



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Lauren Tice Miller, Lauren.TiceMiller@knea.org
Director of Government Relations & Elections
Written Testimony - Opponent
Senate Bill 210
Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs
February 20, 2022

Chairman Thompson, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 210.

Kansas NEA believes in a strong representative democracy and that it starts at the most local level – nonpartisan governing bodies. To that end, we oppose Senate Bill 391.

Once a candidate running for a nonpartisan seat, such as one on a local school board, publishes their party affiliation the position is no longer nonpartisan. Turning nonpartisan positions into partisan positions disqualifies many people. Anyone serving in a position receiving federal funding is prohibited to serve their communities in a partisan elected seat. This disqualifies men and women serving in the armed forces as well as federal employees and select state employees.

These local positions should remain nonpartisan. The decisions being made at these local levels should be made based on what is best for their community, not based on a Party platform.

Voters should conduct their own independent research on each candidate appearing on the ballot prior to participating in any election in Kansas. We should be wanting to do more to encourage an informed electorate; yet this bill encourages voters to make their decision based only the information provided on the ballot.

We believe Senate Bill 210 will ultimately taint the election process for nonpartisan local governing bodies. As such, we urge members of the committee to oppose Senate Bill 210.