

Approved DLH

Date 3-3-87

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

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

9:00 am a.m./p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 1987 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Foster, excused; Representative Jenkins, excused; Representative Littlejohn, excused; Representative Blumenthal, excused; and, Representative Roy, excused.

Committee staff present: Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department
Nancy Ryan, Secretary of State's Office
Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State's Office
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dottie Musselman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Bowden
Marquette Eilerts, Marion County Clerk
Cindy K. Lutz, Staff Legal Counsel, Kansas Association of
School Boards
Shirley Mackender, Clay County Clerk, Provided Written
Testimony to Committee
Representative Helgerson
Douglas N. Merritt, Secretary, Libertarian Party
Karl Peterjohn, Libertarian Party
Blake Huber, Chairman, Libertarian Party of Kansas
Earl Nehring, Common/Cause
Warren C. Martin, National Prohibition Party
Walter Myers, Populist Party of Kansas
Nancy Ryan, Secretary of State's Office

Chairperson Harper called the meeting to order. Representative Bowden, author of HB 2273 was recognized. HB 2273 is an act relating to certain bond elections concerning electors qualified to vote therein. The Representative came before the committee giving them a briefing on this piece of legislation. To begin, he addressed the underlying concept of this bill. Telling the committee in the earliest years of our democracy, various qualifications or disqualifications were used to limit the number of persons who could vote in elections. One qualification to be able to vote was that you must be a landowner. The committee was told that even with a public policy of expanding our electorate base, there are some people in our democracy who can't vote in elections which directly affect them. This bill is an attempt to bring one group of persons denied that right into the process, those persons presently owning land in one municipality but are not residents of that municipality. Representative Bowden asked that the committee take a long and serious look at this issue. (Attachment 1).

The Chair recognized Marquette Eilerts, Marion County Clerk. Ms. Eilerts came before the committee telling them that a registration list for this type of election is compiled from three sources: Real Estate, Personal Property and Vehicle Records. She told the committee she objected to sub-section (c) and gave reasons for same. (Attachment 2). Ms. Eilerts told the members of the committee, that HB 2273, as currently drafted, would be impossible to administer accurately and efficiently. Ms. Eilerts was opposed to this legislation.

Cindy K. Lutz, Staff Legal Counsel, Kansas Association of School Boards, was recognized. Ms. Lutz came before the committee in opposition to HB 2273 telling the committee that the Association believes it is unconstitutional in that it violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Aside from the constitutional infirmities, other factors should be considered, such as the mill levy on property in the school district which is determined annually by the school board, yet non-resident property owners have no vote in those school board elections. Taxes on property in the district may be raised through capital outlay levies, and non-resident property owners cannot vote on protest petitions. There are many instances in which property taxes may

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections,
 room 521-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 am a.m./p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 1987

also be affected in which non-resident property owners have no votes. Ms. Lutz told the committee bond elections should not be treated differently. (Attachment 3).

A copy of a phone call received from Candice Williams, Harper County Clerk, had been passed to members of committee. This call was in opposition to HB 2273. (Attachment 4).

A copy of a letter from Bea Coats, Chairman, Kansas County Clerk's Elections Committee, was passed to the committee. Ms. Coats was also in opposition to HB 2273. (Attachment 5).

A copy of letter from Shirley Mackender, Clay County Clerk, was handed to members. Ms. Mackender was in opposition to HB 2273. (Attachment 6)

The hearing closed on HB 2273.

The Chair next recognized Representative Helgerson. HB 2266, an act relating to the recognition of political parties was next up for hearing. The Representative told the committee his remarks would be very short, as a number of people coming from out-of-town were wanting to testify on this bill. A listing of the number of individuals necessary to obtain a third party in Kansas for them to be known as an official party was handed out. (Attachment 7) Presently, the law states for a party to be recognized, it needs two percent of the gubernatorial votes. In the last election, it was determined that there are only two official parties which are recognized under the state. In order for a third party to be recognized it means that they have to obtain over 16,000 signatures. This bill changes that, and is very similar to what other states have with a fixed total of 1,000 signatures.

The Chair recognized Douglas N. Merritt, Secretary, Kansas Libertarian Party. Mr. Merritt came before the committee asking that the legislature reduce the number of signatures necessary to recognize third parties. Attention was called to the list handed out by Representative Helgerson, saying that Kansas has very rigid requirements. Mr. Merritt told the committee HB 2266 is simple, if you do not want the small parties on the ballot, no action is necessary. They are now off the ballot and present law is quite sufficient to keep them off. He stated that on the other hand, if you want them on the ballot the legislature must establish workable, reasonable regulations, greatly reduced requirements, for ballot access.

Next recognized was Karl Peterjohn, Libertarian Party. Mr. Peterjohn came before the committee in support of HB 2266, and told the committee he spoke to the committee in 1981 on very similar legislation.

A question was raised as to membership of the Libertarian Party. It was answered that they have 43 members, each paying a \$12 a year membership fee.

At this point the Chairman had to leave the meeting for another appointment elsewhere in the building, the Vice Chairman now chaired the meeting.

Vice Chairman Baker recognized Blake Huber, Chairman, Libertarian Party of Kansas. Mr. Huber came before the committee in support of HB 2266, and gave the committee his interest in the bill, along with the interest of the Libertarian Party.

Earl Nehring, Common/Cause, was recognized at this time, and Mr. Nehring appeared before the Elections Committee in support of HB 2266. Mr. Nehring told the members that third parties have played an interesting role in the State of Kansas.

The Vice Chairman now recognized Walter Myers, Populist Party of Kansas. Mr. Myers appeared before the committee in support of HB 2266. One of his reasons for a third party, is to help others understand and restore and preserve the constitution for the United States.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Nancy Ryan, Secretary of State's Office, was recognized. Ms. Ryan came before the committee in opposition to HB 2266.

Warren Martin, the National prohibition Party, appeared before the committee in support of HB 2266. (Attachment 8).

A number of copies of letters which had been mailed in on HB 2266 were distributed to members of the committee. (Attachment 9)

The hearing closed on HB 2266.

Representative Amos moved the minutes of the February 24, 1987, meeting be approved as written. Seconded by Representative Johnson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by 10:30 a.m.

