

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7468
cyndi.howerton@house.ks.gov



1400 EAST 59TH CT. S
WICHITA, KANSAS 67216
cyndihowertonforkansas@gmail.com

CYNDI HOWERTON
98TH DISTRICT

RE: February 6, 2024 - hearing on HB 2603, establishing the citizens' election oversight board –
Proponent testimony

Chairman Proctor and Members of the Elections Committee:

HB2603 comes to you today as the result of conversations between many factions in our state. There are ideas in this bill from republicans, democrats, state and local agencies, election groups/associations and very concerned citizens.

When asked what problem this bill is trying to solve, my answer is this: HB2603 will 1) bring transparency to the process of reporting of election fraud while increasing voter confidence 2) define a process for hearing election fraud complaints and create a tracking/reporting system and 3) involve citizens in the process.

Currently, there is a process, but it is lacking transparency. I do believe that fraud complaints are taken very seriously in our state, but voter confidence is not high when it comes to election fraud truly being investigated and the process is unclear.

Hence, the idea for creating the Kansas Citizens' Election Oversight Board. There are several election oversight boards in our nation, but most all have power to prosecute and govern actual ethics of candidates running for office, along with some of the election processes. Our Citizens' Election Oversight Board will only look at the election process. This would be the first of its kind in our nation.

Citizens are the foundation of our election process. They work our polling sites, monitor voting, are involved in auditing and canvassing, and now with HB2603, they can participate in the process of keeping out elections secure.

I ask that you vote to pass HB2603 favorably for passage out of committee. Vote yes for creating more transparency of our election process, increasing voter confidence and defining the process for complaints of election fraud claims.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cyndi Howerton".

Rep. Cyndi Howerton