



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS**

House Judiciary Committee

Re: 2013 HB 2102

The Kansas League of Women Voters strongly supports 2012 HB 2102, which would extend the Kansas Commission on Judicial Performance through 2017, as well as fund the Commission at a lower level than initially funded.

The League supports this process to evaluate Kansas judges and justices for the reasons expressed by the Legislature when the Commission was first enacted in 2006:

1. To improve the judicial performance of individual judges and justices and thereby improve the judiciary as a whole;
2. Where judges and justices are subject to retention elections, to disseminate the results from the judicial performance evaluation process to enable voters to make informed decisions about continuing judges and justices in office; and
3. To protect judicial independence while promoting public accountability of the judiciary.

The League agrees with the Commission that its functions may be responsibly performed by eliminating surveys of most non-attorneys and raising the score by which a judge or justice would earn a retention recommendation.

The Kansas League of Women Voters thus urges this committee to favorably pass 2013 HB 2102 out of committee.

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