2-26-87

DATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

GUEST LIST

HB 2266
2/22

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Walter Myers	Rt 2 Baldwin, Mo	Populist Party of Kansas
Frank Williams	RR #13 Topeka, KS	SALP

Handwritten circled notes: 2/22, 15, 22

Shirley Mochendr	Box 98 Clay Center	County Club
Jody Crimmins	" " "	Dep County Club

HB 2266-702

Karl Peterjohn	1717E. Morris Wichita	Libertarian Party
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RICK BOWDEN
 REPRESENTATIVE, NINETY-THIRD DISTRICT
 433 WALNUT
 GODDARD, KANSAS 67052



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 MEMBER: EDUCATION
 GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Statement on HB 2273

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear today and testify on HB 2273. To begin, I'd like to address the underlying concept of this Bill. In the earliest years of our democracy, various qualifications or disqualifications were used to limit the number of persons who could vote in elections. In fact, among the earliest qualifications to vote was that one must be a landowner. As a result of the large number of qualifications, only a select few could participate and the vast majority was denied suffrage. Government was directed, electorally at least, by a small privileged minority. Over the years, we have removed most of these qualifications, striving to reach the objective of universal suffrage. As we moved toward this objective, some concerns and objections were raised and/or administrative problems occurred, but our adherence to the concepts of "one man-one vote" and "taxation with representation" provided the motivation to keep us moving to find ways to solve those problems. Even with a public policy of expanding our electorate base, we still have some people in our free democracy who can not vote in elections which directly affect them. This Bill is an attempt to bring one group of persons denied that right into the process, i.e. those persons presently owning land in one municipality but are not residents of that municipality. Presently, these people have no voice in bond elections even though they will be among the group paying off those bonds through property taxes, should a bond election pass. I believe there is precedence for permitting these people to vote. In some 2-26-87?

attn # 1
 House Elections

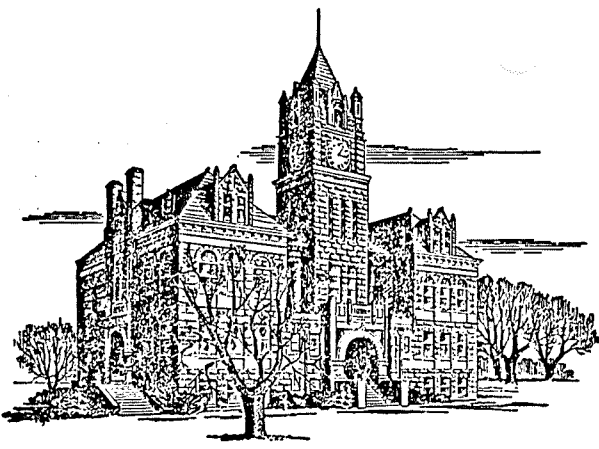
types of district elections in Kansas, people who are not residents in the district, but who are landowners, may vote in elections in that district. Recent changes in land ownership in Kansas and the effect of numerous farm foreclosures may well be the factor that should cause us to re-examine, at this point, just who should be voting in bond elections. Additionally, the present statewide reappraisal of property should give us correct and up-to-date identification of who owns property in the State.

I will be the first to admit that permitting people not living in the district yet, who do own property in the district to vote in bond elections would be a significant change in policy in the State. Many questions would need to be raised as to the effect such a change would have on a multitude of different items. I have many of those questions, i.e. what of corporate ownership of land; what about people who own land but live out of state; should there be stipulations on the size of land that would entitle the owner to vote, etc., etc.

I would not want the Legislature to act in haste in changing our election policy without having all these questions raised along with many others and then seeking answers to them. Nor, would I want this Body to turn thumbs down to the idea presented in this Bill without at least raising these questions and looking for answers to them. But, at the heart of this Bill, still lies the issue of participation in government and the chance to participate through one of the fundamental rights of citizens and that is the right to vote on the issues.

I would respectfully request that this Committee take a long and serious look at this issue.

*Alm #1
House Election
2-26-87.*



MARION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

MARION COUNTY, KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

316-382-2185

MARION, KANSAS 66861

MARQUETTA EILERTS, CLERK
COUNTY ELECTION OFFICER

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LUCILLE BRITAIN
CHARLES DE FOREST
LEON SUDERMAN

February 26, 1987

TO: Election Committee
Attn: Richard Harper, Chairman

FROM: Marquette Eilerts
County Clerk and Election Officer
Marion County
Marion, Kansas 66861

SUBJECT: House Bill 2273 - An act relating to certain bond elections;
concerning electors qualified to vote therein.

A registration list for this type of election is compiled from three sources: Real Estate, Personal Property and Vehicle records.

I object to Subsection (c) for the following reasons:

- a. A "Qualified elector" as defined herein is very difficult to determine as it contains a number of variable factors.

The term "owning land within the municipality" requires considerable deed research to determine eligible voters. For tax purposes it is customary to list one name which is followed by numerous terms such as "etux" (wife), "etvir" (husband), or "etal" (others). All of these persons would qualify as land owners. Contract sales always raise a question.
- b. Personal property owners must be searched out through assessment records. Again it is difficult to determine which business owners are eligible as the status of "chartered or incorporated" may not be reflected in the name of the establishment.
- c. Vehicles must be researched as this may be the only property owned by the voter. Multiple owners and addresses are a problem. Many times the address and taxing unit corrections are made on the registration card and do not appear on the permanent record. Taxes are distributed directly from the information on the card.
- d. A voter may contest the election if a tax payer's name is omitted from the County Clerk's eligible voter list and the poll board fails to recognize that a ballot should be issued to the voter. The results may be a new judicially called election. I speak from experience regarding a judicially called election.

These are problems that the County Attorney and myself have encountered with similar voter requirements. Currently the burden of proof does not rest with the voter. Our offices are not sufficiently staffed to provide an accurate voter list based on these qualifications.

As currently drafted, House Bill 2273 would be impossible to administer accurately and efficiently. I do not propose any streamlined solutions to Mr. Bowden's theory that all tax payers should be given a fair and equal opportunity to vote on Bond elections.

Thank you for an opportunity to voice my opinion.

Marquette Eilerts
Marion County Clerk

*Attachment # 2
House Election*

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

5401 S. W. 7th Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66606
913-273-3600

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2273

BEFORE THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

BY

Cynthis K. Lutz, Staff Legal Counsel
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 26, 1987

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of our member school districts.

Initially we oppose HB 2273 because we believe it is unconstitutional in that it violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In Hill v. Stone, 41 U.S. 289 (1975) the Supreme Court held that as long as an election is not one of special interest, any classification restricting the voting franchise on grounds other than residence, age and citizenship cannot stand unless the district or state can demonstrate that the classification serves a compelling state interest, and specifically found that the state's interest in protecting property owners who bear the direct burden of retiring bond indebtedness fell short of meeting the compelling state interest test.

Aside from the constitutional infirmities, other factors should be considered. The mill levy on property in the school district is determined annually by the school board, yet non-resident property owners have no vote in those school board elections. Taxes on property in the district may be raised through capital outlay levies, and non-resident property owners cannot vote on protest petitions. Clearly there are many instances in which property taxes may

*attachment # 3
House Elections
2-26-87*

be affected in which non-resident property owners have no votes; bond elections should not be treated differently.

Furthermore, residents of the school district are in a better position to understand both the needs of the district and the educational purposes which will be accomplished through the passage of a bond election. Local control of school districts, at least in their decisions to expand facilities, could be greatly diluted by the passage of this amendment.

Additionally, the bill raises numerous questions. Is this intended to include non-residents of Kansas or those who are not citizens of the United States? What if the land owner is a corporation? If the property is rented do both the resident tenant and non-resident landlord have the right to vote? Doesn't the non-resident landlord have a recourse in that he or she can raise the tenant's rent to reflect increases in property taxes?

