



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612  
785-272-2585 • [www.kansascounties.org](http://www.kansascounties.org)

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
February 10, 2022  
SB 389

Kansas Association of Counties  
Neutral Testimony

Chairman Olson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer neutral testimony on SB 389, which would require the use of voter verified paper ballots with distinctive watermarks for elections, as well as provisions dealing with poll books and hand counting ballots in Kansas.

It should be noted that currently, 104 of the counties in Kansas already use voter verified paper ballots. The only county that does not is in the process of purchasing a new system, which the law already requires be voter verified paper ballots. That would make this portion of the bill moot.

Section 1(c) of the bill forbids the use of “poll books not requiring a hand-written signature...” This language is somewhat confusing because many poll books now are electronic, meaning the signature submitted by the voter is an electronic signature (i.e., not pen and paper, which is outdated). These electronic poll books still require the voter to sign.

The sections regarding hand counting of ballots, both for recounts and audits, are somewhat confusing. If this bill is to pass, the recount statutes will need to be amended to match the requirements of this bill.

KAC would encourage the committee to consider this information carefully before making any recommendation on this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jay Hall  
Deputy Director and General Counsel  
Kansas Association of Counties  
[hall@kansascounties.org](mailto:hall@kansascounties.org)  
(785)272-2585