

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mitch Holmes at 9:40am on Wednesday, February 04, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Darla Conner, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dennis Wilson, Larned City Council
Jeff Taylor, Pratt City Commissioner
Larry Alley, Former Member USD 396 School Board
Joy Eakins, Member USD 259 School Board
Dr. Walt Chappell, Former Member of the State Board of Education
Clay Barker, Executive Director Kansas Republican Party
Jim Howell, Sedgwick County Commissioner
Gary Yost, Member USD 403 School Board
Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent USD 208

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB26 — Campaign finance; use of campaign contributions for certain expenses of spouses.

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB26**. An overview of the bill was given by Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

Carol Williams, Executive Director of the Governmental Ethics Commission appeared before the committee in a neutral position on **SB26**. ([Attachment 1](#)) Her testimony was to clarify what the bill does not do. If the intent of the bill was to permit a candidate to use campaign funds for a spouse's travel and lodging, it would have to be amended to do so. Senator Wolf made a request for staff to research if it was common place with other states to have certain travel expenses covered for spouses. Discussion followed. The hearing was closed on **SB26**.

Hearing on: SB10 — Cities; filling vacancies in governing body.

The hearing on **SB10** was opened. Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statues, gave an overview of **SB10**.

Senator David Haley appeared before the committee in support of **SB10**. ([Attachment 2](#)) Senator Haley

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Ethics and Elections at 9:40am on Wednesday, February 04, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

introduced this bill to make sure that there is a timely filling of an elected municipal office vacancy. Senator Haley stood for questions.

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, appeared before the committee in opposition to **SB10**. ([Attachment 3](#)) He stated that this bill proposes a State mandated solution that will affect every City and County because of an isolated situation in one City. Director Taylor stood for questions from the Committee. Discussion followed.

Katie Killen, Assistant City Manager of the City of Shawnee, submitted written testimony in opposition to **SB10**. ([Attachment 4](#)) Eric B. Smith, Legal Counsel for League of Kansas Municipalities, submitted written testimony in opposition to **SB10**. ([Attachment 5](#))

Hearing closed on **SB10**.

Hearing on: SB41 — Uniformed and overseas citizens absentee voting act; out of state college students.

The hearing on **SB41** will be heard at the committee meeting on February 5, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.