

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Senator Gordon at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on March 27, 19 85 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~

Committee staff present:

Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ramon Powers, Legislative Research Department
Phil Lowe, Secretary to Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mr. Jack Brier - Secretary of State
Lee Alt - Johnson County Election Commissioner
Marilyn Chapman - Sedgwick County Election Commissioner
Leah Ann Anderson - McPherson County Election Officer
Mary Bolten - Representing South Central Clerks Association
Ken Sanders - Candidate for Shawnee County School Board
Larry Scheller, Leavenworth County Clerk
Ernie Mosher - League of Kansas Municipalities
Jacque Oakes - Kansas Association of School Boards
Jean Barber - President, County Clerks Association, Allen County
Nancy Reed - Vice Chairman, Republican Party Jefferson County
Dick Friedeman - Great Bend
Delbert Mathia - Representing Douglas County Clerks
Jack E. Scott - South East Kansas County Officials

The minutes of March 20 were approved by motion of Senator Strict and second by Senator Martin.

The chairman stated that the hearings on HB 2534 and HB 2535 would be held today but that conferees should be very brief in their remarks because of the number of proponents and opponents who wish to testify on the two measures.

HB 2534 - Providing for school district elections in even-numbered years. Myrta Anderson of the Legislative Research Department in explaining the bill stated that it amends the statutes to provide for school elections to be held on the first Tuesday in April of even-numbered years. She further stated that the new section 7 provides that any member of a board of education whose term of office expires in 1987 shall hold office until July 1, 1988 and until a successor is elected or appointed and any member of a board of education whose term of office expires in 1989 shall hold office until July 1, 1990 and until a successor is elected or appointed and qualifies.

Jack Brier, Secretary of State, said that HB 2534, if passed, would eliminate having an extra election if the measure calling for a presidential primary would also be passed and the cost of combining the elections would be minimal. He pointed out that this would certainly create increased voter turnout. In speaking in support of HB 2534 which was introduced at the request of his office he said all the bill actually does is to move school board elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years. Mr. Brier then introduced the next conferee.

Lee Alt, Johnson County Election Commissioner, presented her testimony in favor of the measure and said she foresees no problem in her county in handling the combined elections plus the fact that it would promote voter interest and citizen participation. (Attachment No. 1).

Marilyn Chapman, Sedgwick County Commissioner of Elections, said the complexity of holding a partisan election along with a school board election could be handled very well by their office without any foreseen problem and pointed out that their office gives full support for the passage of this measure. (Attachment No. 2)

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,

room 313-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on March 27, 1985

Leah Ann Anderson, McPherson County Clerk, said she was a new county officer and related some of the perplexities her office faced after taking office and pointed out if they could be handled properly they could also manage a combined election without any major problems. Their office gives their full support to the measure and would urge the passage of HB 2534.

The Chairman then called on the opponents to HB 2534 to give their testimony.

Mary Bolten, from Rice and Lyon County, representing South Central Clerks Association, said 13 county clerks in their area met recently to review HB 2534 and concluded she represent the group to voice their objections to the measure. The group believes that conducting a partisan and non partisan election at the same time could cause great confusion to voters. She said their association is not speaking out against presidential primaries since they have their own separate opinions, but what they are concerned about is combining of school elections with a presidential primary.

Ken Sanders from Topeka, a candidate for the school board in the upcoming elections, stressed voter turnout - in speaking against the bill in terms of cost I feel that the cost is minimal and that school board elections need to be separated from the areas of government. He stated we are to economize but not in this area. He urged the defeat of this measure.

Larry Schell, Leavenworth County Clerk, said he was speaking against HB 2534 said he could not visualize putting partisan and non partisan candidates on the same ballot and suggested the committee kill HB 2534 and leave politics out of school elections.

Ernie Mosher, League of Kansas Municipalities, said their league was not for or against the bill, but that the cities in Kansas do not feel they want to pay for the cost of city elections in odd numbered years. Mr. Mosher stated that if both bills were enacted the municipalities would be asking the legislature next session to change it for the cities.

Jacque Oakes speaking for the Kansas Association of School Boards made a few comments saying their association had no formal position on this measure.

HB 2535 - Presidential preference primary - Myrta Anderson of the Legislative Research Department, explained the difference between SB 220 and HB 2535 both pertaining to presidential preference primaries. SB 220 provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in April of 1988 and every four years thereafter. HB 2535 provides that delegates and alternates to a national party convention shall be committed to a vote for a presidential candidate and shall be selected by a party at its state convention or as the party rules otherwise provide. No person shall be selected as a delegate or alternate unless they have attained the age of 18 years and is a citizen of the United States.

Jack Brier, Secretary of State, speaking for HB 2535 said he hopes he has eliminated the objections of activists in both parties to the minor role played by the political parties in the 1980 Kansas presidential primary. The bill according to Mr. Brier would still apportion delegates among the candidates according to the percentage of votes they receive in the election, but the actual delegates to the nominating convention will be picked by Republican and Democratic activists meeting at a state convention. Mr. Brier thought that this measure eliminates the two major objections which are the cost and the previous lack of party activist involvement. He said the presidential primary 5 years ago actually increased party affiliation since it went up 5.7 percent for Republicans and increased 3.5 percent for Democrats. He introduced the next proponent to testify for the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,
room 313-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on March 27, 1985.

Jean Barber, President, County Clerks Association, Allen County Clerk, said it was their firm belief that every voter should have a voice in selecting their candidate for the highest office of the United States. Their association urges the passage of HB 2535.

Marilyn Chapman, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner, explained caucus and convention systems as it was held before. She said that Sedgwick County had a very large percentage of voters who participated in the presidential election for the first time in 1980 and they would like to see voters have a greater say in choosing presidential candidates and therefore hope for the passage of this bill.

Lee Alt, the Johnson County Election Commissioner, was the next conferee speaking in favor of the bill and passed out a prepared statement of her testimony (Attachment No. 3).

Nancy Reed, Vice Chairman Republican Party Jefferson County, also speaking in support of the measure passed out newspaper clippings of the presidential primary held in 1980 and also urged the passage of this measure. (Attachment No. 4)

Opponents to HB 2535

Dick Friedeman, Great Bend, speaking against the presidential preference primary bill outlined six reasons for not recommending the bill favorably for passage. His testimony is herewith attached. (No. 5).

Delbert Mathia representing Douglas County Clerks said they oppose HB 2535 and HB 2534 because they question the mingling of politics with school elections and furthermore they questioned whether there was a demand for a presidential primary and for those reasons their county clerks opposed both measures.

Jack E. Scott, representing the South East Kansas County Officials handed out a prepared statement which set forth the reasons for objecting to the passage of HB 2535. (Attachment No. 6).

Larry Scheller, Leavenworth County Clerk, distributed a handout stating his objections to the passage of the presidential primary. (Attachment No. 7).