*Home Elections
8-26-87.
attn #3.*

4:15 p.m.
2-25-87

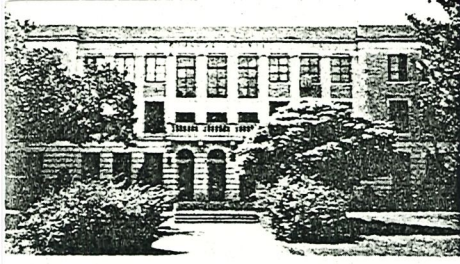
Rep. Harper:

Candice Williams, Harper County Clerk,
called. Asking that you take a good look
at HB 2273. She is not in support of this
bill.

Finds fault with the part of bill pertaining
to owning land, said it should be all people
who are registered to vote.

dottie (Per Phone Call)

2-26-87
Attachment 4
House Elections



EDWARDS COUNTY, KANSAS
KINSLEY, KANSAS 67547

OFFICE OF:
BEA COATS
COUNTY CLERK/ELECTION OFFICER
PHONE: 316-659-3121

MARJORY SCHEUFLER, BELPRE
FIRST DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

ARTHUR D. STIEBE, KINSLEY
SECOND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

LELAND STEVENS, KINSLEY
THIRD DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

PHONE: 316-659-2583

February 24, 1987

Representative Richard Harper
State Capitol, 3Rd Floor
Topeka, Ks. 66612

Dear Representative Harper:

I am writing in opposition to H.B. 2273, amending K.S.A. 1986
Supp. 10-120, for the following reasons:

1. K.S.A. 10-120 is the law we follow in conducting all bond
elections. The administration of a large election under this
amendment would be next to impossible. Many more specifics
need to be addressed; and I am sure that the election would
have to be held under the mail ballot act.

2. Out of county landowners have no interest in the community;
thus no bond issue is likely to pass.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Bea Coats

Bea Coats, Chairman
Kansas County Clerk's Elections Committee

*Attachment #5
House Elections
2-26-87*

Representative Harper & Committee Members;

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB2273.

I am the first to admit that anyone that pays taxes on property should have the right to vote on a bond levy, but on the other side of the coin this would be a very difficult law to administer.

This bill allows land owners & personal property taxpayers to vote on a bond election, but this also allows people like elderly or 18 year olds who might not own any property whatsoever, but are qualified electors to vote also. Our voting system is based on qualified electors and I do not think this should be altered.

This bill also changes the structure of all bond elections.

With the present tagging system it is very difficult to prepare an accurate list of personal property owners. If they tag only a mini-bike or moped they could be eligible to vote under this bill.

People who are real estate owners that live out of county or out of state possibly would not be aware of the need of an improvement or construction that a community needs badly and would only see the bond issue as an increase in taxes.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 2273.

Shirley Mackender
Clay County Clerk

*attachment 6
2-26-87
House Election*

*NON-COMMUNIST
INDUSTRIALIST
DEMOCRACY*

HB 2266

NEW PARTY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SEVERAL STATES (in order of the ascending order of percentage of signatures required)

<u>State</u>	<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Citations of Authority</u>	<u>No. of Sigs</u>	<u>Sigs as % Registered</u>
Wash	organized party	29.24.030	25 ***	.01%
Utah	flat number	20-3-2	500 *	.04%
Colo	flat number	1-4-801(b)	1,000	.05%
Iowa	flat number	Tit 4 sec 45.1	1,000	.06%
Wis	flat number	8.20(4)	2,000	.06%
NM	flat number	1-7-2, 1-15-3	500 *	.08%
<u>KAN</u>	<u>FLAT NUMBER (PROPOSED)</u>	<u>HOUSE BILL 2266</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>.09%</u>
RI	flat number	17-16-8	1,000	.19%
NY	flat number	Ch 17 sec 6-142	20,000	.25%
Ky	flat number	Tit 10 sec 118.315(2)	5,000	.26%
Mich	1% of sec-st vote	168.685(1)	16,313	.28%
VT	flat number	Tit 17 sec 2402(b)	1,000	.31%
Ill	flat number	Chp 46, sec 10-2	25,000	.42%
TX	1% of gub vote	181.005	34,424	.47%
VA	.5% of reg voters	24.1-159	13,500	.50%
Me	flat number	Tit 21 sec 494.5	4,000	.52%
Ala	1% of gub vote	17-8-2.1	12,345	.52%
Ohio	1% of gub vote	3517.01	30,667	.52%
NH	flat number	Tit 4 sec 655:42	3,000	.54%
Ariz	1% of gub vote	16.341E	8,670	.54%
Cal	1% of gub vote	Elec code 6430(b)	76,172	.59%
Neb	1% of gub vote	32-526	5,635	.66%
SD	1% of gub vote	Q12-7-1	2,945	.69%**
Alas	1% of pres vote	15.30.024(a)	2,068	.71%
Mo	1% of gub vote	Tit 9 sec 115.315	21,083	.76%
SC	flat number	7-9-10	10,000	.77%
WV	1% of pres vote	P3-5-23	7,358	.78%
Hi	1% of gub vote	T2 sec 11-113b(2)(B)	3,493	.83%
ND	flat number	16.1-12-01	4,000	.84%
Pa	2% winner (judge)	Tit 25 sec 2911	50,000	.86%
Ct	1% of gub vote	9-453(d)	14,910	.89%
Ga	1% of registration	21-2-180	25,759	1.00%
Ind	2% of sec-state vote	3-8-6-3	30,794	1.00%
Fla	1% of registration	103.021(3)	56,312	1.00%
Mass	2% of gub vote	Ch 53 sec 6	33,682	1.15%
Tenn	2 1/2% gub vote	2-1-104(28)(B)	30,259	1.19%
<u>Kan</u>	<u>2% gub vote</u>	<u>25-302a</u>	<u>16,813</u>	<u>1.43%</u>
NC	2% of gub vote	163-96(2)	44,535	1.45%
Ida	2% of pres vote	34-501(1)(c)(D)	8,224	1.50%
Okla	3% of pres vote	Tit 26 sec 10-1-1.2	37,671	1.87%
Nev	3% congress vote	Assembly bill 184	7,717	2.10%
Mont	5% Gov winner vote	13-10-601	13,329	3.00%
Wyo	flat number	22-4-201	8,000	3.40
Ore	5% of congress vote	Tit 23 sec 249,732	51,578	3.45%

* Petitions must be signed by party members only
 ** South Dakota has no voter registration: % is approximated.
 *** Wash. allows convention attended by 25 members or .01% of pres vote whichever is larger. (for Kansas that would be 80)

NOTE Ark., Del., La., Maine, Miss. & N.J. not included because of lack of knowledge.
 List by Douglas Merritt 1124 "U" Atchison, Kansas 66002 913 367 2035 credit
 Richard Winger, 3201 Baker San Francisco CA 94123, 415 922 9779

*House Elections
2-26-87
ctm #7*

Some Prohibition Party Firsts

In addition to the tremendous campaigns of agitation and education on the liquor question, on which subject it furnished practically all of the available data and statistics up to 1916, the Prohibition party has taken an advanced stand on practically every other important reform. Many of the more important issues have been very tardily adopted by the old parties, and some not at all. The table presented below indicates the position of leadership in progressive politics maintained by the Prohibitionists. Many questions of lesser importance have also been advocated by the Prohibitionists, among which are Prison Reforms, Low Railroad Rates, Parcel Post, Modern Currency System, Guarantee of Bank Deposits, Separation of Church and State, Court Review of Post Office Department Decisions, Regulation of Inter-State Corporations, Six Day Week, Government Regulation of Stock Exchange and Boards of Trade, Public Utilities, etc.

