

Approved 1-31-91
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Tom Sawyer at
Chairperson

9:10 a.m./p.m. on Tuesday, January 29th, 1991 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Kenneth King, excused

Committee staff present:

Pat Mah, Research
Arden Ensley, Revisor
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards

The House Elections Committee was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29th, 1991.

The minutes for the January 23rd meeting were presented for approval. Representative McKechnie moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Representative Stephens and the motion carried. Representative Johnson made a motion the minutes of the January 24th meeting be approved as presented, seconded by Representative Jones and the motion carried.

The Chair called on Ron Thornburgh, from the office of the Secretary of State, who requested introduction of four bills.

1. 14-day closing of voter registration books.
2. County circulation of gubernatorial and recall petitions
3. Primary write-in vote minimum based on a percentage of registration rather than a percentage of votes cast.
4. Prohibit placing campaign literature in absentee ballot envelopes

A motion was made by Representative Shallenburger to introduce these four bills, seconded by Representative Baker and the motion carried. (Attachment 1)

The next conferee to appear before the committee was John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards. He requested the introduction of a bill identical to 1989 HB 2374, which deals with mail ballot elections. Representative Parkinson made a motion that we introduce this bill, seconded by Representative Jones and the motion carried. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Sawyer announced there would be a meeting on Thursday, January 31st to begin hearings on some of the above bills. He also stated the Committee would continue to accept introduction of bills at the meeting on the 31st.

The House Elections Committee was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. by Chairman Sawyer.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday, January 31st at 9:00 a.m. in Room 521-S.

Bill Graves
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29, 1990

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today to ask for introduction of legislation for our office. The four bills we are asking to be introduced are all geared towards clarifying the election process.

1. 14-day closing of voter registration books.

This would be a clean-up measure. Last year's legislation providing for a 15-day close of registration was a step in the right direction, but having a Sunday as the last day to register to vote proved to be very confusing.

2. County circulation of gubernatorial and recall petitions.

This is a clean-up of a 1989 revision to the statutes allowing petitions to be circulated throughout a county or election district rather than being restricted to a single precinct. These two sections were inadvertently left off the 1989 revisions.

3. Primary write-in vote minimum based on a percentage of registration rather than a percentage of votes cast.

Because of reapportionment and the federal block census project, we do not have a solid set of numbers or boundary lines on which to base a percentage of votes. We will always have registration numbers for any district regardless of district changes.

4. Prohibit placing campaign literature in absentee ballot envelopes.

This proposal would prohibit the placement of campaign literature in absentee ballots. This practice is not currently prohibited by Kansas law.



Request for Legislation

Before the House Committee on Elections

Presented by

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

January 29, 1991

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee to request the introduction of a bill on behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards.

The bill we would like to see introduced would be identical to 1989 HB 2374. That bill, which deals with mail ballot elections, was approved by the full House during the 1989 session, but died in the Senate. The bill would have given local boards of education the right to determine whether bond elections are held by mail ballot or conventional election. At the present time, the county election officer has the sole right to determine whether these elections will be held by mail ballot.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and, should it be granted, we will provide fuller testimony should a hearing be scheduled. Thank you again for allowing us to appear.