

# Kelly Arnold

## For Sedgwick County Clerk

11615 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St  
Wichita, KS 67212

February 16, 2015

Chairman Kahrs,

As a county-wide elected official who has been elected twice to a county-wide position, I strongly support the updating of campaign finance contribution law to increase the contribution limits. My county, Sedgwick County, has a population base of over half a million people. Within my county I have a voter base that incorporates 9 State Senate districts and 23 State House members. There are around 275,000 registered voters in the county. Laws governing campaign practices have made it very expensive to strategically reach voters with our message. Most of our budgets are spent on U.S. postal mail, radio and television. A typical mailing for a county-wide campaign will run over \$10,000 for one mailing. As a county-wide candidate I have to cover the same amount of voters that all 23 State House members combined will reach. If I had a combined contribution limit of all the State House members that are within my county at current contribution levels I would be able to collect \$11,500 per individual contributor. But at today's law I am treated as the same level of a State House member of \$500 and I cover the same amount of voters as 23 House Members.

With past Supreme Court rulings many interest groups have created PACs and 527s which create what is known as "dark money." If we want to move in a direction that supports more transparency we need make it easier for individuals and businesses to contribute directly to candidate's campaigns. Campaigns file a very transparent finance report. We can track and it is public record who is contributing, how much and most importantly how the funds are spent.

I ask you today to support HB2213 and bring current campaign contribution limits in line with today's dollar value, and help encourage a more transparent process.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Arnold', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kelly Arnold, Sedgwick County Clerk.