What the Prohibition Party Has Done

The dates below indicate when the various parties declared for these reforms. This data is significant as showing the Prohibition party a leader in advocating these reforms, and also as showing that the other parties never have declared for some of the most important reform measures.

Universal Suffrage

The Prohibition party first demanded universal suffrage basing its claim under the Declaration of Independence, that "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Prohibition	1872
Republican	1916
Democratic	1916

Civil Service Reform

When the principle "to the victors belong the spoils" was the rule in American politics, it demanded the filling of appointive positions under the government on a basis of merit rather than political belief.

Prohibition	1872
Republican	1884
Democratic	1876

Direct Elections

It was the first to demand that U. S. Senators be elected by direct vote of the people and for years the only party to press this just and important reform upon the attention of the voters.

Prohibition	1872
Republican	.....
Democratic	1900

Letter Postage

It first favored the reduction of letter postage to two cents, and the Congressman who introduced the two-cent bill was later a party Prohibitionist. It again pressed this demand.

Prohibition	1872
Republican	1888
Democratic	.....

International Arbitration

It was the first, and for years the only party, to stand for International Arbitration as a means to gain Universal Peace, as a means of settling the disputes between nations.

Prohibition	1876
Republican	1904
Democratic	1916

Lotteries and Gambling

In 1876 the Prohibition party declared against lotteries and gambling and favored excluding advertisements and tickets relating to lotteries and gambling from the United States mails.

Prohibition	1876
Republican	.....
Democratic	.....

Land Grabbers and Speculators

It was the first to demand that the free government lands should not be given to monopolies and speculators, but proposed that they be opened to actual settlers only.

Prohibition	1876
Republican	1884
Democratic	1876

The White Slave Traffic

has been denounced in every Prohibition platform since 1876, and up to this time the Prohibition party is the only party to give no recognition whatever to this great national shame.

Prohibition	1876
Republican	.....
Democratic	.....

Uniform Marriage and Divorce Laws

At the present time each state makes its own laws on this subject, and as a result "divorce colonies" and their attendant evils have sprung up.

Prohibition	1888
Republican	.....
Democratic	.....

The Income Tax

and the Inheritance Tax laws, now an important part of our revenue system, were proposed by the Prohibitionists for equalizing the burdens of taxation.

Prohibition	1896
Republican	.....
Democratic	1908

The Tariff Commission

idea was taken bodily from an old Prohibition platform, and today is accepted by authorities as the only statesmanlike solution proposed for the tariff problem.

Prohibition	1904
Republican	1912
Democratic	1916

Postal Savings Banks

This very important branch of public service which has grown in popular favor and importance was first mentioned in a political platform by the Prohibition party.

Prohibition	1908
Republican	.....
Democratic	.....

Child Labor

Theodore Roosevelt tardily found his anti-child labor planks already framed up and in print years before they became part of his political capital.

Prohibition	1908
Republican	1912
Democratic	1916

Conservation of Resources

In like manner Theodore Roosevelt's doctrine of conservation had long been recognized as an important problem by the Prohibition party.

Prohibition	1908
Republican	1908
Democratic	1912

Employers Liability Acts

In demanding the enactment of such acts, the Prohibition party was again a pioneer, and this protection to the workman has been embodied in the laws of most of the states.

Prohibition	1908
Republican	1916
Democratic	1916

Old Age Pensions

It is interesting to observe that the first party declaration on this question was made by the Prohibition party.

Prohibition	1916
Republican	.....
Democratic	1932

Unemployment Insurance

The forethought of Prohibition party leaders is shown in their declaration on this subject many years ago.

Prohibition	1916
Republican	.....
Democratic	1928

W. W. W. W. W.

J. C. C. C. C.

PLATFORM

The Platform Committee of the Statesman Party of Kansas in Session at the State Capitol on Tuesday August 26, 1980, recognizing Almighty God as the source of all just and good government, and believing that the teaching of his Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ is the touchstone by which we should judge all our actions, principles and administration of government, do make the following declaration of principles:

1. PUBLIC MORALS:

- A. We are opposed to pari-mutuel gambling & bingo for charity or supplementary of State Taxes.
- B. We support a Constitutional Amendment to protect the unborn by prohibiting ABORTION, except in those very rare cases where the life of the mother is seriously endangered.
- C. We reject the idea of so called Victim-less Crimes.
- D. We believe that while individual morals can't be legislated, public morals MAYBE legislated & we call upon our State & Federal Governments to recognize this principle.
- E. Homosexuality is a perversion & NOT a normal way of life and should be discouraged from society.

2. AGRICULTURE:

- A. We favor local control as opposed to the interference to the Corp of Engineers, EPA, OSHA and other Federal Bureaucracies.
- B. Those engaged in agriculture pursuits should be able to realize a fair profit in the production & sale of their products with the least amount of government control.

3. PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

- A. We favor State & Local control of our schools. We oppose the methods of DE and it should be abolished.
- B. We reject busing as a means of intergration. Busing is a violation of the family's GOD given right to live in the neighborhood of their choice.
- C. We favor using the BIBLE in the schools as a course in History & Literature studies.
- E. We encourage teaching the basic courses of reading, writing & arithmetic.
- F. Text books should be FREE from bias & atheistic ideologies.
- G. Teachers must be PATRIOTIC, LOYAL AMERICANS & uphold the principles of the family religious life. They should be made to pass a TEST to see if qualified in subject matter.

4. PUBLIC WELFARE & HEALTH:

- A. We favor a parents RESPONSIBILITY LAW to help curb juvenile delinquency.
- B. We favor a MANDATORY deductions from pay-checks for child-support.
- C. We believe every able bodied recipient of welfare should be required to work, (perform public service, if nothing else is available) or to go to training school. We are opposed to WELFARE SUBSIDIZING DRUG PUSHERS & PROSTITUTES.
- D. We are opposed to spending tax money for contraceptives for minors & unmarried persons.
- E. We are against Federally Funded Day Care Centers and the trend toward Welfare INTERVENTION in our homes and church schools.

5. LABOR*MANAGEMENT LAWS:

- A. We believe that an individual's RIGHT to WORK should depend on his qualifications & dependability rather than on his creed, Color, or whether he belongs to a UNION.
- B. We favor NO-STRIKES for city, county, state, federal & public utilities employees.
- C. We disapprove of secondary boycotts.

6. LAW REFORM:

- A. We favor a mandatory blood test for all arrested for drunkenness & drunk driving.
- B. We favor a mandatory jail sentence for those convicted of drunk driving.
- C. We favor recinding the endorsement of the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT by the State of Kansas.
- D. We resent the extortion tactics of the Federal Bureaucrats on individual and State Rights.
- E. We vigorously favor a SEVERANCE-TAX for substances extracted from the earth in the State of Kansas. (We in Kansas have been paying this tax to other States for years).
- F. We say NO to GUN*CONTROL for Kansas Citizens.
- G. We absolutely reject the EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS that the Supreme Court & other Federal Courts have taken upon themselves, illegally legislating controls on individuals, county & state governments.

