

20 March 2018

**Peter Karman, Douglas County resident
House Bill 2604 Favorable Testimony
Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee**

Chair Bowers and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 2604, concerning the posting of precinct level election results. My name is Peter Karman, and I am a resident of Douglas County. Over the last 20 years, I have worked in the digital technology field, most recently serving a two year term within the federal government as part of its efforts to modernize government information services for the public. As part of my service, my team spent several months in partnership with the Department of Justice, improving how federal agencies implement the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). I have dedicated my entire career to building and advocating for open, secure technology standards that improve people's lives through better use of data.

During the last six months I have been researching precinct level election results for all federal and state races in the state of Kansas, a project that has been made more difficult since the Secretary of State stopped publishing those data on its website in 2014. By requiring the Secretary's office to publish those results, House Bill 2604 is a welcome step toward increasing the transparency of our electoral process.

The Secretary of State's elections office has made it clear that providing precinct level results in a perfectly consistent and uniform format poses a technical resource hardship because a few large counties have ballot processing machines that only produce PDF format. I accept that the perfect technical solution does not yet exist. Still, this bill does set a reasonable publication timeline of 30 days, for all federal, statewide and state-level offices, and I support it.

Thank you again for your willingness to consider requiring the Secretary of State's office to publish precinct level election results after each election. This bill will help Kansans build trust in their electoral process.