

**Written Testimony before Senate Elections and Local Government Committee
in Support of Senate Bill 78
by Carol Williams, Executive Director
January 29, 2015**

Senate Bill 78 is a recommendation made in the Governmental Ethics Commission's FY 2014 Annual Report and Recommendations.

This bill would require the treasurers for Senate and House of Representative candidates to file their campaign finance receipts and expenditures reports electronically with the Secretary of State. Under current law, it is optional whether a legislative candidate files a paper or electronic report. Statewide candidates have been required to file reports electronically since 2009.

The Commission believes the widespread use and availability of computers would not place a burden on treasurers to file the receipts and expenditures reports electronically. In the 2014 election cycle, 43% percent of house candidates and 42% of senate candidates filed electronically.

Electronically submitted reports are easier to read, the format is uniform, and addition errors do not occur which makes the comprehensive desk reviews of these reports easier to complete. Additional advantages are that candidates can input the campaign data at their convenience saving it until time for submission, the public has immediate access to the submitted reports, and the Commission would save on the printing and mailing costs of these reports.

The Commission urges your support and passage of SB 78.