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STATE OF KANSAS

Chairwoman Bowers and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of the online campaign finance report filing system maintained by the Secretary of State's office. Following the January 26 committee hearing, and review and discussion with the Elections and Information Technology divisions within the Secretary of State's office, our office has compiled responses to the following inquiries:

Regarding the description of dates for the respective report, can the year correlate to the report being filed?

Yes. This is a relatively easy change that can take immediate effect.

Can the ending balance of a previously filed campaign finance report appear as the new starting balance for the next report filed? Making this adjustment is more complicated than it may initially appear. The accuracy of amendments, incomplete filings, or filings in process, may lead to errors. Before this change to the process, our office would need to review the different ways to report the correct ending balance to ensure we do not create unintended confusion.

The order of the address when tabbing is not intuitive. Can a new format be created? Although the order an address is entered could be more intuitive, our office notes that a change to the current format would have an impact on the programmers of the commercial software that upload into the system. This would require learning a new layout and modifications to existing software. At this time, we are unable to offer a timeframe for completion.

The user identification number is too long, and a new number is required each year.

Updates to the current user identification and password system is a priority for our office. While the user ID cannot be changed, the password can be set by the user at any time after logging in. Unless the user is registering for a new account rather than using the previously created account, the user ID should not change from year to year.

When will the ability to enter material for the year 2022 be available?

The reporting period for 2022 has been added to the system and is available for use.

Can updates be made to address cache memory issues?

It is not uncommon for the user's browser to cache usernames or other data previously entered. This is not related to the filing system, and our office is not able to clear this cached data.

Moving forward, our office is open to constructing a working group to receive and share input, offer training and tutorials, and coordinate adjustments to the software. It is a priority of our office to make significant upgrades to the system within next few years, and we look forward to working alongside stakeholders to improve the user's experience.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. Our office stands ready to answer questions or provide information at the appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted,

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