February 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Bowers, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government
Statehouse, Room 223-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Bowers:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 131 by Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 131 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law requires a declaration of intent to be filed with the county election officer not later than 12 noon, September 1, prior to the general election in odd-numbered years in order to become a candidate in a municipality where a primary election is not authorized or otherwise required by law. SB 131 would change that deadline to the day before the primary election and include even-numbered years as well. Current law also requires that any person who is elected to the office of trustee, clerk or treasurer of a township or road overseer of a road district must take the oath of office prescribed by law within 20 days after being notified of having been elected. SB 131 would require that the person elected take the oath on the second Monday in January when the term of office begins. The bill would also make a number of technical corrections to existing law.

According to the Secretary of State, enactment of SB 131 would have a minor fiscal effect on the agency as it would need to update existing training materials. The agency indicates that any costs could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 131 is not reflected in The FY 2020 Governor’s Budget Report.

The Kansas Association of Counties reports that enactment of the bill could have a fiscal effect on Kansas counties because of printing and distribution costs of ballots. However, it is unable to estimate what that effect might amount to.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Campbell
Division of the Budget

cc: Jay Hall, Association of Counties
    Bryan Caskey, Office of the Secretary of State