The Chairman apologized to the rest of the conferees who were not heard because of lack of time.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments:

- #1 - Testimony of Lee Alt for HB 2534
- #2 - Testimony of Marilyn Chapman for HB 2534
- #3 - Testimony of Lee Alt for HB 2535
- #4 - Newspaper Clippings
- #5 - Testimony of Dick Friedeman
- #6 - Testimony of Jack E. Scott
- #7 - Handout from Larry Scheller
- #8 - Guest List

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Elections

DATE: March 27, 1985

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
DAN LABUE	1645 TENNESSEE	K.A.N.U.
Gen Ann Anderson	209 S. Main, Lindsborg	
Mary J. Reed	Rt 2, Okalassa	Dis. Clem. Rep. Cent. Com. Jeff Co.
Kevin Chesbro	34 Rockwood, Ottawa	State Chm. KRP
Margie Cantelero	2107 West Topoka	St. G. Rep.
Don Cantelero	2107 West Topoka	Sh. Co. Rep.
Marilyn Chapman	Wichita	Sy. Co. Elec. Comm.
Eligible Mully	Wyandotte	Elec. Comm.
Lee Alt.	Johnson	Election Comm.
Jean Barber	Allen Co.	Election Officer
Kim Sain	Riley Co.	County Election Office
Handa Coker	Riley Co.	County Clerk
Marnie Staak	Shawnee Co.	Election Officer
Paula Landoll	Marshall County	County Clerk
Fred Allen	Topoka	R.A.C.
Horace Embark	Topoka →	Good government committee of one
J. D. E. Mitchell	Douglas Co.	
Larry E. Scheller	Leavenworth	Co. Clerk
Coblen Murphy	Barton	Co. Clerk
Mary Bolton	Rice County	Co. Clerk
Dorothy J. Stites	St. John, Stafford Co.	Co. Clerk
Debra Ausler	Hamilton Ks	
Carol Smith	Hamilton Ks	

Attachment # 8
S. Elect. 3/27/85

Johnson County Election Office

P.O. BOX 460

135 SOUTH FIR ST.

OLATHE, KANSAS 66061

TO: Senator Gordon and Members of the Senate Elections Committee

FROM: E. Lee Alt
Johnson County Election Commissioner

DATE: March 27, 1985

RE: House Bill 2534

For every Election Officer and the "dedicated few" citizens of each community, low voter participation is a constant challenge to be met. This appalling low turn out is most evident at the school officials elections. The percentage of voters in such elections in 1977 in Johnson County was 26 percent. This trend has continued on a down-hill plane to 22 percent in 1983 and I anticipate only 15 percent participation for the elections to be held next Tuesday. Even though two major bond issues will be on the ballot, the interest in the elections is dismal.

Additionally, it is becoming more difficult to procure judges and clerks for the slower elections. These people like to serve "where the action is".

Since serving as Election Commissioner, I have supported any viable means of increasing the voters interest., i.e., mail ballot elections - when allowable, lapel stickers for people who have voted, and increasing the number of registration offices. I foresee changing school elections to even-numbered years as a means to increase voter interest.

Johnson County has 21 cities, 8 school districts, a community college, a water district and 2 drainage districts within it's boundaries. It is, therefore, considered the most complex county in Kansas in which to administer elections. I would foresee no problems associated with the proper handling of an election which would include a Presidential Preference Primary.

In the 1980 Presidential Preference Primary, 41.3 percent of the electorate chose to go to the polls - it is obvious that the people in Kansas place great importance on the election of a president. Wouldn't it be wise to combine school elections and a Presidential Preference Primary? In that way we could not only save tax dollars but increase our voter participation.

*Attachment #1
S. Elect. 3/27/85*



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

Marilyn Chapman

111 COURTHOUSE • MAIN STREET • WENONAH, KANSAS 67352 • TELEPHONE 316.268.7101

The primary process in our national elections is our best opportunity to involve the grass roots of the American people, and Kansans. It encourages party loyalty and the participation and interest of voters.

During the past ten years, Sedgwick County voter participation in local primary elections has ranged from 22 to 35 per cent. In the Presidential Preference Primary held in 1980, however, voter turnout rose to 40 per cent, the highest in more than a decade. In 1984 less than 3,000 people participated in presidential caucuses. By contrast, in 1980 over 74,000 people voted in the Presidential Preference Primary.

For the caucus elections, each party was furnished a list of affiliated voters. That list was the only official involvement the election office had in the caucuses, but we received hundreds of complaints. Voters did not seem to realize that caucuses are not "elections" as such, but meetings of party members to choose delegates.

Most complaints were from partisan people who arrived at a caucus and did not find their names on the caucus list. Even though these voters have voted for presidential electors in November for years, many Kansans have not been able to participate in a primary and therefore have never declared their party affiliation. The Presidential Preference Primary would encourage many unaffiliated voters to declare their party and to support democratic elections.

Other caucus problems reported include: Caucuses are poorly organized and managed; "Voting" was not available at regular polling places; In some cases people were required to vote at a location within their senatorial district and did not know which district they were in; The "elections" were kept a secret so ordinary people would not be able to vote.

It is time for the State of Kansas to eliminate the outdated caucus system and give voters a greater say in choosing presidential candidates. More than two thirds of the states currently have a primary system. Both the Democratic and Republican party chairmen in Sedgwick County endorse the Presidential Preference Primary. Because the 1988 presidential field will probably be filled with candidates, it is especially important that many more voters are involved.

I feel strongly that Kansas voters should have a voice in the future of our nation. I urge your careful consideration of this bill and hope you will pass it favorably.

*Attachment # 2
S. Elect. 3/27/85*

TOTAL REGISTRATION AND VOTE
Sedgwick County, Kansas

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Unaffiliated</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
1976						
Registration	44,242	50,020	60,566		154,880	
Vote	19,576	29,843			49,554	32
1978						
Registration	47,287	57,839	64,748		169,963	
Vote	30,787	26,051		2,678	59,516	35
1980						
Registration	65,412	71,305	57,284		194,075	
Vote	22,978	22,111			45,089	23
1982						
Registration	59,616	62,846	59,735		182,297	
Vote	31,086	24,188		1,413	56,687	31
1984						
Registration	58,496	60,818	55,282		174,744	
Vote	20,998	24,382			45,626	26
<u>PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY</u>						
Registration	55,137	62,773	67,256		185,245	
Vote	37,939	34,612		1,618	74,169	40

Attachment #2

Johnson County Election Office

P.O. BOX 460

135 SOUTH FIR ST.

OLATHE, KANSAS 66061

TO: Senator Gordon and Members of the Senate Elections Committee

FROM: E. Lee Alt
Johnson County Election Commissioner

DATE: March 27, 1985

RE: House Bill 2535

At the entrance to my office is a plaque which reads "Your vote is your voice in America". This is a true statement in every instance except one - that of choosing a candidate for the highest office in our land.

In the Presidential election in 1984 in Johnson County, 83 percent of the qualified electors cast their vote for president - compared to a 6 percent voter participation in an election held last month, or as predicted, 15 percent participation next Tuesday for a combined city, school and community college election. This clearly states the importance Kansans place on the election of a President.

Several persons, active in both political parties in Johnson County have forwarded letters to this committee expressing favorable passage of this bill.