Home Elections
attm # 8
2-26-87

- H. We favor vigorous enforcement of all narcotic & other drug laws.
- I. We favor mandatory time in prison for convicted drug pushers.
- J. We favor capital punishment when life is taken during criminal activities.
- K. We favor a mandatory sentence without parole for crimes committed with any deadly weapon.
- L. We favor laws against deficit spending on the Federal, State or Local levels.

7. LIQUOR CONTROL:

As Alcoholism continues to be a health problem in America, effecting people in all walks of life, including the abuse of children, wives, husbands & parents, we favor the following methods of attaching the problem:

- A. We favor outlawing all forms of advertising of alcoholic liquors in newspapers and magazines and on bill boards, radio & TV.
- B. We favor strict enforcement of all control laws.
- C. We favor the elimination of sales of alcoholic liquors in grocery stores, drug stores, hotels, restaurants & service stations.
- D. We favor a liquor SELLERS LIABILITY LAW.
- E. We favor a county option law for those laws now controlled by the cities.
- F. WE favor a porated TAX on all alcoholic beverages sold in the State of Kansas to be paid by the manufacture; to pay for the crime, abuse, welfare, police enforcement, etc caused by the consumption of their products.

8. PENAL REFORM:

We believe that the present law invests too much authority in one person to determine the fate of an inmate or determine standards of adequacy or inadequacy for our jails & penal institutions.

9. STATE INSTITUTIONS:

We believe alcoholism to be the greatest contributing cause in filling our penal institutions and our state hospitals.

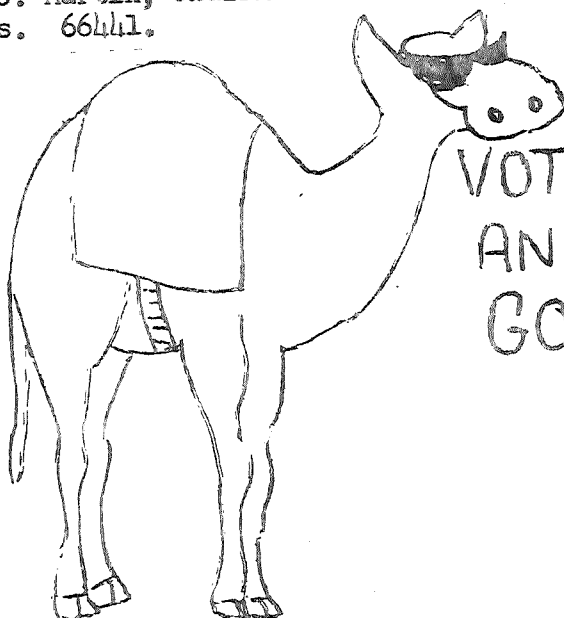
SUMMARY:

We advocate a new Prohibition Amendment to our State Constitution and an adequate enforcement law. Such laws must be enforced by officials elected by a political party pledged to their enforcement. MORE than a half a century in Kansas has proved a party or candidate that dodges the issue cannot be trusted to honestly enforce the law. Not withstanding indifferent enforcement, Constitutional Prohibition proved more effective than any licensing system.

The Kansas Statesman Party.

Warren C. Martin, Chairman
J.C., Ks. 66441.

Sharon R. Scoggin, Sec. Pro-tem.
J.C., Ks. 66441.



VOTE FOR RIGHTEOUS
AND CONSTITUTIONAL
GOVERNMENT

Contributions maybe made to:
Mr. Vearl A. Bacon, Treasurer of Statesman Party
RR # 1, Box 8, Conway, Ks. 67434.

System of taxes and payments on a sound actuarial basis which is fair to payers and to recipients, and (3) Restoring to religious organizations their traditional exemption from the payment of Social Security taxes.

AGRICULTURE

Those engaged in agricultural pursuits should be free from authoritarian control and coercion by the government. Consumers should not pay artificially contrived higher food prices. We therefore propose a return to the free market and the elimination of all governmental controls and subsidies.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

We favor legal bans against harmful drugs such as marijuana, L.S.D., heroin, cocaine etc. Since tobacco is the prime cause of lung cancer and many other health problems we oppose promotional advertising and governmental subsidies for tobacco products. We favor laws by the state and federal governments to protect the right of non-smokers to breathe air which is uncontaminated by poisonous tobacco smoke.

We will protect citizens against unjust incarceration in mental institutions and compulsory participation in those programs of mass medication which violate individual rights. We oppose socialized medicine and federal interference in the operation of hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities.

MIS-USE OF FIRE-ARMS

We favor the imposition of long-term prison sentences for those convicted of using fire-arms in the commission of a crime.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Massive illegal immigration, tolerated by both Republican and Democratic parties and our federal government, is causing severe economic, political and social problems for our nation and her people. We favor strict enforcement of present immigration laws and the prompt deportation of all illegal aliens now residing in the United States. Repeat offenders should be given non-paroleable jail sentences to deter future illegal entry. We oppose the granting of 'amnesty' to millions of illegal aliens as a reward for their evasion of our immigration laws for many years.

THE ALCOHOL PROBLEM

Beverage alcohol is the chief cause of poverty, broken homes, juvenile delinquency, vice, crime, political corruption, wasted manpower and highway accidents in America. By very conservative estimates some 26 million Americans are now alcoholics or problem drinkers. The liquor traffic admits that bootlegging is a big business estimated by that traffic to be producing one-third of all alcoholic beverages consumed in America today. An estimated 400,000 Americans die yearly because of highway deaths, homicides and health problems which can be traced directly to beverage alcohol. Included in this estimate are the many who die prematurely because alcohol has damaged or destroyed vital organs such as the liver.

The liquor traffic is linked with and supports a nationwide network of gambling, vice and crime. It also dominates the Republican and Democratic parties and much

of the governmental life of our nation. We therefore favor the prohibition of the manufacture, distribution and sale of all alcoholic beverages.

Our party alone offers a program of publicity, education, legislation and administration leading to the elimination of the liquor traffic. We hold that if it is right and logical to ban the production, distribution and sale of heroin which has killed thousands, it is even more needful to do so with beverage alcohol which has claimed millions of American lives.

CHALLENGE

Voters concerned about the wide-spread corruption and erosion of our freedoms and the low level of morality in government should cease supporting the two political parties which created these problems. Our party, with a clean record of over one hundred and fourteen years of service to America, invites the support of all citizens who believe in our program of good government.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL PROHIBITION CONVENTION AND ARE INCLUDED HERE BECAUSE OF THE MASSIVE THREAT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM POSED BY THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

1. We call for a repeal of the law passed by the Congress and President Reagan which imposes a national (Social Security) tax on all religious groups for the first time in American History.

The Social Security system is imperiled because of decades of mismanagement by the two dominant parties.

This un-American action of taxing churches, mission societies, etc. will not save the Social Security system and does infringe on our religious freedom.

2. We condemn the action of eight members of the United States Court in denying tax-exempt status to Bob Jones University.

The notion that American religious institutions must endorse all national government policies or be taxed is a new and dangerous idea.

