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STATE OF KANSAS

House Committee on Elections

Testimony on House Bill 2364

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2364. This bill deals with the Secretary of State's duties to notify the voting public that a concurrent resolution was adopted by both houses of the legislature creating a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment at an upcoming election. The bill would repeal the requirement that the concurrent resolution be published weekly for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper in each county and replace the newspaper publications with a website notice and a press release provided to media outlets in each of the counties.

We support this legislation because of the expense of the three-time publication requirement. Depending on the length of the concurrent resolution, publication costs range from \$70,000 to more than \$300,000. In most cases the Legislature has appropriated funds to the Secretary of State to cover the publication costs. If such appropriations are not made, as was the case in 2010, it has a negative impact on the budget of the Secretary of State's office, which is fee funded.

Current law requires the concurrent resolution to be sent to each county election office to be available for public inspection and also to be posted at each polling place on election day. Also, under House Bill 2364, voters may obtain information about the resolutions by visiting a web site or by reading or hearing notices from local media outlets.

We have included with our testimony a chart indicating the anticipated publication costs of resolutions currently under consideration by the Kansas Legislature. These estimates are based on information provided by the Kansas Press Association.

Thank you for your consideration.