

Approved

2-13-89  
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Senator Don Sallee at  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 6, 1989 19   in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Phil Martin

Committee staff present:

Myrta Anderson, Research Department  
Fred Carman, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Elizabeth Handke, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Eric Rucker, Chairman of the Shawnee County Commission  
Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State Office

Others attending: see attached list (attachment 1)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sallee at 1:36 P.M.

Eric Rucker, Chairman of the Shawnee County Commission appeared before the Committee with a bill request. In his opinion what is needed is a statute which requires 1st class city mayoral candidates and every county commission candidate with a 1st class city within its borders to file a campaign disclosure report detailing all receipts and expenditures received by their respective campaign committees 10 days before the primary and general elections. A final report would be required 30 days after the general election. Senator Johnston made a motion to introduce this legislation and Senator Bond seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attachment 2.

Ron Thornburgh from the Secretary of State office appeared as a proponent for S.B. 111 (attachment 3). He stated that the bill will mandate several ideas which are already in use in the state of Kansas. The 45 day deadline to send federal service ballots, and the single application for a ballot for both elections are practices already encouraged by our office. Senator Johnston moved to recommend this bill favorably and Senator Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Thornburgh also appeared as a proponent for S.B. 117 (attachment 4). He wanted an amendment on this legislation by deleting this line - When necessary the county election officers of more than one county shall each determine sufficiency as to the county of the election office, and where necessary the secretary of state shall coordinate the work of the county election officers involved. Senator Johnston made a conceptual motion to make this amendment and Senator Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Johnston made a motion to introduce the amended bill as favorable. Senator Fred Kerr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator moved to approve the minutes and Senator Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 P.M.



Chairman Sallee, members of the Senate Elections Committee

I'm Eric Rucker, Chairman of the Shawnee County Commission and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Elections and Legislative Matters.

I am here today requesting that you consider legislation that would require meaningful campaign financial disclosure in local government.

Mayorial and county commission candidates in the urban areas of our state now raise as much or more money for their races as state senators.

While raising these tidy sums, the public may never know who is supporting these candidates. Under current state law, local candidates may raise unlimited amounts of money, with no corporate, pac or personal campaign contribution limitation, never report who or where the money came from and obey all applicable provisions of Kansas law.

Only if a local candidate does decide to formulate a campaign committee does the reporting of contributions become necessary. But even then the reporting is not required until after the election is over.

In my opinion what is needed is a statute which requires 1st class city mayorial candidates and every county commission candidate with a 1st class city within its borders to file a campaign disclosure report detailing all receipts and expenditures received by their respective campaign committees 10 days before the primary and general elections. A final report would be required 30 days after the general election.

By including only these candidates you avoid the legitimate arguments that have been voiced by many that reporting chills certain candidates from running for office. Particularly those offices that do not garner large contributions. Particularly those offices that do not offer a salary with the oath of office.

If it were the desire of this committee to consider additional classes of local candidates to be included in this legislation, my suggestion would be to include them only by reference to an amount of campaign contribution received. For example, "this act includes, mayors of first class cities, county commission candidates in counties with 1st class cities and all local candidates who raise or spent more than \$2,500 on their campaigns.

It strikes me that the public policy questions involved in this legislative request include:

- 1) Should local candidates for public office be required to disclose their contributors?
- 2) How large does a local campaign have to be to rise to the level of requiring meaningful disclosure?
- 3) If meaningful public disclosure of local campaign practices is advisable, what method of disclosure is to be required?

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Attachment 2

it is determined by this committee that it is in the best interest of the state to consider legislation of this type. I would respectfully request that since I have some expertise in the elections field, I be permitted to work with Fred Carman to present a proposal that addresses these and any other concerns this committee may have as it relates to the subject matter of local campaign disclosure laws.

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Attachment 2 -2

Bill Graves  
Secretary of State



2nd Floor, State Capitol  
Topeka, KS 66612-1594  
(913) 296-2236

## STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH  
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 6, 1989

SB 111

Our office asked for the introduction of SB 111 to fulfill the requests of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, a division of the U.S. Department of Defense.

The bill will mandate several ideas which are already in use in the state of Kansas. The 45 day deadline to send federal service ballots, and the single application for a ballot for both elections are practices already encouraged by our office.

This same idea was passed by both houses last year but failed to become law because the presidential preference primary was amended into the bill.

In addition, the bill cleans up K.S.A. 25-2708 to allow for the destruction of school ballots in the same manner as city ballots.

I ask that you recommend SB 111 favorably for passage.

Thank You.

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Attachment 3

Bill Graves  
Secretary of State



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## STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH  
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 6, 1989

SB 117

Our office asked for the introduction of SB 117 to clarify the petition requirements for petitions statutorily filed in the office of the secretary of state.

Currently, article 36 of K.S.A. chapter 25, which gives the requirements for a valid petition, is only applicable to county, city, school district and municipality elections. We are asking that these statutes also be applied to all petitions filed with our office.

I ask that the committee amend the bill to remove the sentence beginning with the word "when" in line 29 and ending with the word "involved" in line 32. This language is to be established in another, more precise, bill currently in the House elections committee.

I ask that you report SB 117 favorable for passage.

Thank you.

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Attachment 4