March 22, 2012

The Honorable Terrie Huntington, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections
Statehouse, Room 235-E
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Senator Huntington:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 461 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 461 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 461 would require the Office of the Secretary of State to develop a standardized comprehensive training program covering all relevant state laws and rules and regulations relating to elections. The training program would be required for all election workers including poll workers, election board judges, election clerks, and election board members. The Office would also be required to develop a standardized comprehensive training program covering all relevant state laws and rules and regulations relating to voter registration for all state and local government employees who are required to assist in voter registration. The election workers and employees would be required to complete the training programs.

These training programs must be in place before the August 7, 2012 primary election and must include testing of participants to determine their understanding of the state laws and rules and regulations. Election board judges, clerks, and poll workers must demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of the state laws and rules and regulations before assuming their election duties. The county election officer must prepare and furnish copies of all registrations and all books, maps, instructions, and blanks needed for the use and guidance of poll workers, election clerks, election judges, and election boards and voters. The county election officer must provide various materials and instructions related to the training program for all election workers including poll agents, poll workers, election board judges, and clerks before each election as directed by the Office of the Secretary of State.

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<th>Estimated State Fiscal Effect</th>
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The Office of the Secretary of State estimates that SB 461 would require approximately $328,000 and $81,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2012 and FY 2013, respectively. The FY 2012 estimates includes $5,000 in contractual fees to develop the online training program; $300,000 to develop and deploy three online training modules at $100,000 per module; $20,000 to hire a part-time employee for the paper-based program; and $3,000 to print the paper-based training materials. The estimate for FY 2013 and beyond includes ongoing costs of $60,000 in contractual and maintenance costs for the online program and $20,600 to maintain a part-time position and materials for the paper-based program. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 461 is not reflected in The FY 2013 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Desiree Taliaferro, Secretary of State’s Office