

February 23, 2021

TO: Representative Blake Carpenter, Chairman
Representative Emil Bergquist, Vice-Chair
Members of the Kansas House Elections Committee

FROM: Debbie Luper, Chair
Kansas Republican 4th Congressional District Committee

RE: Written Proponent Testimony in Support of House Bill 2326

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Elections Committee,

I write today in support of House Bill 2326 which would require reporting of certain information that is currently now easily collected on the Precinct Committee candidate filing form (see attachment).

The positions of precinct committeeman and committeewoman are elected, representative positions that require candidate filing and an election by ballot in biennial primary elections. Both Republican and Democrat precinct candidates are subject to the same process, and both political parties and their elected precinct committee people have a responsibility to effectually represent the members of their respective “districts” (precinct level, county central committee level, district committee level, and state committee level).

However, the current process makes no provision to require and provide useful contact information beyond mailing addresses of the elected precinct committeepersons in order to allow either party to properly contact these individuals for notifications of special conventions to replace elected officials (congressional seats, Kansas House and Senate positions, county positions, etc), caucuses, meetings, training and other important events and functions.

The current filing form (Form PD) from the Kansas Secretary of State’s Office entitled “Precinct Committeeman/Committeewoman Candidate’s Declaration of Intention” lists fields for Email Address, Home Phone Number, and Work Phone Number. However, these fields are not required to be completed, and even when they are completed voluntarily, some county clerks have refused to provide this information.

The number of precincts across the state and within congressional districts make it essentially impossible to effectively assemble this information if it is not provided, as it is for other elective positions. The result is that certain precincts do not have the benefit of adequate representation within the party structures because the party leadership and grassroots members have no way to easily contact their elected precinct committeeperson.

I respectfully request that the committee pass this bipartisan bill favorably out of committee.
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Debbie Luper, Chair
Kansas Republican 4th Congressional District Committee
Andover, KS