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Committee on Local Government
HB2558

Good Afternoon. My name is John Anderson. I live in Prairie Village.

The idea of somehow restricting an individual seeking an elected office in America, with its Democratic form of government, from the opportunity to communicate his or her thoughts and feelings regarding various pertinent campaign issues is unfathomable. Whether such communications are from the media, group gatherings or from door-to-door gatherings should be irrelevant. A local government should not have the authority to override a well-known document born in 1791 called the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. The First Amendment clearly states that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech for every citizen. This is the essence of our democracy.

Section 1 states that no city or county shall regulate or prohibit canvassing, polling, soliciting or otherwise approaching private residences for the purpose of distributing campaign literature or campaigning for a candidate for an elected office. The Supreme Court has also made an exception for political candidates in the case of no solicitation signs.

I strongly urge the Committee to adopt HB2558. During your own personal campaigns, I am sure you would appreciate this same freedom.

Thank You.