Those who oppose governmental policy on beverage alcohol, gambling, toleration of pornography, abortion, immigration and a host of other controversial issues now have a sword hanging over their head. We call for action by Congress to re-establish by law the principle of religious freedom which the United States Supreme Court has so wantonly violated. We commend Justice William Rehnquist for standing alone in the defense of American religious liberty.

The National Prohibition Party

P.O. Box 2635

Denver, Colorado 80201

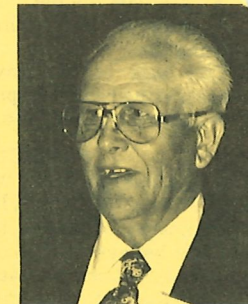
Extra Copies: \$6.00 — 100. \$42.50 — 1000



EARL F. DODGE

for

President



WARREN C. MARTIN

for

Vice President

NATIONAL PROHIBITION PARTY 1984 PLATFORM

We, the representatives of the Prohibition Party, assembled in National Convention at Mandan, North Dakota, June 22-24, 1983, recognizing Almighty God as the Source of all just government and with faith in the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, promise that, if our party is chosen to administer the affairs of our nation, we will, with earnest dedication to the principles of righteousness, seek to serve the needs and to preserve the rights, the prerogatives, and the basic freedoms of the people of the United States of America. For the realization of these ends, we propose the following program of government:

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

We affirm our loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America. We will resist all attempts to violate it by legislation, by means of evasion or through judicial interpretation. We support our system of representative government by this plan of checks and balances. We support Constitutional means to end the present situation in which the judicial branch is usurping legislative and executive authority.

COMMUNISM - TOTALITARIANISM

Communism seeks to overthrow our present form of government by means of subversion and violence. We oppose Communism and all other totalitarian economic and political systems.

GOVERNMENTAL ECONOMY AND TAXATION

America today faces mounting unemployment, runaway inflation and a tax system which takes about 45% of our earnings to operate our government. Unwise fiscal policies of our government are the chief cause of our economic plight.

We favor a return to the gold standard to halt the dangerous erosion of the value of the American dollar. We also favor amending the Constitution to provide that, except in case of a war declared by Congress, there shall be:

1. A balanced budget.
2. A limit on the taxing and spending powers of Congress.
3. The sale of all government-owned businesses competing with tax-paying enterprises.
4. A systematic reduction of the national debt.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

We favor a foreign policy whose chief objectives are the preservation of American liberty and independence and the promotion of justice and freedom throughout the world. We believe foreign aid should usually be in the form of loans at commercial rates of interest and should be extended only to those nations who are friendly to the United States and share our devotion to freedom.

A FREE ECONOMY

We believe free enterprise is threatened by (1) Excessive government regulation, (2) growth of public or private monopoly, and (3) unethical practices of both management and labor. We will act to prevent both monopoly and excessive regulation and to protect the consuming public from irresponsible or deceptive business practices.

LABOR AND MANAGEMENT

Management and labor must be held accountable for their economic behavior. Neither must dominate at the expense of the other or of the common good. Anti-trust laws must be applied to both business and labor. We will end governmental discrimination in favor of union members in the awarding of contracts. We will vigorously enforce laws against strikes by federal employees.

A person's right to work for an employer willing to hire him and his right to join or not to join a labor union without affecting his employment must be protected. Governmental interference in collective bargaining and violence or coercion by either management or labor must be prohibited.

STATES RIGHTS

Our Founding Fathers stressed both individual and states rights by adopting the Bill of Rights. For many years the Federal Government has been usurping many of the states' Constitutional Rights. The states which created the Federal Government are now often dominated by their creature. We will take whatever action is needed to preserve and, where necessary restore, states' Constitutional Rights. We reject 'regional government' or un-elected layers of government between the states and the federal government and between the states and county and local governmental units. Un-elected governments are unresponsive to the will of the electorate.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

All Americans, regardless of race, sex, religion or national origin are guaranteed equality of treatment before the law by our Constitution. We condemn violent, anarchistic behavior or arbitrary pressure tactics as means of resolving differences among our citizens. We oppose all discriminatory measures such as quotas in employment, education, and housing whether such discrimination is directed against a minority or the majority.

As the first American political party to support equal rights for women we oppose the so-called Equal Rights

Amendment, E.R.A. would grant women no new rights and would strip them of many protections they now enjoy, such as exemption from fighting in the armed forces in time of war.

PUBLIC MORALITY

We deplore the low level of morality culminating in recent shocking revelations of crime and of political and economic corruption. We will strengthen and enforce laws against gambling, narcotics and commercialized vice and seek to provide the moral leadership so sadly lacking in both the Democrat and Republican parties today. We oppose the promotion of un-natural life styles.

RIGHT TO LIFE

The God-given Right to Life is being denied by governmental action which permits the massive destruction of unborn infants. Many who support this morally indefensible crime of abortion also advocate euthanasia (so-called mercy killing) for many of our handicapped and senior citizens. Our courts and legislatures have proven they cannot be trusted to protect the gift of Life. Only by enshrining this principle in our Constitution can we avoid a continuing American holocaust. We favor a Constitutional Amendment to protect all human life from the moment of conception until the time of natural death.

MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

Since eternal vigilance is the price of liberty we favor a sound program of military preparedness. We pray for peace but we cannot ignore potential threats to our nation. We still strongly support a peacetime voluntary armed force which was first advocated by our party.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

We believe in national sovereignty and oppose full or partial surrender of this sovereignty to any international organization.

WELFARE

Our party has pioneered in social reform and favors assistance to the handicapped, the aged, the chronically ill and families without a breadwinner. However, action must be taken to remove the undeserving now on our welfare rolls and to encourage more recipients to become self-supporting. Unless the crushing tax burden is eased soon a taxpayers revolt may doom the whole welfare program.

We oppose a guaranteed annual income as a plan which would further swell the welfare ranks and stifle initiative. We will end the government program which encourages immorality by dispensing birth-control devices to minors without parental consent or knowledge.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Ordained of God, the family is a sacred institution and the basic unit on which our society is built. To protect and preserve that institution we favor: (1) More stringent uniform marriage and divorce laws; (2) An end to all present tax structures which discriminate against married people; and (3) A deliberate governmental policy which disallows any legal benefits of marriage to persons living together in an unmarried state. We oppose any laws or governmental regulations which conflict

with traditional parental authority and cohesion of the family unit.

CHURCH AND STATE

We support the separation of Church and State. We favor tax exemptions for non-profit religious institutions, including church publishing houses and religious schools. We favor taxation of all profits received by any tax exempt group from business operations which compete with tax-paying businesses. We oppose the appropriation of tax money for private religious or sectarian purposes.

We deplore the effort to re-interpret the principle of Separation of Church and State into a belief in a militantly secular state. The same Founding Fathers who set forth this principle showed by word and deed that they did NOT mean separation of God and Biblical principles from the operation of government. We share their conviction that the Bible is a volume of universal appeal and application which is woven into our history, our laws and our culture. We favor Constitutional action to restore our traditional rights to have Bible reading and voluntary prayer in all public institutions including our schools.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe in the freedom of the individual to believe, fellowship, worship, evangelize, educate and establish educational institutions in accordance with his beliefs. The notion that American Religious Institutions must endorse all national government policies or be taxed is a new and dangerous idea. Christian schools, broadcasters and other religious groups and individuals have suffered religious discrimination at the hands of the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal, state and local agencies and officials. We pledge to safeguard the precious right of religious liberty.

