

February 17, 2022

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Kansas House of Representatives
Kansas Capitol Complex
300 SW 10th St
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Written Proponent Testimony, House Bill 2565 (2022)

Chairman Barker, Vice Chair Arnberger, Ranking Member Ruiz and Honorable Members:

House Bill 2565 is simple and direct: provide precinct-level election results in a spreadsheet that can be sorted and filtered with the most common of household computing applications, like Google Sheets or Microsoft Excel.

Most chief election officials already make the precinct-level election results available in Excel or comma-separated value (CSV) file types. Unfortunately, there is a growing trend of counties in Kansas who post election results only in a portable document format (PDF), which is “mainly a human-readable format.”¹ Generally, those counties have adopted the ES&S DS450 Central Scanner & Tabulator.

We know, based on the State of California Use Procedures for the DS450 Central Scanner & Tabulator,² the DS450 technology is capable of exporting reports in a spreadsheet, specifically tabular text and comma-separated value files. Interestingly, in Kansas the PDF export is the only export currently available from the DS450.

In Sedgwick County, we adopted the ES&S DS450 Central Scanner & Tabulator in the 2020 Primary Election. The Sedgwick County DS450 currently outputs reports in a PDF only, which makes it impossible for election observers to conduct basic reconciliation of election results using common, household applications like *Microsoft Excel*. House Bill 2565 fixes that.

¹ “PDF is mainly a human readable format, concerned with layout and organization.” [A Primer on Machine Readability for Online Documents and Data](https://www.data.gov/developers/blog/primer-machine-readability-online-documents-and-data), Data.gov, Sept. 24, 2012 (available at <https://www.data.gov/developers/blog/primer-machine-readability-online-documents-and-data>) (last visited on February 15, 2022).

² EVS 6042 CA Election Management System, California Use Procedures, Election Systems & Software, LLC, Revision 1.1 July 2019 (available at <https://votingsystems.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vendors/ess/evs6042/ess-6042-proc.pdf>) (last visited on February 15, 2022).

Election observers in Sedgwick County have a proud history of working together, regardless of our parties, to ensure that our elections are safe, secure and trustworthy. For example, in this year's redistricting of County Commission districts, our Bipartisan Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee produced a single map by unanimous consensus, and the Board of County Commissioners likewise unanimously adopted that map without amendment. I am proud of that tradition.

House Bill 2565 represents an agreement among parties from all positions on the political spectrum that precinct-level election results should be made available in a common spreadsheet for the citizens of Kansas. Citizens are the best watchdogs of our democracy, but only if we empower them.

Respectfully Submitted,

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