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**STATE OF KANSAS**  
**Joint Committee on Kansas Security**

**Testimony on Election Security**

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to address topics concerning Election Security. Committee staff approached me with six different topics. I will briefly address each topic, as requested, and then I will spend the balance of my time answering your questions about these, or any other topics related to election security.

**VOTER REGISTRATION SECURITY**

The state of Kansas contracts with a private company, Election Systems and Software, to build, maintain, and support the statewide voter registration system [ELVIS]. This system has been in use in Kansas since January 1, 2006. The system has not experienced a breach or cyber-incident affecting voter registration data since the inception of the system.

ES&S partners with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to review various aspects of their operations. In addition, the Secretary of State's office partnered with DHS early in 2018 to conduct a comprehensive security review and analysis of election systems within the Secretary of State's office, including ELVIS. The Secretary of State's office has been working on a regular basis with the Kansas Fusion Center to identify and strengthen any weaknesses that may be identified with the voter registration system. These efforts continue today and will continue in 2019, 2020 and beyond. The security of this system is of utmost importance, and constant vigilance is maintained.

**SECURITY OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS**

The state of Kansas permits county election officers the option of using electronic poll books at each polling location in the state. The electronic poll books are not connected to the statewide voter registration system on Election Day. At the conclusion of each election, the information contained on the electronic poll books is uploaded into ELVIS by trained election staff in

counties that use electronic poll books. Currently, approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Kansas counties use electronic poll books on Election Day. The Secretary of State highly recommends every county that uses electronic poll books to print paper books and have them instantly available, if needed.

### **CYBER-SECURITY TRAINING FOR STATE AND LOCAL ELECTION STAFF**

Training and information sharing of cyber security threats is a continual challenge for state and local election officials. In 2018, the Secretary of State's office shared with all 105 county election offices free training resources provided by DHS, trusted industry leaders and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). In addition, the Secretary of State's office conducted weekly conference calls with election officials that contained cyber-security updates and threat information where appropriate.

These efforts will be expanded and updated in 2019 and 2020.

### **INTERSTATE CROSSCHECK SYSTEM**

Earlier this year, I made multiple presentations to legislative committees concerning the Interstate Crosscheck system. I can provide you copies of those presentations, if needed. In 2018, the Kansas Secretary of State's office conducted a comprehensive review of the data collection and data dissemination aspects of the interstate crosscheck program. As part of the review, the Secretary of State's office partnered with DHS to review those aspects of the program. Prior to the review, the Secretary of State's office began overhauling the data collection and data dissemination processes. Implementation of additional security features was not completed in 2018 prior to the beginning of primary elections in participating states. As a result, no data was collected or distributed in 2018. The program will be reviewed by Secretary of State-elect Scott Schwab before any announcement on 2019 occurs.

### **CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT**

Any voting machine manufacturer or vendor may request certification of voting equipment to the Secretary of State's office. The Secretary of State's office requires all equipment be certified by the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC) before it may be used in Kansas. Part of those requirements include a review by an independent testing authority (ITA) and compliance with anything that is revealed by the ITA. Once that is completed the Secretary of State reviews the equipment for compliance with Kansas law. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on whether to grant certification.

Each county is responsible for the purchase and maintenance of voting equipment in this state. After each election, the Secretary of State's office conducts an audit of every county to ensure all voting equipment hardware and software has been certified and approved for use.

## HAVA FUNDS

Kansas has received \$4,383,595 in federal HAVA funds [along with a state match of 5 percent] for a total of \$4,602,775. These dollars are earmarked for improvements in election security and must be spent in the next five years. The incoming Secretary of State will make the final decisions on how these funds will be spent. However, it has been recommended these dollars be spent on the following:

- 1] voting equipment – Ensuring every piece of voting equipment has a voter-verifiable paper audit trail by 2020,
- 2] implementation and training concerning post-election audits,
- 3] additional testing and implementing of security improvements to the statewide voter registration system,
- 4] providing training, and security resources, to local county election and IT personnel,
- 5] working with local election offices, DHS, KBI, and others to develop comprehensive security communications plans for all 105 counties.