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January 29, 2026 - Kansas House Elections Committee hearing on HCR 5021, constitutional amendment, photo ID for voters – 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 HCR 5021. The intent of this testimony is to provide information from an election administration perspective and to outline general implementation and administrative considerations related to the resolution as introduced.

From an administrative standpoint, placing a voter identification requirement in the constitution may reduce flexibility for future adjustments to accommodate evolving election practices, technology changes, court decisions, or operational realities. County election officials rely on statutory and regulatory frameworks that can be more readily updated to address implementation challenges, training needs, and procedural refinements.

Current Kansas statute (KSA 25-2908) already establishes photographic identification requirements for voting, including a list of acceptable forms of identification and specific statutory exceptions. If a more restrictive identification standard is placed in the constitution, existing statutory provisions that allow additional forms of identification or recognize exceptions may be superseded. This could affect voters whose only photographic identification was issued by another state, an Indian tribe, or a municipal or county government, as well as voters who currently qualify for statutory exemptions, such as those whose religious beliefs prohibit being photographed.

Additionally, from an administrative perspective, the committee may wish to consider whether the election date for submitting this constitutional question to voters should be the General Election on November 3, 2026. Placing constitutional amendments on a Primary Election ballot requires the creation of an additional ballot style for unaffiliated voters and for voters affiliated with parties that do not conduct a primary, increasing ballot programming complexity, testing requirements, printing costs, and logistical planning.

The KCCEOA does not take a position for or against HCR 5021 at this time. These comments are offered to assist the committee in understanding potential operational and voter-experience considerations associated with the resolution. This testimony is submitted in writing only.

Thank you for your consideration,

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