Approved 2/21/89
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections.

The meeting was called to order by Representative Kenneth R. King at
Chairperson

9:05 a.m./p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 1989 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Helgerson and Johnson, excused.

Committee staff present:

Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department
Fred Carman, Revisor of Statues Office
Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State's Office
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

The meeting of the Election Committee was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Kenneth R. King.

The Chair recognized former Representative Richard Harper and welcomed him to the Capitol.

Chairman King called on Ron Thornburgh, from the Secretary of State's Office, who explained a recent survey of county clerks regarding HB 2165. He presented a synopsis of a meeting that was held with the county clerks. (Attachment I)

Representative Dillon introduced a letter from the Wyandotte County Election Commissioner, Elizabeth Malloy, that indicated if HB 2165 was not passed as presented she would rather the bill be withdrawn. (Attachment II)

Representative Dillon moved that the committee accept HB 2165 in its present form and pass the bill out of committee favorably. Seconded by Representative Lucas. The motion carried.

The Chairman then open discussion on HB 2114, the bill concerning paying civil penalties. Carol Williams, reporting on the constitutionality of the bill, stated the attorney for the Public Disclosure Commission felt this bill was an extension of the present law which prohibits anyone from running for office who had committed a felony. The bill also covers only an individual who served as his own treasurer in a campaign. After discussion Representative Foster moved that HB 2114 be tabled. This was seconded by Representative Baker. The motion carried.

The minutes of the meeting of the Election Committee on February 9th were presented for approval. Representative Empson moved they be approved. Seconded by Representative Wilbert. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

The next meeting of the Election Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 21th, 1989, 9:00 a.m. in Room 521-S.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Elections DATE: Feb. 14, 1989

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
Michael Wolf	Topeka	Common Cause
Ron Thornburgh	"	SOS
Carol Williams	Topeka	KPDC
Jana Atchison	Topeka	KPDC

NEW CLERK'S SEMINAR - TOPEKA
SECRETARY OF STATE
FEBRUARY 9, 1989

RESULTS OF SURVEY OF HB 2165

HB 2165 proposes placing the office of precinct committee person on the absentee ballots. The House Election Committee has requested the C.E.O.'s input on this bill. Please check your preference.

__5____ 1. Print names and blank line for write-in votes of candidates for precinct committee men and women on absentee ballots.

__2____ 2. Provide blank lines on absentee ballots for precinct committee men and women.

_18____ 3. Maintain present system.

One person chose items 1 and 3.

COMMENTS

Pro:

Three people said that all persons who have right to vote should be allowed to vote for all candidates.

If this passes the term should be increased to 4 years.

Voters resent not being able to vote for all offices.

Con:

Four people said that since most of the committee members are elected by write-in anyway it is not worth the time, effort, or cost to change the system. Very few people file for the office.

Since most of the absentee voters are college students or military people they are not familiar with the precinct people, thus it is not worthwhile to change the system based on the increased costs.

Increased costs.

Increase in time and a nightmare to tally if item 1 is chosen.

Attachment I

Please provide a cost estimate for items 1 and 2 (even if you chose item 3)

Two people said there would be little change.

Number 1 would be the most costly.

Costs would be considerable for the opti-scan systems.

Two people said cost would be minimal.

Clerical time would increase costs greatly.

Item 1 cost would be $4,900 for 330 different ballots.
Item 2 cost would be $1,000 for 64 different ballots.
Item 3 cost would be $1,000 for 64 different ballots.

Probably no printing cost increase, but an additional person would have to be hired to tally.

In August 1988 there were 71 ballot styles for EACH party, with printed names we would have 223 styles for each party. August 1988 cost was $11,000. The new method would raise costs to $30,000. This is an increase of 200%. OUCH.

WYANDOTTE COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

9400 STATE AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66112-1588

ELIZABETH MALLOY
ELECTION COMMISSIONER

(913) 334-1414

February 7, 1989

The Honorable Herman G. Dillon
State Representative
State Capitol - 273 W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: House Bill 2165

Dear Herman:

Enclosed is a run down on House Bill 2165 placing the names of precinct committeepeople on the primary absentee ballot.

Since we talked several county clerks have contacted me with reasons why this Bill would not be feasible because of programing and counting their absentee ballots using the electronic scanners.

In 1983 Senate Bills 116 and 117 were enacted to remove the precinct committeepeople from the emergency and challenged because of the cost factor.

In the 1982 August Primary in Wyandotte County alone, 316 different types of ballots were printed to allow the names of precinct committeepeople to be added to the emergency and challenged voter ballot alone, costing an additional $3000.00 and only 22 ballots were counted. Normally we would print approximately 64 different types of ballots. I have enclosed copies of correspondance that was sent to the House Elections Committee regarding the aforementioned Senate Bills.

Finally, since the Federal Ballot must be mailed 45 days prior to all Federal Elections, it would create a problem to prepare, proof read and mail these ballots and still meet the requirements of Federal Law, we are doing good to meet it at the present time.

Thanks for all your consideration, past and present.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Malloy
Election Commissioner

Attachment II