The principle argument against House Bill 2535 is that it destroys party authority - and yet, some of the most active and devoted party people in our county are those who became involved with the parties during the Presidential Preference Primary in 1980.

One of my former bosses always referred to a primary election as a "selection" whereby the Republican and the Democrat parties were permitted to "select" their candidate to be placed on the general election ballot. Why should selecting the president be different than selecting a senator, governor, or county commissioner? The privacy of a voting booth provides people the opportunity of making that selection. Many of these same people would feel uncomfortable participating in a party caucus.

Within the 3rd district, the presidential primary in 1980 found 26 percent of the electorate casting a vote. In 1984, less than 1 percent took part in the 3rd district caucus.

This past year, I was afforded the honor of being a delegate to one of the National Conventions. Just after I had cast my vote for my choice for president, I was interviewed by the news media. I was asked this question "Can you tell the people back in Kansas how you feel at this moment?" My answer was that it was truly a humbling experience to be one of so few making such an important decision. I urge you to allow every voter in Kansas the opportunity of sharing in that important decision.

Attachment #3
S. Elect. 3/27/85

JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Office of the Register of Deeds

COURT HOUSE
OLATHE, KANSAS 66061
782-5000—EXT. 375

Rubie M. Scott
Register of Deeds

March 26, 1985

Re: House Bill No. 2535

The Presidential Preference Primary which was held in 1980 to my knowledge did, in fact, increase the number of affiliated voters. That was good. If that would continue, then I think that would be good.

It would give all participating parties with candidates running for office a feel for better campaign planning, as well as encouraging the voters to vote in the General Election, if they were to see by the results of the Presidential Preference Primary that their preferred candidate was in need of more votes.

Rubie M. Scott

Rubie M. Scott
Register of Deeds
Johnson County, Ks.

JERRY WINKELMAN

7128 Eby Drive Merriam, KS 66204
(913) 362-0764

Monday
March 25, 1985

Mrs. Lee Alt
Johnson County Election Commissioner
Olathe, Kansas

Dear Lee:

I am writing to reply to your request for a letter expressing a position on holding a presidential preference election in Kansas.

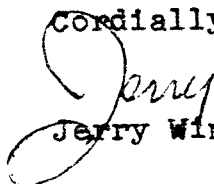
As Merriam Republican city chairman, I called several members of our Merriam Republican precinct committee. Those I called favored the presidential preference election if the election could be held in conjunction with another election such as school board elections which I understand is proposed. All of those I spoke with objected to the expense of holding a single issue presidential primary election.

From the Merriam precinct committee people I talked with, I did not find a feeling that a Kansas presidential primary election would pose a threat to our precinct political system. In fact the opposite view was expressed, that such an election would strengthen our political parties by getting more people involved in the election process and in the political parties, since those who vote in the presidential preference election must declare a party affiliation.

One of the Merriam Republican precinct committeemen with whom I talked, Fred Krebs, commented that he would like to see the presidential preference elections conducted across the nation on about four Tuesdays, by section of the country, to permit the candidates to better schedule their coverage of the nation and to reduce the "beauty contest" aspects of the election.

I'm sure we will all be watching for the outcome of this issue in our state legislature.

Cordially,


Jerry Winkelman

The Honorable Paul "Bud" Burke
State Senator 9th District
Kansas Legislature
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Senator Burke,
I urge you and the other Johnson
County members of the Senate to support
and endorse legislation for a Presidential
Primary in the State of Kansas. I feel
that a Presidential Primary will help
increase voter registration and voter
party affiliation. I also feel that it
will help overcome some of the voter
apathy that we have seen.

Sincerely,
Lucille S Penick
Republican City Chairman
of Fairway

March 25, 1985

Senator Bud Burke
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Burke:

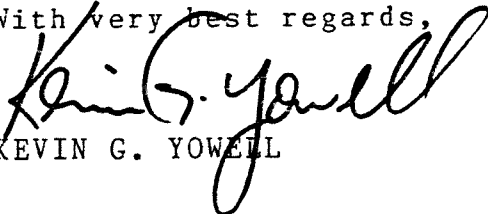
Before the Kansas Legislature is an important piece of legislation which, if passed, would return to the individual members of our political parties the right to select those parties' nominees for President and Vice-president of the United States. House Bill No. 2535, calling for the re-institution of the Presidential Preference Primary in Kansas, is in my opinion a well constructed bill and one which deserves the support of our legislature.

As an active Republican, I am sensitive to the arguments from some members of our party's leadership that presidential primaries weaken the two-party system. However, I believe strongly that the facts do not support this conclusion. The significant increase in party affiliation in 1980 was undeniably the result of our first ever presidential primary. Republican membership increased that year by 17.8 percent -- an occurrence which clearly strengthens our party.

Besides aiding our parties, the primary was good for our electoral system as well. It coincided with a 12 percent increase in registered voters and a record 479,316 Kansans voted in the primary. This translates to an estimated 41.3 percent of the registered voters, compared with 28.0% in the 1984 primary for U.S. Senator. Furthermore, a poll conducted in August, 1980, showed that Kansans overwhelmingly supported another primary in 1984. According to the poll, 57 percent approved of another primary while only 26 percent did not approve and 17 percent offered no opinion. Clearly, the voters appreciated the opportunity to help select their parties' nominees for President and look forward to the time when they may again exercise this right.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will give favorable consideration to House Bill 2535.

With very best regards,



KEVIN G. YOWELL

March 26, 1985

Senator Paul Burke
Senate Majority Leader
State House
Topeka, KS 66612

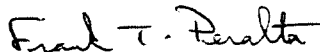
Dear Senator Burke,

I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of House Bill No. 2535, the Presidential Preference Primary election bill.

The election will encourage more people to be a registered voter. Olathe, being a strong Republican area, will receive more Republican votes.

As the Republican precinct committeeman for ward 4 precinct 6 of Olathe, I believe that my responsibility to the Republican party is to gain Republican voters within my precinct. The presidential preference primary election is one way of doing so.

Sincerely,



Frank T. Peralta
Olathe Precinct Committeeman

Another primary favored in poll

SEP 3 1980

Most Kansas voters would like to see the state hold another presidential primary election in 1984.

The first Kansas Poll of the 1980 campaign shows 57 percent of those polled favor such a primary, 26 percent disapprove and 17 percent are undecided.

The poll, based on 997 telephone interviews statewide conducted between Aug. 22 and Aug. 27, was designed and conducted for The Capital-Journal by Central Research Corporation of Topeka. Complete results are on page 2.

The results of the presidential, Senate and 2nd District congressional races appeared Sunday and the results of another special issue will appear in Thursday's editions.

The widest support for the presidential primary was in the urban 3rd District with 65 percent approving. The 2nd District, which includes Topeka, showed the lowest support — 49 percent.

The 18-to-29 age group showed the greatest support at 75 percent.

The results:

Approve	57%
Disapprove	26%
Undecided	17%

Attachment # 4
S. Elect. 3/27/85

Salvaging Kansas' Primary

3-22 WIRHITA
L ALEE

If an amendment proposed by the House Elections Committee should somehow make it into law, Kansans will be denied the opportunity of participating in their first-ever presidential primary. The committee voted 11-4 to kill the primary, which was just approved during last year's legislative session.

