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STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony: Election Security
Joint Committee on Kansas Security
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Chairman Smith and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the Kansas Secretary of State to address topics concerning election security.

On January 6, 2017, Department of Homeland Security [DHS] Secretary Jeh Johnson designated election infrastructure as critical infrastructure, making it a priority within the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. This determination has allowed the addition of national, state and local resources to protect our election systems and processes. As we discuss election security, it is important to consider the security of both systems and processes to ensure we have the best possible security in place surrounding each election. Processes already codified in law like photo ID and signature verification help ensure every vote is cast securely. The following items highlight additional efforts by the Secretary of State's office to enhance election security in Kansas.

SECURITY OF VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM
Since the early stages of 2017, the vendor for the statewide voter registration system has partnered with DHS to enhance the security of the voter registration system. Securing this system is of upmost importance, and constant vigilance is maintained. In partnership with the vendor, the Secretary of State's office has installed industry leading security safeguards to access the system in each of the 105 counties. In addition, the Secretary of State's office works closely with DHS and the Kansas Fusion Center for ongoing security reviews. The Secretary of State's office is also working with the 105 county election offices to secure the local networks that are used to access the statewide voter registration system.

COUNTY TRAINING
Training and information sharing of cyber security threats is a continual challenge for state and local election officials. The Secretary of State's office provides ongoing election security training to each of the 105 counties, including training resources provided by DHS, trusted industry leaders and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). In 2020, in partnership with the Kansas National Guard, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Elections Security Initiative, the Secretary of State's office provided statewide election security training to all 105 county election offices. This effort will be continued in future election years.

FEDERAL AND STATE PARTNERS
The Secretary of State's office works with security partners at every level of government to ensure the most secure election environment possible, review existing frameworks, and explore new strategies and training opportunities. Upon taking office in 2019, Secretary Schwab became the first Kansas Secretary of State to obtain the necessary credentials to review classified briefings on threats to the election

community. Since that time, the office participates in regularly scheduled briefings with DHS, CISA, FBI and other members of the intelligence community concerning current and emerging cyber and criminal threats to election systems. The Secretary of State's office also works with the Kansas Fusion Center to analyze potential cyber threats against Secretary of State networks.

PERSONNEL
Prior to the 2020 election, the Secretary of State appointed an Election Security Specialist in the office to lead election security initiatives and educate county election officials on election security topics. This position has facilitated increased communication with counties' IT personnel, increased cyber security training statewide, and assisted counties with securing their election computers and networks against cyber-attacks. Raising the security posture of county computing environments leads to safer elections for the entire state of Kansas.

VOTING MACHINES
Securing voting machines are of utmost importance in the election security process. It has been a longstanding policy of the Secretary of State that no election machine or tabulator may be connected to the internet. The Secretary plans to introduce legislation which will codify this policy in the upcoming legislative session. Additionally, Kansas has multiple safeguards in place, both in state law and regulations, to ensure voting equipment is not subject to tampering or compromise. In Kansas, counties are responsible for purchasing the election equipment used in their respective jurisdictions. Before any voting system, voting software, or voting equipment is purchased or used by a county, it must be certified by the Kansas Secretary of State. The Secretary of State requires every type of voting equipment be certified at the national level through the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) before use in the state of Kansas. Computer-based election systems in Kansas are required to meet a minimum of three security factors including: audit data that can track the sequence of events of the system and identify the persons initiating the events; written, well-defined, and strictly enforced policies that control who accesses the system, under what circumstances they may access the system, and what functions they may perform on the system; and physical security measures in place to control and limit access to election equipment.

Election security is a marathon, not a sprint. The Secretary remains committed to enhancing election security processes and systems in Kansas. We appreciate the Committee's time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Bryan A. Caskey
Director of Elections
Kansas Secretary of State