

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mitch Holmes at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau – Excused

Senator Garrett Love – Excused

Senator Kay Wolf – Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department

Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Donola Fairbanks, Substitute Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

Chairman Holmes gave a presentation on the Interim Committee's study regarding the feasibility of moving local city, county, and school district elections to coincide with the November elections to members of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee and the House Elections Committee.

The Pros and Cons of Even year elections and the Pros and Cons of Odd year elections were conferred. He shared information that the Interim Committee received in presentations by the following: National Conference of State Legislatures; Presidential Commission on Election Administration/Maricopa County -Tammy Patrick; League of Kansas Municipalities; Secretary of State Kris Kobach; E S& S Corporation, an election equipment vendor; Two Panel Discussions from Nebraska and Utah involving multiple County Clerks and State Level Election Officer; Three Kansas Election Officials - Brian Newby of Johnson County, Jamie Shew of Douglas County and Sarah Rains of Hodgeman County, and Sarah Anzia, Ph.D. - author of "Timing and Turnout: How Off-Cycle Elections Favor Organized Groups". She wrote an article after the unrest in Ferguson, MO discussing the diversity of voter participation when city elections are held separate from the state and national elections. ([Attachment 1](#))

The Chairman said the Interim Committee Report would soon be ready. He also noted that a bill was being drafted based on information presented.

Chairman Holmes stood for questions. Discussion followed.

The next meeting will be February 4, 2015.

Chairman Holmes adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.