BALLOT LAW REFORM

In most states Republicans and Democrats have enacted laws which deny other political parties fair access to the ballot. We will pass laws to end this un-Constitutional two-party monopoly and restore to all legitimate political parties and to Independents their Constitutional rights. Ballot status should not be accorded any person or group which advocates the violent overthrow of our government.

EDUCATION

Under the Tenth Amendment, public education is clearly under the jurisdiction of the states and the people. We will end all direct federal aid to and control over education. We protest the efforts of I.R.S., state and federal officials to interfere with the operation of private Christian schools. These privately financed institutions should not be subject to governmental interference. Their tax-free status is a matter of right under our law and not a gift which can be removed by arbitrary governmental action.

The present Social Security system is discriminatory, actuarially unsound and destructive of individual initiative. We will reform the system by: (1) Allowing workers the option of enrolling in private insurance and retirement plans in lieu of Social Security, and (2) Placing the

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF KANSAS

Blake Huber, Chairman

P.O. BOX 8223 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66608

Mr. Richard L. Harper
Room 175-W
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

66612

February 14, 1987

Dear Mr. Harper;

RE: HOUSE BILL 2266

The issue in HS 2266 is simple. If you do not want the small parties on the ballot, no action is necessary. They are now off the ballot and present law is quite sufficient to keep them off.

On the other hand if you want them on the ballot the legislature must establish workable, reasonable regulations (greatly reduced requirements) for ballot access.

Inclosed is an editorial from the Wichita Beacon that states the case better than I can. You may find it helpful.

Sincerely



Douglas N. Merritt
Secretary, Kansas Libertarian Party
1124 "U" Street, Atchison, Kansas 66002

913 367 2035

House Elections
2/26/87
Attachment 9

January 31, 1987

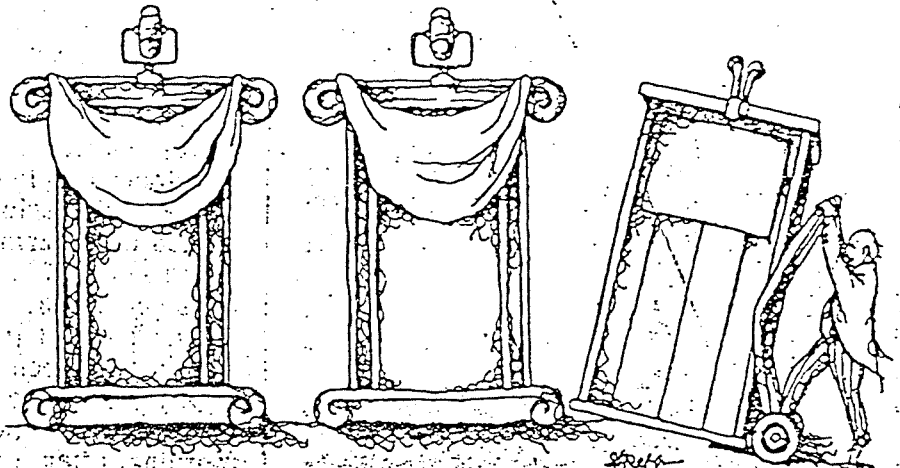
Third Parties Vital to Democracy

IF the Republicans and Democrats were the country's only political parties, the United States may never have gotten the secret ballot, women's suffrage or direct election of U.S. senators. Those ideas were spawned and initially promoted by third parties, which often have infused the political process with innovative plans that have expanded democracy.

In the past, Kansas was fortunate to have numerous third parties, including the Farmer's Alliance, the Greenbacks and other groups that pressured the major parties to make significant reforms.

Kansas, however, no longer gets the full benefits of a multi-party political system. In one of the most undemocratic acts in Kansas history, the 1984 Legislature virtually eliminated third parties, such as the Libertarians and Prohibitionists, from the state ballot. As a result, the 1986 general election was the first in the state's history that gave voters a choice only between two parties.

To gain a spot on the ballot, current law requires third parties to present petitions with signatures of 2 percent of the total vote in the previous gubernatorial election, or 16,812 for the 1988 election. The law also permits party members to solicit signatures only in their home counties.



George Rebb

In practice, the law has given the Republicans and Democrats a monopoly on the Kansas ballot. Voters disliking candidates from both parties are, in effect, disenfranchised.

A proposal before the Legislature would reduce the number of signatures required for a ballot position and permit individuals to collect petition signatures statewide. Such a change should be approved.

Third parties help energize the political system. They often serve as intellectual hot-houses for the major parties by planting the seeds of programs that later come to fruition. Third parties also give people a chance to express disenchantment with the major parties, often warning the Republicans and Democrats that voters want major change.

Kansas politics needs the imagination and vitality that characterize the minor parties. Unreasonable restrictions to the ballot should be abolished.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF KANSAS

Blake Huber, Chairman

P.O. BOX 9223 · TOPEKA, KANSAS 66608

Mr. Richard L. Harper
Room 425-6
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas
66612

February 22, 1987

Dear Mr. Harper;

RE: HOUSE BILL 2266

HB 2266 reduces the number of signatures on a petition for official recognition from 2% of the Governor's tally to 1,000. If that suggested reduction appears, at first glance, to be a bit much, kindly consider the following:

2% equals approximately-----17,000

Because some signatures will be invalid, (due to inadvertence by unregistered signers) a party must submit the minimum numbers plus a sizable safety factor----(20% should be safe). Perhaps-----20,000

Not every person will sign when asked, I do not know exactly what ratio is proper, but assuming that one person in ten will sign it is apparent that each political party must then approach----- 200,000 people to get 20,000 signatures.

There are five small parties asking for recognition, all intend to achieve ballot access, each party must accost 200,000 people for a total of-----1,000,000

For recognition of the five parties present law requires knocking on a million doors. 1,000,000 IS MORE THAN THE ENTIRE VOTING POPULATION OF KANSAS.

Even if one assumes that every second person asked would actually sign, the number of personal contacts necessary still would be 200,000 (equal to the voting population of a US congressional district).

Worse yet, after four years, because of the purging effect of KSA 25-203b, the whole thing could need be done again.

I submit that these are impossible requirements, not at all necessary for an orderly process and fatal to full democracy in Kansas.


Douglas G. McMillitt
Secretary, Kansas Libertarian Party

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF KANSAS

Blake Huber, Chairman

P.O. BOX 8223 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66608

Mr. Richard L. Harper
Room 425-S
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas
66612

February 20, 1987

Dear Mr. Harper;

RE: HOUSE BILL 2266

HB 2266 is a modification to KSA 25-302a (first recognition of parties for ballot status). To be fully understood one must lay it alongside 25-302b (retention of ballot status at election time). For your convenience, 25-302b is reproduced here in its entirety.

