



Sedgwick County...
working for you

January 24, 2017

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 43.

I appeared before you two weeks ago regarding a necessary change to H.B. 2017. As you will recall, H.B. 2017 updated the state's election law related to special elections called to fill a vacancy in the United States House of Representatives. Due to time constraints, the Senate was unable to act on the proposed amendment.

S.B. 43 is basically that amendment in bill form. The legislation simply changes the official and required canvassing days in order to allow for other ballot issues to be included and canvassed at the same.

For example, if a school district schedules a bond vote or a city or county scheduled a tax vote for the same day as the special congressional election, current law would require two sets of polling place workers and two sets of voting machines per polling place. S.B. 43 would alleviate that requirement.

This legislation does not allow or disallow the aforementioned elections from occurring on the same day. That is totally within in the purview of the schools or local units of government based current election law. It simply allows for the official canvass of both elections to occur at the same time and thereby removes the need for multiple voting machines and multiple sets of election workers.

Thank you for your consideration and we would ask that the Committee report S.B. 43 favorable for passage.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins