

*PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **Elections**

Re: HB 2017 — update to special elections

**January 10, 2017**  
**Topeka, Kansas**

**Testimony provided by:**  
**Rob Hodgkinson**  
**Stilwell Kansas**

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Chairman Esau and members of the House Committee on Elections and Governmental Organization, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to share my opinion regarding this campaign finance law change.

My name is Rob Hodgkinson and I serve as Chair of Libertarian Party of Kansas. I am a fifth-generation Kansan, a small business owner and a resident of Stilwell.

I am here today to express my support for HR 2017, a bill to update the Kansas Special elections statutes.

The statutes in question have come to light due to the fact it has been 63 years since there was a special election in Kansas. The current statute is older than that.

This bill, HR 2107, as written, is now including all recognized political parties where the old statute did not. With this current wording the statute becomes compliant with federal election laws on special elections as I understand them.

The basis of this positive support is simply fairness and that fact that multiple courts have found that excluding any political party in a special election (no matter their size) is unconstitutional.

If the 2016 election showed us anything, it was that the people want more choices, not less on the ballot.

The Libertarian Party of Kansas has been a recognized political party since 1992, keeping ballot access every election since then. The Libertarian Party has had candidates in federal races continually and should be allowed to have candidates in all special elections.

By voting FOR this bill as is you will make a statement that you believe in a fair and equal playing field for all candidates!

I am open to all questions.

Thank you for your time.