



Shawnee County Commissioner of Elections

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Testimony on HB 2543

Chairman Kahrs, and committee members:

I fully support the intent of this bill which I believe is to build public confidence in the results of our elections. With multi-party appointed boards doing the actual auditing there would be a built-in incentive for auditors to be cautious and certain about the work they are doing. If done as proposed with a public notice, any citizen would be welcome to see how the audit is conducted. Public confidence, once lost, can be difficult to regain, so I like the idea that we would be publicly demonstrating the accuracy of our election equipment and confidence in our processes with a public audit.

I have attached a spreadsheet of possible anticipated costs for Shawnee County to implement the bill.

Practical Considerations for Shawnee County:

1. Manual Audit of 1% of Precincts would probably require 3 separate precincts in Shawnee County.
2. A Manual District or Race Audit could take some time, but if the Secretary State's Rules and Regulation authority was maintained we think it could be made to work well. (Large differences among counties in manpower, space and equipment, size of precincts, budgets, length of ballots, other practical considerations, etc.)
3. We are moving to a new, all-paper voting system in Shawnee County that should help make auditing a quicker more streamlined process.
4. Will require some extra time in large counties for large elections since Provisional ballots are time consuming. We will probably need extra time to get ready for the Canvass. You may wish to consider adding optional extra days between election day, and Canvass as an option.
5. Publishing the time and location of the audit to the County website five days in advance is a cost effective and quick way for us to get the word out. I also find the website is heavily used as a way to verify election information.
6. I prefer 2017 as a launching point to give us time to implement and train for the extra steps, and I think it would help to give the Secretary the time to promulgate rules and regulations that would help ensure a workable set of options for various county challenges.

I would be happy to stand for any questions.