The amendment was tacked onto a Senate bill designed to clear up some technicalities in the delegate selection process authorized under the original legislation. If the full membership of the House follows the committee's lead and approves the amendment, the Kansas presidential primary could be in serious trouble.

Although a nationwide primary may be a better approach in narrowing the field of political contenders for the presidency, it is still important for Kansas to have a primary. The most obvious reason is that the people of the state will have a more direct say in selecting delegates to the major party conventions by voting in such a primary. There should be no hint of "smoke-filled room" selections made by party bosses after the primary system goes into effect.

Without a presidential primary, the candidates would continue to play to the politicians, not the people of Kansas. The state would be back where it was, in terms of meaningful exposure to presidential campaigning, on the list of candidates' "places to stop, if time allows."

The House should reject the amendment that has been attached to the Senate's bill as a death warrant for the presidential primary. If the termination plans aren't stopped there, they should be ended in the conference committee that would have to be called to square the two distinctly opposed versions of the legislation.

And, if the Senate should somehow be convinced that it should eliminate the presidential primary election, rather than improve the

procedures governing it, Gov. Carlin still would have the opportunity to veto any bill that would do away with the existing primary law. We hope it doesn't come to that, but the governor shouldn't hesitate to employ the veto if that's the only way to keep Kansas' presidential preference primary.

Attachment # 4

The Topeka Saturday Capital-Journal

Viewpoints

Saturday, March 31, 1979

In God We Trust

Primary law saved

The Kansas Senate is to be commended for stopping a House attempt to take away Kansans' right to vote in a presidential primary even before the plan had been tried.

Last session, legislators voted to end the old system by which politicians and the few citizens who attend county party meetings choose delegates to national political conventions. Sometimes no one knew whom these delegates favored.

The 1978 Legislature established a presidential primary to be held the first Tuesday in April of presidential years, in which voters could choose among slates of delegates pledged to various candidates.

Earlier this year, the House tacked onto a minor Senate bill an amendment abolishing this proposed primary. The amended bill passed the house by only a

bare majority — 63-61.

The Senate this week had the good sense to reject this attempt to retain the old state convention system. Its vote was 27-13.

An argument against the still untried primary election was that it would cost \$1.1 million, to be defrayed by the state. True, that is a lot of money.

But the Legislature this year seems to be casting about frantically for ways to spend the windfall of some \$100 million in extra taxes it will receive over the next two years.

It seems \$1.1 million every four years — an average of \$275,000 per year — is a comparatively small price to pay for the people's right to express themselves at the primary stage of the presidential contest.

For years, most Kansans have had only a choice between the candidates handed them by the two national conventions.

Attachment # 4

From the Political Sideline

The Primary Has Come and Gone

By AL POLCZINSKI
Political Writer

Op-Ed
Page

THE WICHITA EAGLE AND BEACON
Sunday, April 6, 1980 3B

Now that the din and the excitement of the state's first presidential primary has worn off.

Remember, in the last week before the election, how the two Democratic camps were saying it was "a horse race" or "a dead heat" between President Carter and Sen. Edward Kennedy?

Did Kennedy's horse get stuck in the gate? What happened?

So goes conversation at the usual post-primary coffee cup conferences. Among reasons developed in these in-depth post-mortems was Vice President Walter Mondale's joyride on Air Force II to check on any Kansas prairie fire. Another was



Polczinski

last weekend's renewed hope of a breakthrough in the Iranian stalemate over the American hostages.

Granted, these happenings may have had some impact on the outcome, but I doubt that they were the real reason Kennedy got beat so soundly.

I WOULD NOT want to take anything away from Mondale. He dropped some interesting statistics for Kansans to consider but he was gone in a flash. He admitted the economy is a mess but preferred not to dwell on the subject.

That the public was made privy to backstage movement in the hostage situation on the weekend before the two primaries — one of which was considered critical to the president — is one of those coincidences only the Oval Office can create.

What may be a more fundamental reason for Kennedy's loss lies with the nature of the Kansas voter — there is no warm bond between the two.

The senator lacks credibility with the average voter. He has too many skeletons rattling around in his closet. He does not have the ingratiating

charm and casual humor his brothers displayed on campaign trails before him.

When Kansans don't take a shine to a man, he won't last long in public office or he won't do well running for one. You only have to go back to the 1978 governor's race to understand that.

THAT'S NOT TO SAY President Carter's name is on every Kansan's lips as he thanks his Maker for his daily bread. But when the choice comes down to Carter or Kennedy, Democrats chose not to rock the boat for the November regatta.

If I were on the president's staff, I'd

slip a memo on his Things-to-do-today list. It would read, "Put a zipper on the mouth of Patrick Caddell, your favorite pollster."

In a post-primary interview, a reporter asked Caddell if the next move in the hostage situation would come on April 22 (the day of the Pennsylvania primary where there are 185 delegates at stake.)

Caddell's answer was, "No, we'll have to bring them out on the 17th. We played it a little close this time."

He was joking, of course. But I'd be willing to bet there wasn't any laughter heard in the homes of the hostages' relatives.

A flippant attitude toward any hint of playing politics with the hostages' release is less than inspiring.

BUT BACK TO the Kansas primary. It was said the cost of this political experiment was \$1.1 million, about \$1 per registered voter in the state.

Some folks didn't get their money's worth out of it. That's a shame. For those of us who voted, the cost per vote figured out to be \$2.32.

My thanks to you who didn't vote but helped pay my way.

Attachment # 4

KC 5/10
4-12-80

Primary for the People

Supporters of a presidential primary in Kansas were successful last year in persuading the Legislature to set up the first trial run for 1980. But that doesn't necessarily mean it will be held. Unfortunately, the election has become the target of opposition that jeopardizes this important phase of the presidential selection process.

This opposition has centered in the House, where a vote was taken in the 1979 session to abolish the primary before it could even be held. The Senate rejected that action, and the election was preserved.

There are other ways to wipe out the primary, however. One of them is to cut off the funding. Thus opposition cropped up again in the House over an appropriation of \$1.1 million to finance the 1980 contest. With the two houses in disagreement, the matter was sent to a Senate-House conference committee created to resolve their differences. Consideration of the allocation is to be

taken up when the Legislature reconvenes for a brief wind-up session later this month.

This primary, scheduled for the first Tuesday of April in presidential election years, would be far more than a bellwether for prospective White House candidates. It would allow a popular vote on delegates committed to contenders for president. The old apparatus seemed always to be more in the hands of politicians and parties than the people.

A primary has some distinct advantages. It would focus special attention on Kansas, thus enabling the citizens to view the candidates and hear them discuss the issues. It could stimulate interest in the campaign and foster wider participation by voters. In short, Kansas could be an active part of the presidential selection process. The primary is a constructive way to go about elections in a participatory democracy.

Attachment #4

10 Times
5-17-80

Kansas Adds Its Voice

22

Much of the reaction to Kansas' first presidential preference primary next year, made possible by a \$1.1 million appropriation by the 1979 Kansas Legislature, has centered on the possibility of the Sunflower state winning a share of the national political spotlight.

It is a rather exciting thought. With the exception of the Nebraska primary in May, states in this section of the country tend to hold caucuses for selection of delegates to the nominating conventions. Thus the Kansas preliminary on April 1 could attract attention as an early indication of Midwestern sentiment, particularly that of farmers, on national issues and presidential contenders.

Of course the political fortunes of the aspirants in the late winter and early spring of 1980 undoubtedly will influence how extensively they campaign there. But Kansans could have special interest if Sen. Bob Dole continues to pursue the nomination in the Republican Party. Dole could hold a home-state advantage. But his opposition might not want to write off the state if the Kansas senator's strength appears to be building. In that view Dole and the Kansas primary simply could not be ignored, lest the Kansan dominate the national media coverage that is expected around the nation during the campaigns. The prospects are interesting and endless.

Beyond the national and political potential, however, is something fundamentally sound — in a representative democracy — about this presidential primary. In an era when citizens feel left out of political and governmental affairs, Kansas voters will have an opportunity to personally and directly participate in a very important stage of the presidential selection process — the only time, in fact, until the general election.

In the campaigning, Kansans will have a chance to see, hear and perhaps question can-

didates in person before making a decision in the voting booth. If they want, Kansans can join a campaign, help organize meetings, lick envelopes and do all of the other things that supporters of prospective nominees do in the political vineyards. By contrast, the caucuses are usually the preserve of the professional politicians and hangers-on.

Some say there will be too many primaries next year (34 at last count) and that the candidates will have to spread themselves too thin. The other side of this argument is that the candidates should have much wider public exposure. More Americans will have a chance to take a closer look at the candidates — how their campaigns are conducted, their organizational capabilities and many other aspects of a campaign that can be revealing about the men or women who are seeking this high public office.

It is true that primaries have proliferated in recent years. In 1960, when the first presidential election of the last decade was held, there were 15 primaries (up only two from 1912 when the first ones were recorded). By 1972 there were 21 and three years ago there were more than 30. Missouri is one of the larger states that does not hold a primary.

This expansion has prompted study of what some see as a problem. Regional contests have been proposed as one alternative to aid in coordination of preference run-offs. For now, however, Kansas has joined the list of states that do have primaries. The democratic process should be the better for it.

Paying for the primary

Tempe Capital Journal / July 27, 80

Conscientious grocery shoppers are familiar with unit pricing, the comparison of how much a product costs per unit of measure. It's a good way to determine the best "buys" at the supermarket.

And the principle can be used in assessing whether Kansas' first-ever presidential primary this April was a good buy or an extravagance.

Now that the figures are in, Kansans know that the cost of going along with the bandwagons came to \$2.20 per vote.

This year's presidential primary cost about \$42,000 less than the \$1.1 million budgeted for it.

For comparison, the primary in August, 1978, cost \$2.99 per vote. So on those criteria, it appears to have been a reasonable expense. And, somewhat surprisingly, the turnout was good — almost 480,000 persons cast ballots, 100,000 more than expected, and 128,000 more than the total vote in the August, 1978 primary.

The circumstances of this year's campaigns may give rise to some complaints that the Kansas primary was only an exercise in paperwork, since Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter were well on their way to winning the nominations when Kansans voted.

But it could be different next time. The Kansas primary might be pivotal in 1984, even though it wasn't this year.

Perhaps the best figure to use in assessing the primary's worth is the cost per registered voter, which was just \$1.17.

That seems a small amount to spend toward giving Kansans their say in the primary process.

Secretary of State Jack Brier is convinced the primary should be continued and will recommend that the Legislature do so.

And when that question is considered, legislators will have some more meaningful statistics to use in making that decision. But \$1.17 per voter does not seem to be too much to pay.

Attachment #4

Of primary concern

*Topeka Capital
Journal
3-17-85*

Kansas held its one and only presidential primary election in 1980. While it did not draw the national attention of those in New Hampshire or some large states, it had to be counted a big success in a very important area: voter turnout. Nearly 480,000 people voted in the primary that year — the biggest turnout in a primary election in state history.

That should count as a strong endorsement for the quadrennial exercise, yet subsequent proposals to resurrect the presidential primary have died in the Legislature.

But this year, the House, where some of the previous primary measures languished, has approved a bill that would reinstate the presidential primary in 1988. The bill also provides for its continuation every four years after that.

Detractors of the presidential primary point to its cost. The 1980 election cost

the state \$1.1 million, or about \$2.60 per vote.

However, Secretary of State Jack Bri-er, a staunch advocate of the presidential primary, has said that future elections would probably cost less than half that amount, especially when local elections coincide with the primary. The House bill assures that double duty by moving local school board elections to the same date as the primary, the first Tuesday of April.

Some political leaders also have criticized the presidential primary because it dilutes party influence. What it really does, however, is remove the selection process from smoke-filled rooms where special interest groups love to lobby. Instead, it puts the process into the open air of the voting booth — where each person has an equal voice.

Restoring the presidential primary would be a good move for Kansas.

Attachment # 4

Editor's view

Presidential primary is beneficial

In 1980, Kansas residents voted in the first ever presidential primary within the state.

In 1984, the same voters were not given the same opportunity, much to the disdain of Secretary of State Jack Brier, who has always been a champion of the primary.

In his role as the state's chief election officer, Brier has done much to emphasize the importance of voting and making it easier to vote.

Brier pushed through voter registration so now it can be done through the mail, not just at authorized locations during set hours when election officials and their deputies are present as well as encouraging more outpost election registration locations.

The secretary also helped formulate the "post-card" election where on one-question matters, such as a bond issue, voters can vote at their homes and return the ballots, saving hundreds of dollars in the cost of operating such simple elections.

Brier also feels it is very important to let all Kansans express themselves as to their personal beliefs as to presidential candidates and take this away from the inner circle of party leaders. He is not hinting the days of "smoked-filled" rooms where political deals are made with trades for favoritism still exist, but he is saying the days are here to let all voters throughout the state make their decisions.

Both in 1980 and 1984, by the time the conventions opened the race for the presidential nominations had become a moot point. The leading contenders in 1984 — Reagan and Mondale — were no surprises as their parties' choice.

This does not appear to be the case in 1988 and this would be a good time to bring back the presidential primary in Kansas. The Legislature apparently agrees with Brier.

One of the chief concerns of the 1980 primary was the cost of operating basically a "one-vote" election. Now the powers to be in Topeka have found an answer to that, if the presently proposed legislation passes without change.

Now Kansans elect the members to serve on the unified school boards throughout the state in odd-numbered years. Yes, Geary Countians will be going to the polls in 15 days in a school board election. Allowing those who would be finishing up their four-year terms in 1987 to serve an additional year, the presidential primary would be conducted concurrent with the school board vote. Therefore the additional cost would be very little.

Sound good? For cities like Junction City and almost every city in the surrounding counties, who also elect their city officials in that odd-numbered year election, it would not be a cost savings.

But that is not reason enough to turn away from the presidential primaries. Perhaps in the next two years, these cities should consider making the same change the state Legislature is with school board elections and combine them all on the first Tuesday of April in even years.

