

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
300 S.W. TENTH AVENUE
TOPEKA, KS 66612
(785) 296-7640
les.mason@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT OFFICE
108 ARCADIAN CT
McPHERSON, KS 67460
les.jogo@gmail.com

LES MASON
73RD DISTRICT

January 24, 2023

Representative Pat Proctor
Chair, House Elections Committee

Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for allowing me to appear in strong support of HB 2013. The reasons I requested introduction of this bill are outlined in the following paragraphs.

In the last three gubernatorial elections, a winner has been declared with the leading candidate earning less than 50% of the total vote, including 2014's winner Sam Brownback. It's my belief that the citizens of Kansas deserve to have the confidence that those who are leading, at the statewide level, have the support of the majority of Kansans. I, further, believe that the candidate winning with a majority of the vote could legitimately claim a mandate to govern. Conducting a runoff election between the top two vote getters would ensure that the eventual winner was supported by the majority of Kansans.

Additionally, during the most recent general election campaign, we saw a huge influx of "dark money" used to prop up a third-party candidate. Knowing that a runoff election would be a likely outcome of the general election, would most certainly render the "dark money" investment a moot point and wasted effort.

It's impossible to predict who would have prevailed in 2014, 2018, and 2022, had this bill already been law, but going forward, Kansans deserve to have their statewide leaders in office with the support of the majority. I would urge the committee to pass this bill out favorably to the full House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Les Mason".

Les Mason
Kansas House District 73