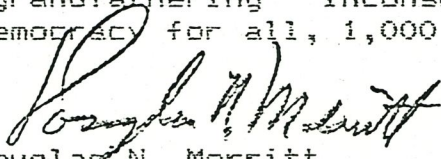
25-302b. "Recognized political party; loss of recognition. Any recognized political party whose nominee for any office for which the officer is elected from the state as a whole fails to receive at least 1% of the total vote cast for any such office in this state at any general election, or which fails to nominate persons for such offices, shall cease to be a recognized political party. The secretary of state shall notify all county election officers that such party has ceased to be recognized"
History: L. 1984, ch 137, section 5; April 5.

In short 25-302b says that to stay on the ballot, each party, every four years, must:

- 1) enter nominees in five (some years six) races (governor, secretary of state, treasurer, attorney-general, insurance commissioner, and sometimes US senator).
- 2) get 1% of the vote in ALL of them.

In the only general election in which 25-302b was in force (1984) it operated to exclude ALL (4) small parties. It is so stringent that I believe its purging effect will continue to eliminate all but the most diligent and persuasive small party efforts.

Because of purging effect of the strict requirements of KSA 25-302b, KSA 25-302a (HB 2266) can safely reduce the number of signatures required to get on the ballot without concern for "grandfathering" inconsequential parties. To achieve true democracy for all, 1,000 signatures may be too many.


Douglas N. Merritt
Secretary, Kansas Libertarian Party
1124 "U" Street Atchison KS

913 367 2035

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF KANSAS

Blake Huber, Chairman

P.O. BOX 8223 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66608

Mr. Richard L. Harper
Room 425-S
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas
66612

February 23, 1987

Dear Mr. Harper;

RE: HOUSE BILL 2266

The history of Kansas overflows with the vigor and vitality of free swinging, tumultuous even pugnacious politics. Her future may well depend upon continuing such full exposure and debate of all possible viewpoints.

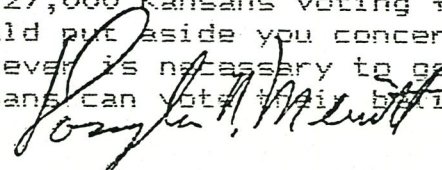
If you do not accept that thesis you should stop reading now because this entire argument is based on the proposition that for the benefit of Kansas some way simply must be found to restore the small parties to the ballot.

To make absolutely certain that every significant political body of thought existing in this state be allowed voice, an uncommonly small number of signatures should be required. 1,000 or 500 or even 100 will satisfy the only concern this body should have, that is, an orderly process. To eliminate the totally frivolous is your purpose. Accepting or rejecting a political philosophy is for the people to do at election time.

It would be better for the legislature to err on the side of too few requirements even if it results of an occasional spurious entry onto the ballot, rather than too stringent requirements that, over the years, destroys the small party organizations. Keep in mind, an error of too little can be later corrected, but an error of too much can permanently damage Kansas.

We, in the Kansas Libertarian Party, have perhaps 85 members, 35 of whom are paid up (\$12.00) for 1987. We have both state and national organizations. We have a written platform of political philosophy and in 1984, the last opportunity, 6,983 Kansans voted for our candidate. (The other four parties are similarly situated.)

It becomes obvious that when 85 of us attract the votes of nearly 7,000 your concern should be, not for us, but for the Kansas voter. When you see 27,000 Kansans voting for the small parties, as they did in 1984, you should put aside your concern for clutter and nuisance. You should do whatever is necessary to get those small parties on the ballot so all Kansans can vote their beliefs.


Douglas N. Merritt
Secretary, Kansas Libertarian Party
1124 "U" Street, Atchison, Kansas

913 367 203

Voters need more than two choices

On the other hand . . . is a guest editorial on a topic chosen by the writer. Douglas N. Merritt was the Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. senator from Kansas in 1984.

There are in Kansas 27,663 voters who, next November, will have no place to go. Two years ago, in response to a federal court order, the Kansas Legislature remade the Kansas "ballot access law." The new law was intended to broaden the ballot to allow minority political opinion an opportunity for official expression by party. It provided that such parties could remain on the ballot if the candidate in a statewide election received 1 percent of the vote. But it didn't work out that way at all.

In the election of November 1984 there was but one statewide race, for the U.S. Senate seat. So according to the law for the several parties to remain on the ballot for the 1986 elections (state and county offices), their candidates needed to poll 9,967 votes, or 1 percent of the total. Of the six parties participating only two, Republicans and Democrats, did so. The Conservative (9,380), American (6,918), Prohibition (4,610) and Libertarian (6,755) parties all failed.

I cannot argue that the 1 percent

requirement is too stringent because a serious political body of thought should be able to draw that amount of support. Furthermore, the law allows a party that loses ballot status to regain it by petition signed by 2 percent of the voters. So it is possible for those parties to continue in politics although it requires a monumental effort.

What is bothersome here is that without such an effort of organization and petitioning, the four parties wiped out will leave 3 percent of Kansas voters with nowhere to go. If it were just me or the .7 percent of the voters who supported my Libertarian candidacy, it might be acceptable, but when 3 percent of Kansas voters are disfranchised it is significant and worthy of concern.

The argument is made that the ballot should not be cluttered with splinter groups, the voter should not be confused by the multiplicity of choices. I cannot agree. I have been told that six or 10 parties are too many, but when I ask "Would you rather have 23 on the ballot or only one?" the answer is always "23." A more difficult counting process is a small price to pay for full political participation of all Kansas voters.

But, you say there are two parties remaining on the ballot, which gives the voter a choice. True, there are, but to many of us there is no real choice. Neither party stands for freedom of

the individual, neither will stop the spending and neither will stop trying to remake the world in our image. I am aware their platforms are dissimilar and they talk differently, but over the years the results are the same whichever party is in power.

If the Kansas Legislature cannot abide even the least dissent from the two named political parties it allows on the ballot, then the least it could do is to provide a place on the ballot for "None of the above" and count and publish those votes of protest. What better, cheaper and more reliable measure of voter discontent could there be?

For self-government to work well all voices, even negative ones, need to be heard.

I know what my options are. I can 1) vote "Da" for either the Republican manipulating spender or for the Democratic spending manipulator, 2) not vote at all and become politically inert, or 3) join an underground movement and dynamite the voting booth. Those three options are equally repugnant to me and I shall do none of them. So if you hear me knocking on your door, please open it and sign my petition for the Libertarian Party and I will sign your petition for your party and any other petition for all political viewpoints to allow those 27,663 Kansas voters some honest choice in 1986!

**On the
other
hand**

Bill HB 2266

Support

I am asking you "Please," to support
Bill HB 2266 - Ballot Position for
MINOR Parties - requiring 1,000
signatures - to be secured state wide

thanks

Robert W. West

2071 Westlyst
Salina, Ka.
67401



USA 14

Rep. Richard Harper
the State House
Topeka, Ka.
66612

Bill
HB 2266
© USPS 1985

WARREN C. MARTIN
1327 SHAMROCK ST.
JUNCTION CITY, KS. 66441



2-20-87

Dear Sir,

We would appreciate your support
to the House Bill 2266. Third
party have contributed much
through the years to the laws of
our land.

Thank You
Georgina V. Martin