

Written Only Proponent Testimony on HB 2447
House Committee on Elections
Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Chairman Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2447. My name is Laurel Stiffler, and I am the Immediate Past President of the Kansas Federation of Republican Women.

House Bill 2447 establishes a permanent, state-administered presidential preference primary and provides Kansas voters with a professionally administered and accessible way to participate in the presidential nomination process. Selecting a presidential nominee is one of the most important decisions voters make, and the process should encourage broad participation rather than create unnecessary barriers.

Turnout data clearly demonstrates the value of a presidential preference primary. Even in 2024, when the nomination was largely uncontested, Kansas saw higher voter participation than in 2016, when the process was heavily contested but conducted through a caucus format. In 2024, total participation reached 95,487 voters, compared to 78,978 voters in 2016. This comparison underscores a key point: voters are more likely to participate when the process is familiar, predictable, and administered like other statewide elections. A primary election produces broader participation and results that more accurately reflect the will of the electorate.

A state-run primary also benefits voters by relying on election procedures they already know and trust. Allowing voters to cast ballots during regular polling hours or through advance voting removes unnecessary obstacles and ensures participation is not limited to those with flexible schedules or prior experience navigating a caucus system.

Establishing the presidential preference primary on Super Tuesday further strengthens Kansas's role in the nomination process by ensuring voters have a meaningful voice at the beginning of the presidential nomination process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support House Bill 2447.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Stiffler
Immediate Past President
Kansas Federation of Republican Women