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Written Testimony in Support of HB 2447
House Committee on Elections

Chair Proctor, Ranking Member Haskins, and Members of the House Committee on Elections,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Kansas Appleseed in support of HB 2447. Kansas Appleseed has a proud reputation for defending Kansans' right to vote and lowering barriers to participation. We believe that HB 2447 is aligned with this mission.

The provisions of HB 2447 would standardize the voter registration deadline for all types of elections—primaries, general elections, special elections, and presidential preference primaries—to 21 days before an election day.¹ Kansas Statute 25-2311 currently imposes two registration deadlines. For presidential preference primaries, Kansans must be registered 31 days prior to the election. Meanwhile, for the remaining types of elections, the registration deadline is 21 days.²

The uniformity in registration deadlines that HB 2447 prescribes would increase the number of days Kansans have to register before a presidential preference primary, which is associated with higher turnout, and provide relief to election administrators who'd no longer have to manage multiple registration time tables.³

Altogether, these changes would mitigate confusion among voters and election officials and result in a smoother democratic process during presidential preference primaries. For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2447.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Fonkert

¹ H.B. 2447, 2025 Biennium, 2026 Reg. Sess. (Kansas 2026).

https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/hb2447/

² K.S.A. 25-2311. https://ksrevisor.gov/statutes/chapters/ch25/025_023_0011.html

³ Pei, A. (2024, March 13). *Voter Registration and Voter Turnout*. Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy. <https://publications.lawschool.cornell.edu/jlpp/2024/03/13/voter-registration-and-voter-turnout/>