

Supporting Testimony for HB 2447

Chair Jeanna Repass
Kansas Democratic Party
PO Box 1914
Topeka, KS 66601

Chair Proctor, Vice Chair Waggoner, Ranking Minority Member Haskins, and the House Committee on Elections. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 2447 which provides for a Presidential Preference Primary election in 2028 and every four years thereafter while also moving that date to March.

My name is Jeanna Repass and I am the Proud Chair of the Kansas Democratic Party. The opportunity to have a Presidential Preference Primary and to have it occur earlier in the election calendar will positively affect all Kansans of every party by bolstering their ability to make sure national political leaders with Presidential aspirations pay attention and listen to the needs of Kansas voters.

As party chair, it is my honor to advocate for and uplift those whose voice is not heard and work every day to make Kansas a better, safer, and more prosperous place to live. We are proud of the work we do to support candidates up and down the ballot to give Democrats the resources they need to make a positive difference in their community. That is what the Democratic Party of Kansas works towards every day. What we are not is an Election Commissioner or Secretary of State.

The scope and resources of any of the political parties in Kansas do not meet a minimum standard to provide Kansans with an appropriate Presidential Preference Primary election and is duplicative and wasteful at best and disenfranchising and confusing to voters at worst.

A permanent, state-run presidential primary held early in the national calendar promotes broad voter access, professional election administration, and legal certainty in a way that party-run primaries or caucuses cannot. State administration ensures uniform accessibility, transparency, and accountability, while avoiding the exclusion, operational instability, and risk inherent in ad hoc party-run processes. Codifying an early primary in statute provides long-term predictability for voters, election officials, and candidates, strengthens public confidence in the process, and secures the state's role as a meaningful participant in the presidential nominating system.

By harmonizing our presidential preference primaries with the election infrastructure already in place for primary and general elections we capture the advantages of having an earlier presidential preference primary and Kansas can continue to deliver consistent elections for its voters.

For these reasons, I am in favor of HB 2447 and urge you to vote in favor as well.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration.