



Testimony

**Senate Bill 314
Election Advocacy by Public Officials
January 28, 2026**

The Kansas County Commissioners Association opposes Senate Bill 314.

The KCCA represents the 360+ elected Commissioners in all 105 counties. Republicans. Democrats. Rural. Urban. All of them working to serve their communities.

SB 314 and HB 2451 both raise questions about how elected officials can talk about questions they voted to place on elections ballots for citizens to decide.

We agree public employees should not be allowed to use public assets to advocate for or against specific candidates or ballot questions such as bond issues and sales tax referendums.

The bill states: "prohibiting the use of time of any officer or employee for such purposes shall not apply to an incumbent officer campaigning for nomination or reelection to a succeeding term..." That seems to say sitting Commissioners or Legislators who are not running for re-election can not state their opinions on referendums or Constitutional amendments.

If a County Commissioner votes to place a sales tax question on the ballot... or you as Senators vote to place a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot, it doesn't make sense that you can't then tell voters you support or oppose the measure and why. The bill should also clarify work time versus personal time.

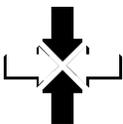
I've managed five sales tax referendums in my career. We knew that any publication or social media posts could not promote a yes vote. I did use a regularly published newsletter to inform voters about the issue explaining what a yes vote would mean and what a no vote would mean. Voters should have that neutral information to decide for themselves how to vote.

But if an elected official speaks at the local Rotary Club or similar group, would they be able to express their opinion in support of a ballot question? That needs to be made clear.

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