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STATE OF KANSAS

Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Testimony on SB 78

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

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Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 78. This bill prohibits any county election officer from changing a voting place at least 30 days prior to an election, unless mailed notice is provided to the voter that are affected. The county election officer may declare an emergency, and waive the mailed notice requirement.

I appear as a proponent to this bill. Although, I believe notifications are currently provided in most situations, there is no legal requirement that a county election office must do so. In addition, this bill allows for the county election office to waive the requirement in the case of an emergency. This is a good part to the bill. There are times every election, where a polling place is made not available at the last minute. This can be due to natural disaster, an emergency situation, or decision by the owner of the location.

I do want to note, that failure to receive such notice should not give rise to challenging the results of the election.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, and I stand for any questions.