

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2026

HOUSE BILL No. 2451

By Committee on Elections

Requested by Representative Waggoner

1-15

AN ACT concerning elections; relating to the use of public assets for campaign finance; prohibiting the use of such assets to advocate for or against state constitutional amendments and any other ballot question submitted to qualified electors; **requiring detailed fiscal information to be part of any informational statement concerning a proposed bond issue**; amending K.S.A. 25-4169a and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) As used in this section, "public funds" means any state, county, city, school district or other political subdivision funds, including funds derived from taxes, fees or assessments.

(b) Any publication, communication, mailing, advertisement, website, social media posting or other informational material concerning a proposed bond issue that is paid for, in whole or in part, with public funds shall include a fiscal disclosure statement or a link to a state or municipality website or a quick response code (QR) that provides neutral, factual information regarding the financial impact of the proposed bond issue.

(c) The fiscal disclosure statement shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) The principal amount of the proposed bond issue;

(2) the estimated total cost of the bond issue, including interest, calculated using the expected interest rate at the time that the bond is proposed and clearly identified as an estimate;

(3) the duration of the bond, including the number of years over which the bond is to be repaid;

(4) a statement identifying any outstanding bonds or bond-related obligations of the issuing entity, including:

(A) The remaining principal balance; and

(B) the estimated remaining total payments, including interest;

(5) the estimated annual debt service payment required to repay the proposed bond issue;

(6) the estimated total amount of property tax revenue, in actual dollars, required annually to make the bond payments;

1 (7) an estimate of the annual and total property tax impact
2 expressed in real dollar amounts, including the estimated annual cost
3 per \$100,000 of appraised residential property value; and

4 (8) a clear statement that the estimates provided are projections
5 and actual costs may vary based on interest rates, assessed valuation
6 changes and other economic factors.

7 (d) A publication funded with public funds shall not state or
8 imply that a proposed bond issue will not raise taxes or increase
9 property taxes based solely on mill levy calculations, unless the
10 publication also includes:

11 (1) The estimated actual property tax dollars required annually
12 to make bond payments;

13 (2) the estimated real dollar cost to property owners; and

14 (3) a disclaimer that explains that a mill levy that remains the
15 same equates to a tax increase due to appraised valuations increasing
16 annually.

17 (e) All fiscal disclosure statements required by this section shall
18 be presented in plain language, in a manner that is clearly visible and
19 understandable to the average reader and shall not be minimized,
20 obscured or contradicted by other content in the publication.

21 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the use of
22 public funds to advocate for a bond issue. The information required
23 under this section shall be strictly informational and neutral.

24 (g) Any publication concerning a bond issue that is inconsistent
25 with the provisions of this section shall constitute a violation of this
26 act.

27 ~~Section 1.~~ **Sec. 2.** K.S.A. 25-4169a is hereby amended to read as
28 follows: 25-4169a. (a)-(1) No officer or employee of the state of Kansas,
29 or any municipality, shall use or authorize the use of public funds or public
30 vehicles, machinery, equipment or supplies of any such governmental
31 agency or the time of any officer or employee of any such governmental
32 agency, for which the officer or employee is compensated by such
33 governmental agency, to expressly advocate the nomination, election or
34 defeat of a clearly identified candidate to state office or local office, *to*
35 *promote or oppose the adoption or repeal of any provisions of the*
36 *constitution of the state of Kansas or to promote or oppose any ballot*
37 *question submitted to the qualified electors of this state or any political*
38 *subdivision thereof.*

39 (b) The provisions of this section prohibiting the use of time of any
40 officer or employee for such purposes shall not apply to an incumbent
41 officer campaigning for nomination or reelection to a succeeding term to
42 such office or to members of the personal staff of any elected officer.

43 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the statutory

1 duties of the commission on judicial performance pursuant to article 32 of
2 chapter 20 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

3 ~~(2)(d)~~ The provisions of this ~~subsection~~ *section* shall not apply to the
4 use of internet connectivity provided by the state of Kansas or any
5 municipality to any candidate or elected official.

6 ~~(3)(e)~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, no municipality
7 shall permit or allow any person to distribute, or cause to be distributed,
8 within any building or other structure owned, leased or rented by such
9 municipality any brochure, flier, political fact sheet or other document
10 ~~which that~~ expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of a
11 clearly identified candidate for state or local office **or ballot issue** unless
12 each candidate **or ballot issue committee** for such state or local office is
13 permitted or allowed to do so in the same manner.

14 ~~(4)(f)-(1)~~ *An officer or employee of the state or any municipality may*
15 *respond to inquiries regarding the adoption or repeal of any provisions of*
16 *the constitution of the state of Kansas or any other ballot question in a*
17 *neutral manner and publish neutral information to educate or otherwise*
18 *inform the public on such ballot questions on any website maintained by*
19 *the state or such municipality.*

20 ~~(2)~~ *It shall be a violation of this section for any officer or employee of*
21 *the state or any municipality to conduct or authorize directed mass*
22 *communications regarding such ballot questions, such as mailers, flyers,*
23 **radio advertisements, television advertisements, physical signage and**
24 *statements posted on social media.*

25 ~~(g)~~ **Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to limit the**
26 **freedom of speech of any officer or employee of the state of Kansas or**
27 **any municipality who is speaking in the officer's or employee's**
28 **personal capacity. This section does not prohibit the state, state**
29 **agencies or the governing body of any municipality from presenting**
30 **factual information solely for the purpose of educating voters on a**
31 **ballot question.**

32 ~~(h)~~ For the purposes of this ~~subsection~~ *section*, the term municipality
33 shall have the meaning ascribed to it *means the same as defined in K.S.A.*
34 *12-105a, and amendments thereto.*

35 ~~(b)(7)(i)~~ Any person violating the provisions of this section **including**
36 **failure to provide the disclosure regarding a bond issue** shall be guilty
37 of a class C misdemeanor.

38 ~~Sec. 2.~~ **3.** K.S.A. 25-4169a is hereby repealed.

39 ~~Sec. 3.~~ **4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
40 publication in the statute book.