



Jim Howell
Commissioner – Fifth District
Board of County Commissioners
Sedgwick County, Kansas

February 17, 2022

Chairman Barker and members of the committee,

I usually spend a great deal of time analyzing election results. There are many reasons to do this (as you can imagine). Unfortunately, apparent progress has stopped my efforts. The elections results that used to be presented in a marginally acceptable format have evolved to an unusable format. The results are now in a graphically pleasing PDF but the data is nearly useless for any serious data analysis.

Transparency and accessibility are principles of good government. What used to be marginally acceptable is now needlessly complex. I understand that this has been a problem in other states as well. ES&S generates the reports but they have many options that can be set to make the data reports in many formats. To present the data in an inconsistent stylish graphical format makes a conversion burden my problem. To someone just perusing at the data, it may be fine. But for any serious analysis, that format is terrible.

Let me provide an example (See Example A). In Sedgwick County, the General Election in 2020 Election Results is a 2,782 page PDF. Pages 1 through 10 show the results for the first precinct. The last precinct results are on pages 2771 through 2781. Every precinct has some common races and some unique races.

There are no reasonable delimiters. If I want to pull precinct level data for the presidential race, this data starts on page 1. The last of that data is on page 2,771.

In 2019 and before, the results are presented by race showing totals. To access the details, the user can click into the race and see a complete list of precinct level results. This can be copied and pasted into a spreadsheet (or another analysis tool). (See example B & C).

Since we know the data can be reported in more usable formats, then they should be reported in more usable formats.

Please legislate this for transparency sake. Make this better for the people. It will help the people understand the election results more fully. Transparency matters. As is, election results have become needlessly complex as if someone at the top does not want people at the bottom to know what just happened.

I urge you to pass HB2565.

Jim Howell
Sedgwick County Commissioner

Precinct Summary Results Report
Sedgwick County, KS
November 3, 2020

EXAMPLE A

OFFICIAL RESULTS
2020 General Election

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STATISTICS

	TOTAL
Registered Voters - Total	1,863
Ballots Cast - Total	1,134
Voter Turnout - Total	60.87%

Electors for President / Vice President

Vote For 1

	TOTAL	VOTE %
DEM Joseph R Biden	601	53.19%
REP Donald J. Trump	488	43.19%
LIB Jo Jorgensen	33	2.92%
Write-In Totals	8	0.71%
Total Votes Cast	1,130	100.00%

For United States Senator

Vote For 1

	TOTAL	VOTE %
DEM Barbara Bollier	595	53.22%
REP Roger Marshall	458	40.97%
LIB Jason Buckley	64	5.72%
Write-In Totals	1	0.09%
Total Votes Cast	1,118	100.00%

County Commissioner 5th District

EXAMPLE B

Candidate	Party	Votes	Percent
Jim Howell 5th District	Republican	15,256	55.5%
Jim Skelton 5th District	Independent	12,114	44.0%
WRITE-IN 5th District	Nonpartisan	134	0.5%

53 of 53 precincts reported (100%)

Click into the race and see the following:

Overall Results

EXAMPLE C

Candidate	Party	Votes	Percent
Jim Howell 5th District	Republican	15256	55.5%
Jim Skelton 5th District	Independent	12114	44.0%
WRITE-IN 5th District	Nonpartisan	134	0.5%

Votes by Precinct

Precinct	Candidate	Votes	Percent
205 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	60	27.5%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	156	71.6%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	2	0.9%
206 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	94	37.3%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	154	61.1%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	4	1.6%
207 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	516	38.3%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	822	61.0%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	9	0.7%
208 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	139	50.4%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	136	49.3%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	1	0.4%
209 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	256	36.7%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	439	62.9%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	3	0.4%
210 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	338	41.0%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	460	58.3%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	6	0.7%
224 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	595	44.8%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	724	54.5%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	10	0.8%
225 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	625	45.1%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	755	54.4%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	7	0.5%
226 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	1045	60.8%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	663	38.6%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	10	0.6%
233 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	153	46.4%
	Jim Skelton 5th District	176	53.3%
	WRITE-IN 5th District	1	0.3%
239 5th District	Jim Howell 5th District	35	81.4%

Continues through all 53 precincts. This is just one race. Altogether, there are hundreds of races.