



## **Kansas Community College Testimony in Support of SB 299**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of SB 299. Appearance in person to offer oral testimony today was not possible due to a scheduling conflict. The Kansas Community Colleges support the clarification sought by SB 299. SB 299 makes it clear in statute that the position of a community college trustee is a local office holder. Additionally, this clarification will make it clear to people seeking the office of community college trustee that they must follow all campaign finance rules, regulations, and laws.

In talking with trustees across the state, at least some county election officials had already instructed trustee candidates that they were already governed by Kansas campaign finance rules, regulations, and laws. The trustee candidates were told they were already required to be filing these reports and they indicated they filed them as instructed. It appears that this may not have been a consistent statewide practice. Therefore SB 199 would provide clarification to make certain that everyone in the process understands that candidates for local community college boards of trustees should be following the statutory framework outlined, operate their campaign under the Kansas campaign finance regulations, and comply with filing the required reports.

The Kansas Association of Community College Trustees supports transparency in the election process and believes this statutory clarification will be a positive step to ensure transparency in campaigns and the election of local community college trustees. This will also ensure that a person seeking to run for the board of trustees understands up-front the requirements with which they will need to comply. Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB 199 and for helping make this clarification in statute. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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