

Approved

RH February 2, 1984  
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Richard L. Harper at  
Chairperson

10:00 a.m./p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 1984 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Moomaw, excused

Committee staff present: Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department  
Arden Ensley, Revisor  
Eric Rucker, Secretary of State's Office  
Dottie Musselman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Polson  
Larry Scheller, President of the County Clerks Ass'n.  
Gayle Landoll, Marshall County Clerk, Marysville, Kansas  
Otto Dienstbier, Jackson County Democrat Party Chairman  
George Beaver, Chase County

Chairperson Harper called the Elections Committee meeting to order, and this being County Government Day, welcomed the visiting county officials to the meeting.

On the agenda for a hearing today was HB 2774, An Act relating to political parties; concerning precinct committeemen and committeewomen; amending K.S.A. 25-3801 and repealing the existing section.

Chairperson Harper called upon Representative Polson, one of the co-sponsors of HB 2774, to explain his bill to the members of the Elections Committee. Attention was called to the information which was supplied to the committee last year regarding ballot costs per certain counties. Reference was made to the variation of printing costs in different counties. Representative Polson recognized Gayle Landoll of Marshall County. Ms. Landoll appeared before the committee in support of HB 2774.

At this time, Chairperson Harper recognized Larry Scheller, President of the County Clerks Association, Leavenworth County. Mr. Scheller called attention to the saving of money by taxpayers if this bill would be passed.

Otto Dienstbier, Jackson County Democrat Chairman, was next to take the floor to testify on HB 2774. Mr. Dienstbier commended the authors of this bill, and stated that he supports passage of this act.

George Beaver, Chase County, appeared before the committee stating that Chase County supports HB 2774.

It was noted by Chairperson Harper that a fiscal note on HB 2774 had been passed to the members of the Committee, along with copies of letters received from county officials regarding this bill. (Attachment 1)

A motion was made by Representative Justice to approve the minutes of the January 26 meeting. Seconded by Representative Guldner. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

DATE Jan 2, 1984

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

GUEST LIST

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Gladye Meek	Lyon, Rice Co.	Register of Deeds
Mary Bolton	" " "	County Election Officer
Katy Smith	Gerry Co.	Register of Deeds
Margorie Davis	Gerry Co.	Co. Clerk & Election Officer
Morris Byrd, Jr	Gerry County	Gerry County
George J. Beaver	Chase "	Co. Comm. Chairman
Jaye Pittenger	Pottawatomie	County Treasurer
Janita Chilcott	Pottawatomie	Co. Clerk & Election Officer
Ed Kule	Lydia	Secretary of State
Jean Busker	Allen Co. Iowa	Co. Clerk
Ray E. Schiller	Leavenworth Co.	"
Dollie Scheller	Leavenworth Co	Co. Commissioner
Jocanna Ameycutt	Sedgewick City	Sedgewick City Public Affairs
Kanda Cader	Riley County	Co. Clerk
Shirley Gerhard	Judson Co	Co. Commissioner
Roger Crowder	Jackson Co.	Comm
W. E. Stambler	Jackson Co	"
Shirley Mackender	Clay Co.	Co. Clerk
Dorothy Mae Kaiser	Dickinson	Co. Clerk / Election Officer
Gladye Jones	Dickinson	Co. Treas.
Linda Jones	Dickinson County	Register of Deeds
Marilyn Galt	Franklin County	Co. Treasurer
Laura Sutton	" "	Co. Clerk
Charles Mavity	" "	Co. Comm
Charles A. Clark	OTTAWA	Franklin County
Wayle Landoll	Marysville	Marshall County Clerk



(Attachments)

436	2774
Fiscal Note	Bill No.
1984 Session	
January 27, 1984	

The Honorable Richard L. Harper, Chairperson  
Committee on Elections  
House of Representatives  
Third Floor, Statehouse

Dear Representative Harper:

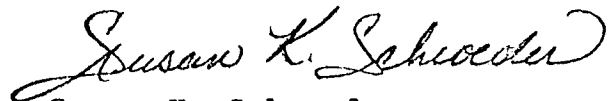
SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for House Bill No. 2774 by  
Representatives Polson, Apt, Arbuthnot, and others

In accordance with K.S.A. 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning House Bill No. 2774 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

House Bill No. 2774 amends K.S.A. 25-3801 concerning the election of precinct committeemen and committeewomen.

