

Approved

2-27-89

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 20, 1989, 19__ in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

All members were present

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Koepke, Executive Director of Kansas Association of School Boards
Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State Office
Michael Woolf, Common Cause

Others attending: see attached list (attachment 1)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Sallee at 1:38 P.M.

A bill request was made by John Koepke, Executive Director of Kansas Association of School Boards (attachment 2). He asked that a bill be introduced which would give the authority to determine when mail ballot elections will be held on question submitted elections to the governing body of the unit which is calling for the election. Senator Bond moved to introduce and Senator Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairman noted that in S.B. 117 there was some clean up language; some other statutes were included where the word papers were changed to petitions so a trailer bill was needed to make sure everything was in conformity. Senator Martin made a motion for this trailer bill to change the word papers to petition. Senator Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ron Thornburgh from the Secretary of State office appeared before the committee to ask for the introduction of S.B. 248 in order to clean up a discrepancy in the Kansas election laws (attachment 3). He asked that the requirement for a notary to be changed to a requirement for a written statement similar to the statements used on all other election documents. Senator Bond moved to recommend favorably S.B. 248. Senator Rock seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Michael Woolf of Common Cause appeared in support of S.B. 260.(attachment 4). He stated the bill would extend the basic elements of the campaign finance reporting statutes to candidates for mayor of a first class city and candidates for county commissioner in counties that contain a first class city. Senator Johnston wanted to hear from Eric Rucker on this bill so suggested the hearings be held open until Mr. Rucker can appear.

Senator Reilly made a motion to approve the minutes of February 13 and 14, 1989. Senator Rock seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Elections

DATE: February 20, 1989

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
Carol Williams	Topeka	KPDC
Jana Atchison	Topeka	: KPDC
Ronald Mallon	Salina	Close-Up KS
Mike O'Neil	Topeka	KACEH
Mike Lechner	"	"
Matt Janzen	Goessel	CloseUp Kansas
Trevor Strain	:"	" "
Dana McLaughly	Salina	Close Up Kansas
Kirk Hoefler	Salina	Close Up Kansas
Ron Thornburg	Topeka	SO5
Sheri Clark	Salina	Close Up KS
Michael Wolf	Topeka	Common Cause
Juni McBride	Topeka	Observer
Gene Bradley	Topeka	KS Assoc. of Broadcasters
Jon Kaup	Topeka	League of Municipalities
John Kreyden	Topeka	KASB
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		Attachment 1

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

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

Bill Request
of the
Senate Elections Committee

by

John W. Koepke, Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards
February 20, 1989

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we would appreciate your favorable consideration of a request to introduce a bill regarding mail ballot elections on behalf of our 301 member boards of education. We have recently become aware that some county election officers are refusing to conduct mail ballot elections at the request of local boards of education.

We believe that mail ballot elections on question submitted items by local units of government is an idea that has proved its worth on numerous occasions since its use has been permitted in this state. Since these elections are paid for by the local unit calling the election and since voter turnout is enhanced by this process, we believe that the decision to hold this kind of election should rest with the local unit which is holding the election.

We would ask that you introduce a bill which would give the authority to determine when mail ballot elections will be held on question submitted elections to the governing body of the unit which is calling for the election. We would hope such a bill would be referred

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Attachment 2

back to your Committee where we might have further opportunity to express our views on this matter in regular hearings. We appreciate your consideration of our request and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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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 20, 1989

SB 248

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The Secretary of State's office asked for the introduction of SB 248 in order to clean up a discrepancy in the Kansas election laws.

Currently, in order for any voter who needs assistance in voting to cast a ballot, they must complete a notarized document along with the person offering assistance. Many times, the person needing assistance in voting, is unable to get a document notarized, therefore, possible denying them the right to vote.

We are asking in SB 248 to allow the requirement for a notary to be changed to a requirement for a written statement similar to the statements used on all other election documents.

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Attachment 3



COMMON CAUSE / KANSAS

701 Jackson, Room B-6 • Topeka, Kansas 66603

February 20, 1989

Statement in support of Senate Bill 260
Presented to the Senate Committee on Elections
by Michael Woolf, Executive Director

Senate Bill 260 would extend the basic elements of the campaign finance reporting statutes to candidates for mayor of a first class city and candidates for county commissioner in counties that contain a first class city. Under existing statutes, money received and expended in these elections need only be reported after the election is over. The only way such information is useful for voters is if they have it available before an election while they are in the process of evaluating candidates. This bill requires that campaign finance information be reported before both the primary and general elections. That is an essential requirement for any election finance reporting system.

While we support SB 260, I would like to suggest four changes that would make the proposal stronger and more effective:

1) Common Cause believes that the reporting requirements should be extended to all local elections. If a candidate receives over \$500 in contributions or plans to spend more than \$500 for his or her campaign--he or she should be required to file campaign finance reports in the same manner as candidates for the state legislature;

2) SB 260 contains no limitations on contributions. As written a candidate for a covered office could accept an unlimited amount from any individual, PAC, Corporation or Labor Union. We believe that contributions to candidates for local office should have some type of limitation, as state law now requires of other candidates;

3) SB 260 contains no provision for auditing or checking the accuracy of reports that have been filed. Sec. 5 (b) allows the district or county attorney to inspect the reports, but most county and district attorneys do not have sufficient time to provide any meaningful enforcement of this act. We believe that the Public Disclosure Commission should be allowed to hire sufficient staff to carry out the enforcement of this proposal; and

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Attachment 4

4) There have been two bills introduced in the House that would require annual reporting of campaign finance information. One of the House bills would require annual reporting for candidates for local office. Common Cause would like to ask that annual reporting be included in this bill. If a candidate maintains an active campaign account between campaigns, it makes sense that annual accounting of those funds be made. That is part of keeping the public fully informed. It is not in the spirit of disclosure laws to allow a candidate or candidate committee to accumulate and hold funds intended to influence the electoral process and say that the public doesn't need to know about this until a few days before an election.

Once again, Common Cause supports SB 260 as a step toward opening up the election process. It allows information concerning campaign finance to reach the public in a timely manner. We hope that the Committee will consider the changes mentioned to further that goal.

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