



## GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

<https://ethics.kansas.gov>

Neutral Testimony on HB 2576 -- Mark Skoglund, Executive Director

Wednesday, February 1, 2024

House Elections Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2576.

HB 2576 would provide a private cause of action against individuals for certain violations related to the statement of fair campaign practices or the use of synthetic media in particular ways. This private cause of action would not apply to anyone who did not file a Statement of Fair Campaign Practices. The bill also requires that the Commission place statements of fair campaign practice on the KGEC website that can be searched by name.

This testimony is solely intended to provide information that may be relevant to the discussion on HB 2576. It is not intended to be read as proponent or opponent testimony.

### **STATUS QUO**

Currently, Statements of Fair Campaign Practices (SFCP) are sent to all candidates when they appoint a treasurer. These filings are optional. There is no statutory obligation to complete and file the document.

In the 2022 election cycle, 30 House candidates of 254 total candidates (11.8%) completed and filed a SFCP.

In the 2020 election cycle, 51 House candidates of 258 total candidates (19.8%) completed and filed a SFCP. Also, 22 Senate candidates of 83 total candidates (26.5%) completed and filed a SFCP.