



**2024 - 2025 Executive board**

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February 11, 2025 - hearing on SB 4, relating to the deadline for returning advance ballots – Opposition testimony from Rick Piepho, representing KCCEOA.

Chairman Proctor and Distinguished Members of the House Elections 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.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the KCCEOA membership. The KCCEOA prepared a legislative agenda which was developed through a policy committee process and agreed to by a majority of the members. One of the items specifically included is: "Maintain the status quo with regard to election, registration and canvass schedules..."

We believe that the current deadline for receipt of valid advance ballots by mail should remain. With delivery delays by the US Postal Service expected to continue, we believe that allowing ballots mailed prior to the close of polls on Election Day to be received by the 3<sup>rd</sup> day following the election ensures that valid voted ballots are accepted and included in the final results. Most properly mailed advance ballots are returned the day after the election but diminishing quantities continue to be received for many days after Election Day.

Exhibit 1 on the next page shows the advance return log for the 2024 General Election in Harvey County. A deadline of 7 p.m. on Election Day would have meant that 21 valid voted ballots would not be counted out of 791 total received by mail. Not a huge number but it adds up across 105 counties. All the ballots received after election day were postmarked, a few that were postmarked after election day were not counted. The total number of advance ballots sent and returned were higher for the 2022 General Election, but the statistics for ballots returned by the USPS are similar.

The KCCEOA opposes SB 4 as currently presented. 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

Exhibit 1:

GN2024 Advance Return Log - Harvey County								
	USPS	Clerk office drop	Courthouse drop	FS 3 drop	UOCAVA	Adv poll	Totals	Undel/late
Prior to mail date					43		43	
Thursday, October 17, 2024					5		5	
Friday, October 18, 2024		4			4		8	33
Monday, October 21, 2024	87	7	71	24	1		190	8
Tuesday, October 22, 2024	124	39	83	29	1		276	2
Wednesday, October 23, 2024	90	12	82	3	4	12	203	11
Thursday, October 24, 2024	56	11	69	12	1	9	158	
Friday, October 25, 2024	53	12	32	9		15	121	2
Monday, October 28, 2024	111	4	74	23	5	14	231	4
Tuesday, October 29, 2024	57	8	39	16	9	4	133	4
Wednesday, October 30, 2024	29	16	29			9	83	0
Thursday, October 31, 2024	33	6	16	6	4	4	69	1
Friday, November 1, 2024	52	7	37	9	4	9	118	2
Saturday, November 2, 2024		12	29			6	47	
Monday, November 4, 2024	56	1	10	13	8	7	95	1
Tuesday, November 5, 2024	19		21		10		50	
11/5/24 7:00 PM	3	15	7	14	3	35	77	
Wednesday, November 6, 2024	9						9	
Thursday, November 7, 2024	10						10	
Friday, November 8, 2024	2						2	3
Monday, November 11, 2024							0	
Tuesday, November 12, 2024							0	2
Wednesday, November 13, 2024							0	1
	791	154	599	158	102	124	1928	74
% of total returned	52.27%	6.70%	25.98%	7.22%	2.73%	5.10%	2386	Total sent
							2002	Total return
								Not
After ED	21	2.65%	of USPS				186	returned

10-25-2024 Certified registered voters in Harvey County = 23,495

16,273 total ballots cast = 69.26% turnout total