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STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony on SB210 (Oral Neutral)

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Monday, February 20, 2023

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 210. Our office is neutral on this legislation but wishes to address several technical issues.

SB210 permits candidates for nonpartisan offices to “have such candidate’s political party or political designation added to such candidate’s name on the ballot.” This proposes several questions as to the implementation of this bill.

- Would a candidate unaffiliated with any of the three recognized political parties in Kansas (Democrat, Libertarian, and Republican) be permitted to have the term “unaffiliated” or “unaffiliated with a political party” after their name?
- Would the term “political designation,” as used in SB210, permit broader terms such as “independent” after the candidate’s name?
- Is the county election officer responsible for verifying the candidate’s asserted party affiliation at the time of filing for office?

Lastly, because it is voluntary with the candidate, this provision may cause voter confusion as to why an affiliation may or may not be listed on their ballot.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the committee. We look forward to working with you on the aforementioned provisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Barker
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