

**SCOTT SCHWAB**  
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor  
120 S.W. 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612-1594  
(785) 296-4564  
sos.kansas.gov

## STATE OF KANSAS

**Testimony: SB310 (NEUTRAL)**  
Senate Ethics, Elections & Local Government  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Chairwoman Bowers and members of the Committee:

SB310 would require all voting systems used for Kansas elections to have individual voter-verified paper ballots. Although our office is neutral on this legislation, we do have concerns with the impact SB310 could have on county budgets and local election officials.

The number of Kansas counties possessing election equipment without a verified paper trail has diminished. We expect it to further decline as many counties have initiated the process of purchasing new election equipment. In addition, the United States Congress appropriated funding in 2018 and 2019 to help states to improve election security. For Kansas alone, the funding, combined with the required state match exceeds \$8 million. In FY2020 our office has appropriated \$2 million and \$1.5 million in FY2021 for election security expenditures. For counties who do not have plans or the means to purchase this updated equipment we have the option to use the aforementioned HAVA funding to assist them with these purchases.

Election equipment is not cheap. Our office certifies what equipment can be used in Kansas but, being a local control state, counties are responsible for purchasing election equipment used in their respective jurisdictions. SB310 creates an unfunded mandate that requires counties to purchase equipment when it has not been provided for in their budgets. Equal concern exists in counties with verified paper trails that this legislation could deem their newly purchased equipment noncompliant with SB310.

We appreciate that this legislation is intended to help ensure the trustworthiness of Kansas elections. However, we do not believe technology requirements should be included in state statute. Changing state law is rightfully intended to be a thoughtful and cautious process. With the rapid development of technology, codifying technological requirements could result in Kansas being slow to keep up with these advances.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. We look forward to working with state and local elected officials to make sure Kansas counties have the equipment they need to execute secure and trustworthy elections throughout Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Koupal  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
Communications & Policy