



**2023 - 2024 Executive board**

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February 8, 2024 - hearing on SB 375, prohibiting the use of generative artificial intelligence in campaign media – Proponent testimony from Rick Piepho, representing KCCEO.

Chairman Thompson and Distinguished Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee,

My name is Rick Piepho, Harvey County Clerk and Chairman of the Elections Committee of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEO). The KCCEO is a statewide organization with 109 members including all county clerks and election commissioners in Kansas. Our duties are significant under statute and one of our most public facing functions is free and fair administration of elections. We take this duty very seriously. We prepare for every possible, and impossible, scenario which could occur.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the KCCEO membership. We believe that the legislature sets the policy and we implement it. You pass the laws, the Secretary of State works with you to develop and adopt rules, and we follow the law and regulations in an attempt to allow the public to participate in free and fair elections while complying with your intent and the Secretary's guidance. We understand and agree with the intent to build on the already secure election processes in Kansas and increasing voter confidence. The KCCEO prepared a legislative agenda which was developed through a policy committee process and agreed to by a majority of the members.

We support any efforts to reduce the spread of misinformation or disinformation regarding elections especially section (2)(B) of this bill which prohibits the use of synthetic media to alter the appearance, action or speech of an elected or appointed state official. We would like to request that election officials be added in this section to protect against the manipulation of communications of our members.

The KCCEO supports SB 375. We ask that the committee hear our concerns and act accordingly. I will gladly stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Rick Piepho  
Harvey County Clerk & Election Officer – KCCEO Elections Committee Chair