



LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS  
of  
KANSAS

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

From: The League of Women Voters of Kansas, Cille King, Co-President

Re: HB 2333 - Supporting

Date: January 23, 2018

The League of Women Voters of Kansas supports HB 2333 in regard to election audits and the extension of the deadline for canvassing to accommodate random ballot audits. We also support banning electronic and electromechanical voting systems unless they provide a paper record of each vote cast and has the ability to be tested both before an election and prior to the date of canvass.

We suggest an addition to New Section 1. (b), so line 21 and 22 would read: ***one contested race for federal office, one contested race for Kansas legislative office, and for local elections, one contested race for local office.*** This would mean that our odd numbered year elections would also have an audit, not just audits in even numbered years.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas did provide testimony in 2017 for HB 2333. We mentioned the data analysis and survey following two elections in Sedgwick County that raised questions about the accuracy of computerized voting machine tallies. Random ballot audits will help assure citizens that their elections are secure and accurate.

American intelligence agencies report that the Russian government is trying to interfere in our elections. The Brennan Center for Justice states: "Strengthening election security is essential to protection our national security." We should be "replacing antiquated machines, upgrade the hardware and software that supports voter registration, and conduct post-election audits to confirm to the public that they can trust the results." (<https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/it-time-members-congress-step-and-protect-our-election>)

The League is aware of possible costs associated with an audit. Counties currently have expanded requirements in contacting new voters who don't meet Kansas' difficult requirements to register to vote. We know that one county has requested \$30,000 annually for those additional demands. If current voter registration requirements more closely followed the majority of state requirements, those resources could be used to audit election ballots.