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STATE OF KANSAS

House Committee on Local Government

Testimony on HB 2006

Bryan A. Caskey, Director of Elections
Kansas Secretary of State's office

January 24, 2017

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2006. This bill would create a special election to fill a vacancy created by increasing the number of county commissioners. Current law states when a county votes to increase the number of county commissioners, the Governor appoints the new members of the county commission. This bill would change the procedure and create a special election that must take place within 45 days of the County Board of Canvassers passing a resolution creating a special election.

The Secretary of State's office testimony is neutral. However, if the committee chooses to work this bill, we respectfully request changing the timing and procedure of the special election. The timing and procedure could more closely follow what is outlined when a special election is called to fill a vacancy in United States Representative. This would ensure that members of the military and overseas citizens would receive ballots at least 45 days prior to the election, and would allow the political parties (and independent candidates) a streamlined process to appear on the ballot. The Secretary of State's office is willing to work with the Revisor of Statutes office concerning these procedures.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning this bill.