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January 15, 2026 - Kansas House Elections Committee hearing on HB 2438, imposing restrictions on websites that can accept and transmit voter registration applications – Neutral testimony

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 members are responsible for administering voter registration and elections at the local level and are committed to ensuring elections that are free, fair, secure, and efficiently administered.

I am submitting this **neutral testimony** on behalf of the KCCEOA membership regarding **HB 2438**. The intent of this testimony is to provide information from an election administration perspective and to outline general administrative and voter-facing considerations related to the bill as introduced.

HB 2438 would place limitations on the websites that may be used for electronic voter registration and affects which online voter registration applications county election officials may accept.

From a voter-facing perspective, some online platforms currently used by Kansas voters provide consolidated access to multiple election-related services for all registrants through a single website. At least one of these platforms allows voters to check their registration status, update existing information, register to vote, and apply for advance ballots by mail in one location. By contrast, completing the same tasks through existing government-provided resources may require voters to navigate multiple separate websites. Changes to the availability of these consolidated platforms could affect voter convenience and user experience.

Implementation of HB 2438 may also raise questions regarding whether existing state-operated systems currently meet all of the criteria outlined in subsection (b), including communication verification requirements. I would encourage delaying the implementation of this legislation until after the system offered by the state has been upgraded or replaced to meet the requirements and offer more services or information in one location.

From an administrative standpoint, county election officials would need clear guidance, consistent communication, and timely updates regarding approved websites from the Secretary of State to ensure compliance with the proposed requirements. Counties may also need to adjust internal procedures and staff training to reflect any changes to the processing of electronic voter registration applications.

The KCCEOA does not take a position for or against House Bill 2438 at this time. These comments are offered to assist the committee in understanding potential operational and voter-experience considerations associated with the bill. This testimony is submitted in writing only.

Thank you for your consideration,

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