Kansans deserve an individual vote on who they prefer to represent their parties as presidential candidates.

Attachment #4

The Kansas City Times

A Capital Cities Communications, Inc., Newspaper
JAMES H. HALE MICHAEL E. WALLER JAMES W. SCOTT
Publisher and Editor and Editor,
Chairman of the Board Vice-President Editorial Page

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Vol. 117

Thursday, March 21, 1985

No. 167

Open Smoke-Filled Rooms

Legislation for presidential preference primaries in 1988 is advancing through the Kansas Legislature and the Missouri General Assembly. These elections would provide voters with an opportunity to cast ballots in this important decision.

A presidential primary bill has been passed by the Kansas House. It is a marked improvement over the law, no longer in effect, that was the basis for the state's 1980 presidential primary. That election attracted a large turnout.

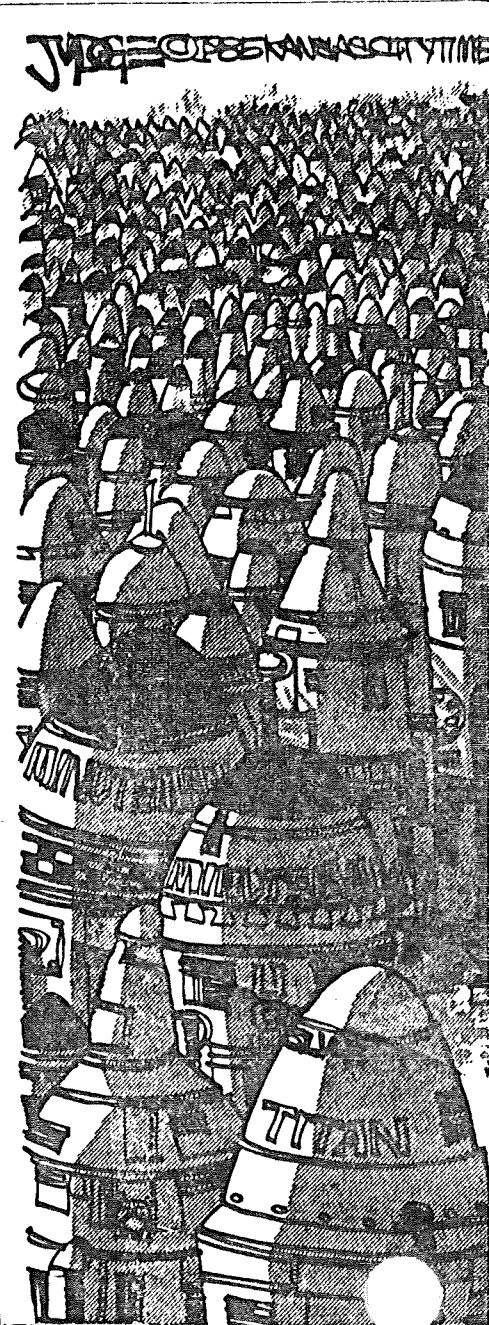
The 1988 primary could be held for little expense to the taxpayers because of a proposed change in school board elections. Under a companion measure to the presidential primary bill, school officials would be chosen in even years, enabling the two elections to be held on the same day in early April. Delegate selection also would be an improvement over the method used in 1980.

In Missouri, one presidential primary bill awaits final passage by the House. Another has been approved by a Senate committee.

An effort is being made to conduct the primaries on the same day in both states. If that cooperative approach is successful, Kansas and Missouri voters would represent a combined population of more than 7.2 million, based on the 1980 census.

That entity would be equal to the 10th largest state in terms of population. Missouri is now 15th and Kansas 32nd. Illinois holds its primary the last Tuesday in March, which would make this region a focal point in presidential politics. The result would be that candidates would campaign throughout the states and perhaps debate here. It would create an interest that has been missing without actual elections.

Beyond more exposure to candidates, presidential primaries provide prospective voters with an opportunity to express themselves directly in the presidential race in the privacy of the polling place. It is a distinct improvement over the party caucus, which experience shows can be used to discourage participation, rather than encourage it.



Attachment #4

Editorials

Wednesday, March 27, 1985

The Hutchinson News

Boosting the turnout

The Kansas presidential primary election may yet arise from the ashes of '84.

If it does (and it should), it will stand as a superior achievement of the 1985 Kansas Legislature.

The achievement is near. The House of Representatives has approved the primary. Now the Senate is considering the proposed new law. As proposed by Secretary of State Jack Brier, the new Kansas presidential primary would coincide with both school board elections in the state, and with a possible Missouri presidential primary election.

That would achieve two superior side effects to the already superior results of the 1980 primary elections. The cost would be essentially eliminated. And with Missouri and Kansas both holding a primary on the same day, the nucleus of a regional presidential vote would be set.

The presidential primary elections of 1980 were a massive success in Kansas. Nearly a half million Kansans participated, in the first such preferential vote. Despite that success, the primary was discontinued. Four years later, only a fraction of that number of Kansans participated in the selection of the Democratic and Republican nominees.

The caucuses held by the Democrats in 1984, especially, showed the flaws. Few people participated, and the selection was dictated mainly by a handful of organized groups.

A far better approach would be to have a preferential primary election, as now proposed.

The Kansas Senate's elections committee should be urged to give its enthusiastic support to the proposal, en route to a similar amount of enthusiasm in the Senate itself.

Attachment #4

Citizens Would Prefer A Primary

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 26, 1985

THE SOUTHWEST DAILY TIMES — Liberal, Kansas

Kansans responded wholeheartedly in 1980 to the state's first presidential preference primary election and thereby had a say as to who would represent the respective parties at the top.

Now the Kansas House has passed and sent to the Senate a bill that would establish a presidential primary in Kansas, beginning in 1988. We feel it's time the state did away with the outdated caucus system and gave average voters a greater say in choosing presidential candidates.

Indicative of the desire of voters to have a say in selecting the presidential standardbearers, was the 1980 showing of 479,316 voters casting ballots. By contrast, only 11,000 voters turned out for the Democratic caucus last year.

We were told the primary wasn't to be held last year because of criticism that the process, with a price tag of \$1 million, was too expensive. Not only that, but party officials complained the primary weakened party leadership by allowing campaign organizations, rather than party officials, to choose the delegates.

But Secretary of State Jack H. Brier tells us that the primary plan currently before the Senate avoids these pitfalls. The high costs of the primary would be avoided by holding it concurrently with school board elections. Although this would necessitate delaying those elections one year (they're now held on odd-numbered years), the school board lobby has expressed no objections to the change.

The plan also would allow each party's leaders to name delegates to the national conventions—the numbers of those delegates, though, would have to reflect proportionally the support each candidate received in the primary.

A presidential primary will do much to stimulate lagging voter interest, and the high voter turnout for the primary would serve to also increase citizen participation in the selection of school board candidates. Brier also points out that newly-elected county election officers—there were 20 this year—will not be faced with administering an election weeks after they take office. County clerks serve as election officers.

