



Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, members of the State and Local Government Committee -- thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 107.

Ohio law currently prohibits some local candidates from submitting their campaign finance reports electronically. This bill will enhance campaign finance transparency by finally allowing local candidates to submit their finance reports electronically and be hosted in an easily searchable format on the Secretary of State's website.

This is not a new issue to come before the legislature. As you may recall, this issue appeared in one of my bills, Senate Bill 44, where the Senate passed it unanimously. It later went to the House where it passed out of committee unanimously.

In 1999, the General Assembly modernized the campaign finance reporting system by bringing it online. This change prompted greater transparency for the people of Ohio and made it easier for candidates for state office to file their reports.

But today Ohioans have no way to easily search the campaign finance information of their local candidates. The time is now to change this antiquated system. Not only does this reform improve transparency, it also reduces the unnecessary and burdensome paperwork of our local boards of elections.

Senate Bill 107 is a step in the right direction. But that doesn't mean it can't be improved. As local candidates become more familiar with this new process, I believe it should be required that their campaign finance reports be posted online.

At the end of the day, voters deserve the opportunity to be fully informed when they make their voice heard in each and every election. This bill will go a long way in making sure that happens.

Thank you Senator Rulli for taking up this important issue. I also want to thank again the members of the committee for considering this vital legislation.

Yours in service,

Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State.