



2018 - 2019 Executive Board

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March 8, 2019

Honorable Kansas State Representative William Sutton
Chair, House, Elections Committee and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: Substitute for Senate Bill 130, relating to voter signatures on advance ballots

Chairman Sutton and Distinguished Committee Members,

I am the Harvey County Clerk and Election Officer and chair of the elections committee of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA). I am submitting this letter supporting Substitute for SB 130 on behalf of the KCCEOA membership. I thank you for your time in considering our opinions.

The KCCEOA prepared a legislative agenda which was developed through a policy committee process and agreed to by a majority of the members. One of the items specifically included is: "Advocating a change in the law which would allow voters to correct deficiencies in their advanced ballot signature line before the commencement of the final canvass".

We believe that this bill adequately addresses our concerns regarding the opportunity for voters to correct advance ballot signature deficiencies prior to the time of canvassing. This bill will clarify the actions to be taken by Election Officers for advance ballots with signature deficiencies. This bill corrects an issue that was not addressed when statutory changes were made a few years ago to allow the acceptance of advance ballots received by the Friday after an election; there was not a provision allowing for correcting signature issues on advance ballots received after the closing of the polls.

The KCCEOA supports SB 130, as passed by the Senate Committee of the Whole on February 27, 2019.

Sincerely,

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