Under House Bill No. 2774 counties having a population of not more than 100,000 would at the primary election in 1984 and at the primary election held in each fourth year thereafter elect precinct committeemen and women for each precinct in the county. The bill also provides that at each primary election held in even number of years in counties having a population of more than 100,000 (Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Wyandotte) precinct committeemen and women would be elected at that time. Currently all counties must elect precinct committeemen and women every two years.

According to the Secretary of State's office, substantial savings will be realized in elections held by counties with populations under 100,000 with the enactment of House Bill No. 2774. However, the specific amount of savings for these savings is undeterminable.



Susan K. Schroeder  
Budget Analyst  
For the Director of the Budget

SKS:sr

Atch. 1

The Honorable Richard L. Harper, Chairperson  
Committee on Elections  
House of Representatives  
Third Floor, Statehouse

Dear Representative Harper:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for House Bill No. 2716 by the  
Committee on Elections

In accordance with K.S.A. 76-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning House Bill No. 2716 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

House Bill No. 2716 would amend the mail ballot election act by repealing the section establishing a December 31, 1985 expiration date. The mail ballot election act would thus become a permanent part of the Kansas statutes.

While there is no impact upon the state, local county or special taxing subdivisions would be affected. Since the mail ballot election act took effect on July 1, 1983, there have been three elections. The turnout in the mail ballot elections averaged 78.7% compared to 30.7% for the previous special election. Subsequently, while the total cost of the elections increased, the cost per vote showed a substantial decrease. There is no reliable estimate of the fiscal impact upon all the local subdivisions, however.

*Ed Mullins*

Ed Mullins  
Budget Analyst  
For the Director of the Budget

EM:dj

STATE OF KANSAS

ROY M EHRlich  
SENATOR, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT  
RICE BARTON RUSSELL COUNTIES  
ROUTE 1, BOX 92  
HOISINGTON, KANSAS 67544



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER  
January 30, 1984

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
VICE CHAIRMAN PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
MEMBER ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION  
LABOR INDUSTRY AND TOURISM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SPECIAL SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE  
OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT ON AGING  
COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
ENERGY COMMITTEE

Richard L. Harper, Chairman  
Elections Committee  
House of Representatives  
Topeka, KS 66601

Dear Richard:

Hearings will be held in your committee on HB 2774.

My county clerks in Rice, Russell and Barton Counties  
are very much in favor of this bill and urge favorable  
action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Roy M. Ehrlich'. The signature is stylized and written over the typed name below it.

ROY M. Ehrlich  
Senator  
Thirty-Fifth District

RME:cw

# *Johnson County Election Office*

P.O. BOX 460

135 SOUTH FIR ST.

OLATHE, KANSAS 66061

January 31, 1984

Statement Regarding House Bill 2774

Submitted by: E. Lee Alt  
Election Commissioner  
Johnson County, Kansas

At the onset of this statement, I wish to say that I may offer a slightly different view regarding this bill than the other 104 election officers of the state. It is perhaps more of a philosophical rather than a practical view.

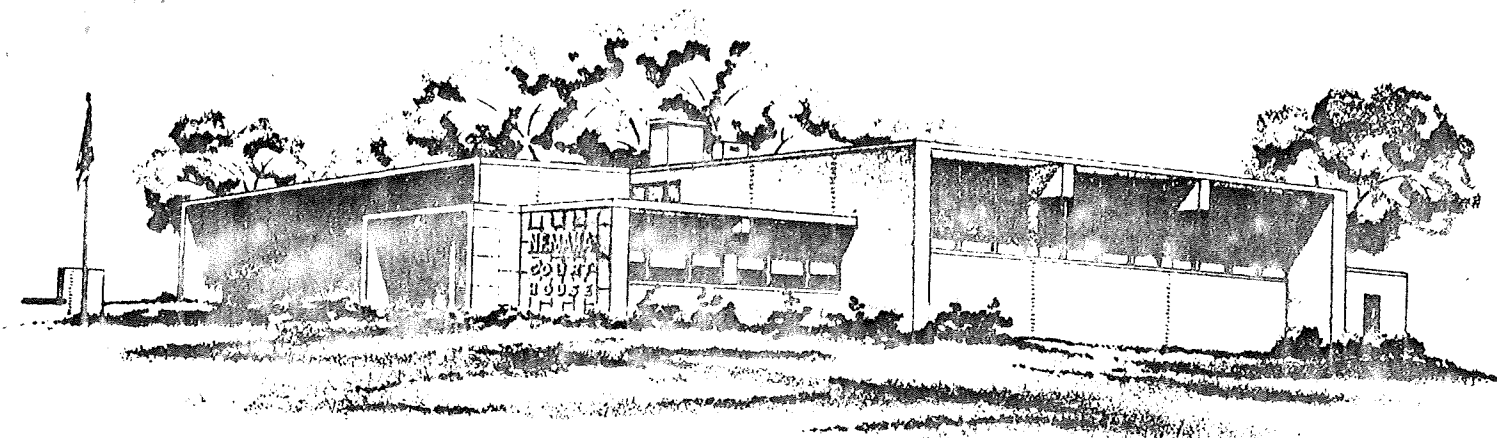
Our nation is based upon the two-party system and will only continue to be a free country with the existence of that two-party system. Geographically, we are divided into districts of various sizes. The least of these is the precinct boundary where we have both the Republican and Democrat party represented by two people from each party called committeepersons. Who, better than these party representatives, can reach the person next door or around the corner to inform them of current issues.

Understanding that the basis of our government lies within the two party system - which is based upon elective offices - how else should these representatives be chosen?

There is additional work and cost on the part of the county election officer to present these names for the elective process every two years. These additional work loads and costs do not outweigh the importance of the precinct voters making a choice at the local level for their party representatives.

The question in point, is "how often should these representatives be chosen?". Since the 1982 election of committeepersons in Johnson County, 166 new appointments have been made to the central committees. Fifty of these are results of resignations, moving and death. With the social-economic background of our state and the inevitableness of illness and death, four years is too long to expect persons to serve as the representatives of their precinct. Yes, appointments to fill these positions are possible, but how much better to have these representatives chosen through election by their peers.

As House Bill 2774 is now presented, it will not affect my county, but the possibility of changes to include the larger counties exists and the over-all impact of the bill is retrogression. I ask that you include my view in your consideration of this bill.



**NEMAHA COUNTY**  
SENECA, KANSAS  
66538

January 26, 1984

**ALVIN BAUMAN**  
COUNTY CLERK

**PATRICIA C. BENTSEN**  
COUNTY CLERK, DEPUTY

Hon. Richard Harper  
State Representative 11th Dist.  
State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: House Bill 2774

Dear Rep. Harper:

As Nemaha County Election Officer, I'm asking for your committee to give serious consideration to passage of House Bill 2774.

Since all other county officers are on four year terms, by keeping committeemen and committeewomen to two year terms creates a lot more unnecessary expense to the taxpayers.

I will try to clarify what I'm reporting. I had my Deputy, Bonnie McKee, check into the cost of change over for the last primary election of which was for committeeman and committeewoman only or that was the only candidates on the ballot. For Nemaha County, the additional cost was approx. \$850.00

We can see no justification for keeping the committeemen and committeewomen on two year terms.

Sincerely,

*Alvin Bauman*

Alvin Bauman, Election Officer

cc: Hon. Lloyd Polson

Bonnie McKee, Deputy



WAYNE B. GIBSON, JR.

Clerk

Office Phone:

Area Code 316 244-3293

OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK

NEOSHO COUNTY

Erie, Kansas 66733

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wm. F. Richman

Joe L. Harper

Don Edwards

Meet Friday

January 27, 1984

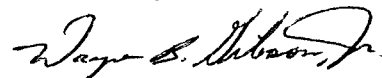
Honorable Richard Harper  
State Representative  
State Capital  
Topeka, Kansas, 66612

Dear Honorable Richard Harper:

I would like to suggest that you approve the 4-year term for Committeemen and Committeewomen.

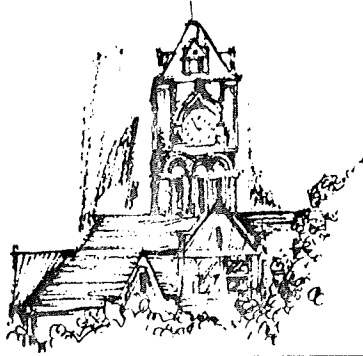
The way the law is now when the State candidates run for office, we have to have a separate ballot for precinct Committeemen and precinct Committeewomen which is extra county expense for the taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Wayne B. Gibson, Jr.  
Neosho County Clerk  
Erie, Kansas 66733

Courthouse  
Phone 257-2232



*County Clerk*

R I C E C O U N T Y C O U R T H O U S E

# RICE COUNTY

LYONS, KANSAS 67554

January 26, 1984

Representative Richard L. Harper  
Chairman, Elections Committee  
Room 175-W State Capitol Building  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Representative Harper and Members of the Elections Committee;

This letter is to ask for your support of HB 2774 regarding four-year terms for precinct committeemen and women.