A statewide poll has indicated a majority of Kansans would like to have another opportunity to vote in a presidential primary. In fact, only 26 percent of the people surveyed expressed disapproval with the concept.

The Senate Elections Committee will debate H.B. 2535 at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and may take action the following day. It is therefore imperative that we immediately get in touch with our Sen. Bob Frey, Leroy Hayden and other area state senators to let them know we want a say in naming the presidential candidates who will have a great impact on our daily lives.

Frey can be reached at (913) 296-7359 and Hayden at 296-7378. The toll-free number is 800-432-3924.

Thought For Today

Thought for today: "One man with courage makes a majority." — Andrew Jackson, U.S. President (1767-1845).

Attachment #4

RICHARD L. FRIEDEMAN
Great Bend, Kansas

6 GOOD REASONS TO OPPOSE HOUSE BILL No. 2535

1. If we are to have a 2 party system, the 2 parties must have something to do. That is something to do besides hard work, and raising money. Organizing and exerting such influence as they can in the convention-caucus system of selecting National Convention delegates is about the only thing that local parties do of a real policy-determinative nature. Take this away, and about the only thing left of real substance is the selection of replacements for legislators who die or resign in mid-term. This just isn't enough to maintain an active political party.

2. The caucus system is a good system. Our Kansas caucuses are open to all affiliated voters. The caucuses are organized by party people, and party people have some influence at these meetings. This is as it should be. In the ensuing campaign, those people will be expected to carry the ball - it seems only fair to give them a voice.

3. A primary focuses on candidates, to the exclusion of ideas or bodies of opinion. In April of 1988, it is entirely possible, even likely, that it will be unclear which of a group of candidates representing any one general position will have the best chance of actually capturing the nomination come convention time. The caucus-convention system permits us to elect like-minded representatives at any level, who then have the flexibility to effect the desired results. Forcing a choice

*Attachment #5
S. Elect. 3/27/85*

2

to be expressed in terms of personalities in the early stages of the process is not good for the process, nor for the party, nor for the country.

Of course, no second choices are recorded at the primary ballot box. A primary makes impossible any kind of strategic voting so as to settle upon a satisfactory choice, which may not be the first choice of most voters. Caucuses and conventions obviously do permit this. Compromise and cooperation have no place in a primary system. There is no mechanism for it.

4. This particular proposal actually centralizes power in the hands of the very few. A significant number of delegates will not be bound by the primary vote. All votes cast for (1) "none of the above," for (2) candidates with fewer votes than 5%, for (3) candidates who withdraw before the National Convention and all votes representing fractional delegates, will produce delegates who are free to vote as they wish.

The Kansas delegation to the National Convention will be elected at 6 different state and district conventions. In a close race it is likely that different conventions will be controlled by different presidential candidates, or by different groups of candidates or by different bodies of opinion. Somehow, it will have to be decided which of these 6 conventions get to select those delegates who are going to be free to vote as they wish, and which conventions have to elect delegates bound by the primary. Obviously, whoever does this allocation will be able to influence several National Convention votes by allocating "free to do as they please" delegates to the conventions controlled by his or her favored candidate.

Given the timing problems involved, this allocation will almost have to be delegated to the state chairman, or to some extremely small group.

In short, the party's most significant decision in the delegate selection process may be the election of the state chairman which will occur over a year in advance of the primary. The election of the state chairman should not be embroiled in presidential politics. The state chairman should be worrying, instead, about more mundane things like legislative races.

Also, the state chairman will be elected in early 1986. This is simply too early to start the presidential campaign in Kansas.

Maybe we will be lucky and the subject won't even come up when we elect the state chairman. However, to the extent that it doesn't come up, we will be making a major decision affecting the substance and outcome of the nomination race, through simple inadvertence.

Let me reiterate what I said before - this particular proposal actually concentrates power in the hands of the state chairman, and possibly a very few insiders.

5. The National Convention selection system should be simple enough to understand. Posit the situation of someone who asks, in early 1988, how to work for a particular presidential candidate, or how to work for the nomination of someone who fits a particular description.

First, you have to tell your questioner all about the primary, which is somewhat involved in and of itself. I won't go through that explanation because the explanation is found in the bill which you have before you.

Second, you will need to tell him all about the caucuses. By itself, the caucus system is pretty simple, but when considered in conjunction with this primary, the caucus system becomes quite confusing. Of course, you have a secret to tell your man, and that is that the caucus may be a very significant part of the delegate selection process, because there will be some, and perhaps many, delegates who will not be bound by the primary. However, it is going to be very difficult to get this through to the public, if a primary is billed as the central event. In fact, one can assume that the caucuses will be much smaller, and much more given over to control by a few insiders, if the primary is the focus of activity. The person asking this question will want to know whether the caucuses will or will not be significant. The funny thing is that you won't know whether they are significant until after the primary, by which time the caucuses will have already been held. If your man wants to know how to convince folks that the caucuses are, in fact, important, I don't know what to suggest.

The third thing you will have to tell your man is how important the state chairman or a small group of party leaders will be in the process of deciding which conventions get to pick the delegates who are free to vote as they wish. When your man asks you how to influence the election of state chairman, you will have to inform him that the election was a long time ago and that there is no way he can influence this at all.

In short, passing this bill will make the delegate selection process a confusing mess, difficult to understand, frustrating to behold, and very irritating to people who want to work on behalf of this or that presidential candidate. People did ask

me this question in early 1980, and I had a terrible time answering their questions. Of course, in my explanation to you I have left out about an hour of details, but I think you get the picture.

The one thing this bill has going for it is that it comes long enough after the 1980 primary that some have forgotten what a mess that was. Also, this bill managed to get quite a ways before anyone interested in the matter knew about it.

6. Kansas should have an impact on the presidential nominations. This is perhaps the best reason to oppose this bill. The timing of this primary in early April buries it in the heart of the primary season. Coming when it does in the midst of primaries in much larger states, we are almost certain not to receive any attention from the presidential candidates. Remember 1980? This bill creates a system so diffuse that it is hard for any candidate's supporters to even know what to do. It's unlikely they will do anything if they can't work out a cost effective campaign. Further, our Kansas delegation will have little flexibility to make an impact on the process or to do Kansas any good through the exercise of the discretion they would otherwise have as delegates. A fourth factor here is that proportional representation down to a minimum of 5%, ends up pitting our voting strength against ourselves. Our delegations will feel like "we have met the opposition, and they is us." Pass this bill and you neutralize your own people.

Honorable Member of the Senate Elections Committee, I am here today as a somewhat reluctant spokesman for a group of elected officials, employees and voters in the Southeast Kansas District and Coffey County.

The purpose of this visit is to encourage the committee to consider the idea of rejecting or an in depth study of HB No. 2534 and HB No. 2535. There is a real problem in the County Clerk's offices if we change the school elections to the even numbered years. This will especially be true with the cities using their charter ordinance ability to change their elections from the odd numbered years to the even numbered years.

