



# *Testimony*

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## **Senate Bill 229 Appointment of Elections Commissioner**

**Delivered February 13, 2018  
Senate Ethics and Elections Committee**

The Unified Government supports Senate Bill 229 which would allow the Unified Government Board of Commissioners to select and appoint the Wyandotte County Elections Commissioner.

101 out of 105 Kansas counties already have local control over the selection and appointment of their Elections Commissioners. There is no reason the four largest counties should be treated differently.

The Unified Government supports local control and Home Rule. Having the Secretary of State make the decision who will serve as Elections Commissioner in Wyandotte and the three other large counties, is in direct contradiction to local control.

But the issue is more than philosophical. There is a practical reason for this change. County Commissioners are ultimately responsible for the budgets and operations of the Elections Office. There is legislation working this session to clarify and codify that practice.

County Commissioners should have the say in who is hired to perform the job.

Your support of Senate Bill 229 is encouraged.