

To: Senator Elaine Bowers and Members of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

From: Marge Ahrens, and Co-President, The League of Women Voters of Kansas

Re: HB 2333

Date: March 14, 2017

The League of Women Voters of Kansas supports HB 2333 in regard to election audits and the replacement of photographic election machines because they move to protect the equal access and integrity of the vote for all. We also support the extension of the deadline for canvassing after elections that would follow **random sampling of the ballots**.

Dr. Beth Clarkson's data analysis and survey following two elections in Sedgwick County raised questions about the accuracy of computerized voting machine tallies. We respect her work as do others in her field as an expert statistician. The vulnerability to "hacking" those types of machines which will be replaced soon in Sedgwick County has caused the League concern across the nation. For these reasons we strongly support HB 2333 that requires Kansas counties to **replace computerized machines with optical scan equipment** to record the paper ballot. Counties could keep a computerized voting machine where peoples with disabilities would find it more responsive to their needs.

We are aware of possible costs associated with an audit. In regard to election expenses for local and state governments we have these insights from our experience with the current vote in Kansas:

1. Local governments are expending considerable but as yet totaled amounts extra at a cost of \$5 per contact per citizen for thousands of Kansans who find the voter registration requirements of the Secure and Fair Elections (S.A.F.E. Act) too complex, time consuming and costly to meet. One county spent \$30,000 above budget because of the notification and other issues created by the S.A.F.E. Act.

2. Many thousands of state dollars are being spent to chase down what has turned out to be two handfuls of citizens double voting in a few elections in what is termed "voter fraud". High dollars cost is going into litigation by the State of Kansas to uphold what is simply bad law, as

determined by multiple courts at the state and federal level to date. Two Federal cases against the Secretary of State in regard to the S.A.F.E. ACT are still pending.

3. The Secretary of State's office has found itself in a complex tangle of multiple unmatched computer systems in order to verify compliance with Photo ID and Documentary Proof of Citizenship requirements of the law. The League has found citizens have fallen off the rolls completely, never been put on, and have missed out on registering when computer systems have broken down. Efforts to fulfill requirements of the law have cost large sums of money at the local level and state. Citizens have had to purchase ID's and birth certificates or lose the right to vote.

4. The S.A.F.E. Act has cost the vote and countless dollars for Kansans. We believe that elimination of the S.A.F.E. ACT could redirect precious local and state funds toward a much smaller cost to audit and verify that there has not been tampering with equipment. The requirement that all new voting equipment be verifiable on paper is an insurance policy protecting the sanctity of the vote against fraud for the future.