We are not opposed to having a presidential preference election per sae, our problem is the imbalance of employment and work load it creates. Example: If the school districts and cities in our county all decide to go to even numbered years I will eliminate one employee during the odd numbered year and re-employ two for the even numbered years. Another reason which creates imbalance is that all clerks are working on abstracting for taxes during this March and April election time and they rely on a trained staff person to work these elections. School elections are the worlds worst to handle as they crossover county, township and voting precinct boundaries. I would rather do two County, State and National elections than one in our county.

We are definitely not opposed to a Presidential Preference Election and if push comes to shove, why don't we repeal K.S.A. 25-4508 regarding the cost of the presidential preference elections. Since there is already a K.S.A. statute that allows city and school elections to be paid by the county under certain circumstances which in most cases is every four years. Explain: During the years whenever an at large school board member runs for office the county pays for all elections including cities. Therefore, the only time cities and schools pay are during a primary or when board members #4, #5 and #6 are running for office. Coffey County has collected from the cities and schools during the 1978 to 1985 elections just a few times. List: Primary, 1979; Primary, 1981; and the Presidential Preference of 1980 and a Primary and General in 1985. These few reimbursements are of little significance to the county and are real significant to the cities and schools which voice their

*Attachment # 6
S. Elect. 3/27/85*

concern of unfairness. I see no real problem with revising statutes to say all elections are paid by county and leave the odd and even numbered balance as is.

Another problem which may be created is: what happens if a city charters out of their elections into the even numbered year and they are considering bond elections or other referendums to coincide with the city election. They would have to wait a year or pay for a special election. In many cases they may not be able to wait a year. Some of these are emergency type such as water, sewer, gas, roads, etc. New Strawn water - Waverly water.

If all these elections are going to be paid by the county, ~~therefore~~ it would be much simpler and create less confusion if we simply state that all city, school, county, state and national elections are county expenses. (State would include a presidential preference election.)

To cite some election facts about Coffey County to show that National, State and County elections historically attract heavier votes. One of the basic reasons is the partisian political issues involved. There is nothing like politics and religion to get a good argument going. The city and school elections have never had large turnouts except when local issues are hot.

GENERAL ELECTIONS OF ODD & EVEN NUMBERED YEARS

YEAR	CITY	SCHOOL	COUNTY, STATE & National	PRES. PREF.	
1971	1001	1728			Const. Amend.
1972			2829		
1973	903	1756			County-wide question 5-Man
1974			3147		
1975	1266	1883			
1976			3775		
1977	1623	2211			County-wide question
1978			2961		Gov., Sen.-no local races-Co.
1979	1425	2077			
1980			3602	1763	Pres.
1981	1391	2265			
1982			2876		Gov.
1983	1467	2202			
1984			4161		Pres.
1985					

att #6

It is interesting to note that there were 1,763 votes cast in the 1980 presidential preference election in Coffey County. When compared to the previous city-school elections held in 1979 there were 2,077 voters who voted and 3,602 in the November general election of 1980. This means that approximately 85% of the voters of the 1979 city-school election may have cast a ballot in the presidential preference or it means that approximately 49% of the voters who voted in the November general election of 1980 may have voted at the presidential preference election.

If you compare our votes^{chart} from 1971 to 1985 you will find that the legislature had wisdom in making an effort to balance the elections work load for the county election officer.

Another interesting point is that in the 1980 November presidential election 85,100,120 votes were cast^{nationwide} for the presidential candidates. Kansas cast 961,193 votes for the presidential candidates in 1980. This is 1.13% of the total vote cast. Based on these votes cast, many voters are asking "Why have a^{Kansas} presidential preference when it really doesn't have an impact on selection or outcome."

OK # 6

COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

COURTHOUSE
4TH & WALNUT
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66048
AREA CODE 913-682-2271

LARRY E. SCHELLER
County Clerk



February 16, 1983

RE: Senate Bill 163

Senate Bill 163 would bring back the Presidential Primary such as we had in 1980. The main reason for wanting to continue the election is largest voter turnout for a primary election. The following are Leavenworth County averages for the last five primary elections:

	1976 - 42.8%	
	1978 - 26.1%	
Presidential Primary - 1980	- 35.1%	1984 Primary - 40.8%
Regular - 1980	- 45.7%	
	1982 - 34.2%	

The average for these is 36.7% which is higher than the Presidential Primary average of 35.1%. The reason for the largest voter turnout was because some counties had Bond election questions held at the same time, and voters will turn out in record numbers when they vote on such issues. Leavenworth County had no special questions and the results show in the average of 35.1%.

At the beginning of the 1983 session, laws were passed to keep Kansas in the Black Ink until July 1. In these days of fiscal restraint, do we need to spend 1.1 million for a Presidential Primary (probably would be closer to 1.5 million in 1984)?

I urge you to vote "NO" on Senate Bill 163 and keep some sanity in the way you spend the taxpayers' dollars.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Scheller
County Clerk

LES/las

Attachment # 7
S. Elect. 3/27/85

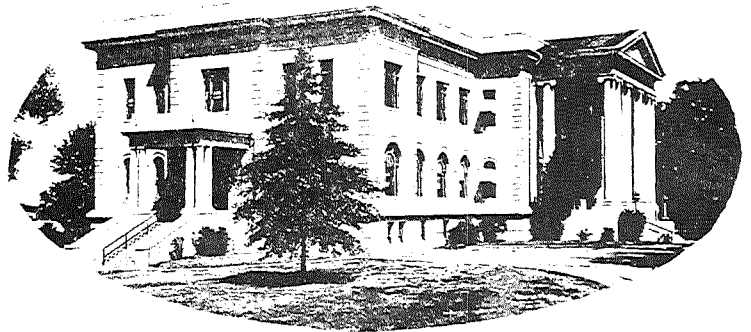
COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

COURTHOUSE
4TH & WALNUT
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66048
AREA CODE 913-682-7611 ext. 205

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GERALD D. OROKE, Chairman
Third District

DON AARON
First District

EDWARD E. POWERS
Second District



March 27, 1985

Senator Ben Vidricksen
Room 143N
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: H.B. #2534 & #2535

Dear Senator Vidricksen:

We want to make it known to our legislators that we are opposed to both house bills #2534 and #2535.

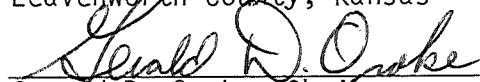
House Bill #2534 would tie in future school district elections with a presidential primary election. By tying these two elections together the Kansas Counties would have to pay for the elections. The first presidential primary cost the State 1.1 million dollars. We would like the senate to vote "NO" on House Bill #2534, as these elections are non-partisan and should remain that way.

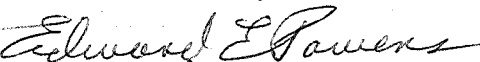
With House Bill #2535 the State would have another presidential primary. Contrary to the "record turn out" at the last presidential primary, in Leavenworth County the presidential primary had the lowest turn out of the last four major primaries.

If the State feels that a presidential primary is needed then the State should pay for same and not put that burden on the counties. Therefore, we oppose both House Bill #2534 and #2535.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners
Leavenworth County, Kansas


Gerald D. Oroke, Chairman


Edward E. Powers, Member


Don Aaron, Member

Attachment # 7

S. Elect. 3/27/85