

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Pat Proctor, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Proctor:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2659 by Representative Parshall

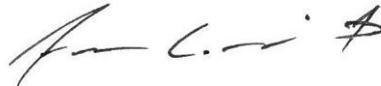
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2659 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2659 would require election audits and recounts of ballots be conducted using a hand count of paper ballots. The bill would prohibit the use of copies or images of cast paper ballots to be used for any audit or recount. In addition, under current law, at the time of any canvass the county election officer presents to the county board of canvassers preliminary abstracts of election returns along with ballots and records returned by the election boards, and advance voting ballots received after the closing of the polls. The bill would remove advance voting ballots from being provided to the county board of canvassers. The bill would also remove procedures for canvassing and challenging advance voting ballots received by mail after the closing of the polls.

The Secretary of State would use existing resources to provide training and update manuals for county local election officials, update the agency's website; update public documents and information; and work with media, political parties, candidates, and the public to ensure knowledge of the change in election audits. The agency also indicates HB 2659 would have a fiscal effect on counties. Larger counties could experience an increase in the amount of time to locate and sort the ballots for audits. In addition, due to time constraints, counties would hire additional temporary workers to locate ballots and conduct the audit. The estimated cost would range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars per county per election based on the number of workers in each county. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2659 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties states passage of HB 2659 would increase the time and cost of audits and recounts because hand counts are more time consuming and require additional workers. However, the Association is unable to estimate a fiscal effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Jennifer Cook, Office of the Secretary of State
Bruce Chladny, Kansas Association of Counties