

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LES MASON
73RD DISTRICT

January 25, 2024

Rep. Pat Proctor, Chair
House Committee on Elections
Kansas Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

Chairman Proctor, Vice-Chair Waggoner, and Ranking-member Woodard:

Please accept this letter of strong support for HB 2516. I have been concerned about this issue for quite some time. So much so, that I requested introduction of HB 2013 last year. As you may recall, there were logistical issues with the way that bill was written.

HB 2516 is a much more elegant and simple solution to the problem as I see it, namely, that in recent state-wide elections, third party candidates have been relegated to the role of "spoiler". In each of our three most recent gubernatorial elections, as examples, the declared winner did not garner a majority of the popular vote. I still contend that Kansans deserve someone in high office whom the majority of the voters supported.

This is not an attempt to prevent third party candidates from running. In reality, it is an attempt to assure that those running are serious and credible candidates. The previous threshold of 5,000 signatures would represent .26% (roughly ¼ of 1%) of registered voters. Moving that threshold to 25,000 registered voters would represent 1.3%. A serious and credible candidate should be able to collect that number.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I would ask that your committee recommend it favorably for passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Les Mason", written over a white background.

Les Mason
Kansas House District 73