Most of the active party representatives who file for these jobs do so on a repeat basis, so the four-year term would not be unusual for them. In the small townships where there are no filings and no county commissioner is being elected i.e. the year when the governor and other state officers are elected but Commissioners from Districts Two and Three are not, it would save the expense of providing blank ballots to those townships. This tends to confuse the average voter and does not usually result in the election of anyone in those areas.

Please give this bill your careful consideration. Your attention and assistance will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mary Bolton  
Rice County Clerk & Election Officer

CC: Senator Roy Ehrlich  
Representative LeRoy Fry

# COUNTY OF ALLEN

Courthouse

IOLA, KANSAS 66749

Office of: ALLEN COUNTY CLERK

(316) 365-7491

January 27, 1984

Honorable Richard Harper  
House Chamber, Third Floor  
State Capitol  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: HOUSE BILL 2774

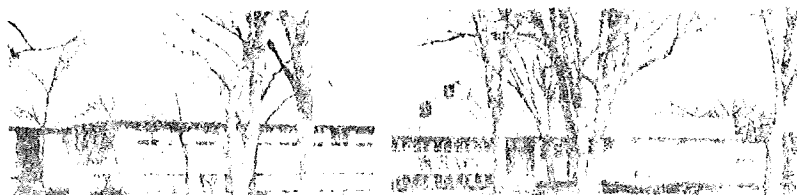
Dear Representative Harper:

I am writing you with regard to HB-2774 which proposes four-year terms for precinct committeemen and precinct committeewomen.

The following information is presented in support of this legislation.

Allen County has 21 voting precincts. A total of 84 positions for committeemen and committeewomen are filled by election every two years. Since 1976, when county officials were first elected to four-year terms, in the years when only one county commissioner is elected on the county ballot, 12 of the 21 precincts have only the offices of precinct committeeman and committeewoman on the county-party ballot. Of those 12 voting precincts electing a total of 48 party representatives, 10 positions were not filed for in 1978 and 11 positions were not filed for in 1982. In some of the smaller precincts, the entire county-party ballot had no name on it, merely blank lines for write-in candidates.

A comparison of the offices filled by filing and those not filed for was made. In 1974, the percentage of precinct offices not filed was 45%; in 1976, the percentage was 51%; in 1978, the percentage was 55%; in 1980, the percentage was 57%; and in 1982, 27% of the party offices were not filled by people filing for the offices. In those instances, if the write-in votes were not sufficient to elect, the party chairman filled the vacancies by appointment.



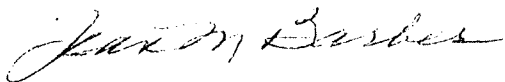
Honorable Richard Harper  
House Chamber, Third Floor  
State Capitol  
Topeka, KS 66612

Page 2.

In only two instances in the last 8 years has there been any opposition for the office of precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman. We find in most cases that the same people file for the office every 2 years or, having not filed, are appointed by the party.

As Allen County Election Officer, I feel that HB-2774 should be approved and urge that it be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean M. Barber  
ALLEN COUNTY CLERK/ELECTION OFFICER

j

**WILMA WILLIAMS**  
DONIPHAN COUNTY CLERK  
TROY, KANSAS 66087

January 27, 1984

Representative Richard Harper  
House Chamber, Third Floor  
Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Harper:

In regards to House Bill Number 2050, I am in favor of the term of office for the Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman being four years.

This would save the counties money and the election officer time.

Please consider the above when casting your vote.

Sincerely,

*Wilma Williams*

Wilma Williams  
Doniphan County Clerk and  
Election Officer

Office of  
**THE COUNTY CLERK**

LABETTE COUNTY, KANSAS

OSWEGO, KANSAS 67356

316/795-2138

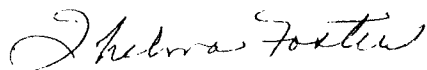
January 27, 1984

Richard Harper  
Chairman of House Election Committee  
State Capital Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Sir:

I had a call that the Election Committee will amend House Bill No. 2050 to read a precinct committeeman or committeewoman to be elected for 4 years at the primary election regardless of population. I am sure in favor of this.

