

To: Representative Esau and Members of the Kansas House Elections Committee

From: The League of Women Voters of Kansas Re: HB 2251 and HB 2333.

The League of Women Voters is here to support HB 2251 and HB 2333 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 has 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 this reason we strongly support that Kansas counties **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 expenses of local and state governments we have these insights from our experience with the current vote in Kansas:

Local governments are expending considerable as yet unquantified 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 (SAFE Act) too complex and time consuming and costly to meet. One county spent \$30,000 extra because of the notification and other issues created by the S.A.F.E. Act.

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 addition, this so called "voter fraud" is costing the state many thousands of dollars in litigation expenses that could be better spent on election audits.

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. Citizens have fallen off the rolls completely, never been put on, and have missed out on registering when computer systems have broken down. These efforts cost large sums of money, precious personnel time and in fact, the vote for many thousands of Kansans.

We believe that the election audits eliminate the suspicion and decrease the threat that there has been tampering with equipment, which is truly serious **fraud**. We hope that the expense associated with auditing is one that the state and local governments will be willing to pay.

**Marge Ahrens, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Kansas**

**2/13/2017**