like to request that election officials be added in this section to protect against the manipulation of communications of our members.

The KCCEOA supports HB 2559. We ask that the committee hear our concerns and act accordingly. I will not be able to attend the hearing so we are providing written testimony only on this bill.

Sincerely,

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