

**Osborne County Clerk
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February 14, 2019

Honorable Kansas State Senator Elaine Bowers
Chair, Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: Senate Bill 131, Concerning Election Filing Dates & Township Officer Oaths

Chairman Bowers and Distinguished Committee Members,

As Osborne County Clerk and Election Officer, I thank you for your time in allowing me to testify as a proponent of this bill.

This bill adequately addresses some issues that remained after statutory changes were made a few years ago affecting filing deadlines and oaths for elected officials.

Currently the filing deadline of September 1 for municipalities where a primary election is not authorized or otherwise required by law puts a burden on County Clerks and Election Officers to get ballots prepared for the November, General Elections. I believe changing the filing deadline from September 1, to the day before primary election would give us more time to prepare our ballots. By changing the filing deadline this would allow County Clerks and Election Officers to meet the requirement of transmitting ballots to military and overseas voters in a timelier manner.

The second part of this bill addresses when township officers shall take and subscribe the oath of office for the position they were elected to in the November general election.

I support passing SB No. 131 in its current form.

Sincerely,



Vienna Janis
Osborne County Clerk/Election Officer