

OFFICE  
ROOM 134-E  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-7376; (785) 296-0103/FAX  
David.Haley@senate.ks.gov

# STATE OF KANSAS



DISTRICT  
CIVIC CENTER STATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 171110  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66117  
(913) 321-3210; (913) 321-3110/FAX  
SenHaley@aol.com

SENATE CHAMBER

**DAVID B. HALEY**  
SENATOR  
DISTRICT 4  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

BEFORE THE SENATE ETHICS, ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE / January 23, 2020  
**RE: SB 260. Providing State Pay Cost Of Recount For Municipal Office In Certain Close Elections.**  
**SUPPORT**

Madame Chair and Fellow Members of the Elections, Ethics and Local Government Committee:  
Thank you for having a hearing on this proposed measure which simply speaks to equity in close vote margins (defined as "...1/2 of 1% or less of the total number of votes cast...") in a LOCAL election as we, in Kansas, CURRENTLY expect in any STATE or FEDERAL election.  
Beyond statutory clean-up language, all this bill just does is to add "municipalities" to the current list of automatic recounts, if timely requested, charged to the state and not to a candidate or candidate committee. Often, candidates cannot afford the currently required high cost, or bonds, at election's end. Anticipating "Neutral" (or even "Opposition" testimony disguised as the same) this, actually, rarely occurs at local level a (approximately 5 times annually) and the average time for hand recounts are minimal (often fewer than 2,000 total votes in question cast). Although a fiscal note was not available at drafting, I predict we may agree it will be a small amount to pay in a fair, equally accessible democracy. I hope this Committee passes SB 260 favorably, even perhaps on our consent calendar and will implore its placement on General Orders. I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Haley  
Ranking Member / Senate Elections, Ethics & Local Government