Sincerely,



Thelma Foster  
Labette County Clerk

BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

CHARLES W. MAVITY, JR.  
Ottawa - First District  
ROY E. SWANK  
Ottawa - Second District  
ROGER KEITH  
Ottawa - Third District

LAURA SUTTON  
FRANKLIN COUNTY CLERK  
OTTAWA, KANSAS 66067

Phone  
913-242-1471

January 26, 1984

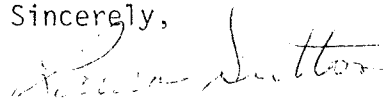
RE: H.B. 2050

I would like to state my views on H.B. 2050. I am in favor of a four year term for precinct committeemen and women, it should coincide with the county offices. I feel a two year term does not give them much of a chance to get involved before it is time to file again.

In precinct committeemen and women, we have an office where there is no filing fee and no salary. In Franklin County many of our precincts do not have filings from both parties which results in many blank ballots. I feel we are not spending the tax payers money wisely.

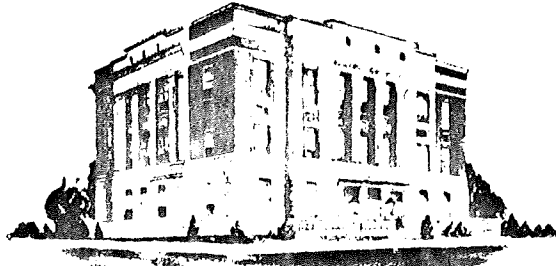
I have discussed this with my party chairmans and they both favor H.B. 2050.

Sincerely,



Franklin County Clerk

# NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS



NORTON, KANSAS

January 20, 1984

RE: H.B. 2050 Precinct Committeemen and Women 4 year term

I would like to re-state my views on H.B. 2050, since the bill did not get out of committee last year. I have contacted bothe County Chairmen and they both endorse the 4 year term for precinct committeemen and women.

Since there is no filing fee and no salary, if there is anyone running for the position, it is generally the same people. In my county there are very few that will file for the office, therefore the Central Committee have to appoint someone. It is hopeful if H.B. 2050 would be passed that we would have a better chance of getting more names on the ballots.

Another aspect of this bill, is the cost of having ballots printed the election where there are no other offices being filled. It seems a waste of taxpayers money to have this extra expense. By electing precinct people to 4 year terms in 1984 (and thereafter), there should be no extra expense, since every voter will get a county ballot in 1984, and precinct people would be added to the bottom of the county ballot.

Thank you for letting me give you my views on H.B. 2050. Your support on this bill will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Shearer  
County Clerk





**JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS**

**HOLTON, KANSAS 66436**

**HENRY GERHARDT, WHITING**  
FIRST DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

**ROGER S. COVERDALE, HOLTON**  
SECOND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

**OTTO E. DIENSTBIER, HOYT**  
THIRD DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF:

**EDNA BROCK**

**COUNTY CLERK/ELECTION OFFICER**

PHONE 364-2891 or 2826

January 18, 1984

Representative Richard Harper  
Chairman Elections Committee  
Capitol Building, 175 W  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: 1983 House Bill 2050  
Terms of Precinct  
Committeemen & Women

Dear Sir:

We, Democratic Party Chairman Otto E. Dienstbier, Hoyt, Republican Party Chairman Ansel B. Searles, Holton and myself solicit your support in changing the term of office for precinct committee persons from two (2) year terms to four (4) year.

Both Chairmen advised it would be most helpful to them if the terms were lengthened.

Respectfully,

*Edna Brock*  
(Mrs.) Edna Brock  
Jackson County Clerk

cc: Senator Francis Gordon  
Representative Don Sallee  
Representative Marvin Smith  
Representative Richard E. Eckert

Senator Ronald Hein  
Chairman Elections Committee

OFFICE OF  
COUNTY CLERK, ATCHISON COUNTY

PAULINE M. LEE  
County Clerk

Phone: 367-1653  
ATCHISON, KANSAS 66002

MARYAN MOYER  
Deputy

January 25, 1984

Representative Richard Harper  
Chairman of the House Election Committee  
Room 175W  
State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Harper:

I am writing to you concerning a 1983 Bill, H.B. 2050 which is under a new number this year on precinct committeemen and Committeewomen to be elected for a four (4) year term instead of two (2) year terms. I have discussed this with the democratic party chairman and the former republican chairman and they both are in favor of this bill.

As a county election officer I feel that the taxpayers money is wasted. In 1982 3/4 of our precincts did not have any county ballots, just precinct ballots and alot of these ballots were with two blank lines. At the time for filing precinct people do not have to pay a filing fee .

I feel a four year term is a good idea starting in 1984 since the voters will be voting on all county races and they will be put with the county offices and there will be less expense to the taxpayers.

I would greatly appreciate your support on this bill.

Truly yours,



Pauline M. Lee,  
Atchison County Clerk