

Approved 2-11-91  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR DON SALLEE at  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xx~~ p.m. on February 4, 1991 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~ or excused:

Committee staff present:

Pat Mah, Legislative Research Department  
Ardan Ensley, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Clarene Wilms, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State  
Rebecca Bossemeyer, Office of the Secretary of State

Others attending: See attached list

The meeting was called to order shortly after 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Sallee.

SB-83 - Removal of voters' names from voter registration books and party affiliation lists

Ron Thornburgh, Office of Secretary of State, appeared before the committee noting that SB-83 is important legislation as it changes the reasons for which an individual's name is removed from the voters' registration rolls and party affiliation lists. (Attachment 1)

This bill would allow persons to vote who have changed their names in the 30 days prior to election. It would also remove the requirement that persons be removed from the voters registration rolls and party affiliation lists for not voting. Current law is obviously more restrictive to women than men, which would make it unconstitutional.

Senator Lee, with a second from Senator Bond, moved passage of SB-83. The motion carried.

SB-84 - Appointment of high school students as judges and clerks of election boards

Rebecca Bossemeyer, Office of the Secretary of State, appeared before the committee in support of SB-84. This bill would allow 16 and 17 year olds to be poll workers and would provide a tool to increase voter education through first hand experience. It would also provide a larger pool of potential board workers. (Attachment 2)

Senator Lee, with a second from Senator Rock, moved passage of SB-84. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m. and will meet February 5, 1991 at 1:30 p.m.

GUEST LIST

SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

DATE February 4, 1991

(PLEASE PRINT)  
NAME AND ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Michael Wolf

Common Cause / KS

Teresa Flerchinger

Budget

Rebecca Bossemeyer

SOS

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 4, 1991

Senate Bill 83

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of Secretary of State Graves.

Senate Bill 83 is a very important piece of legislation in that it changes the reasons for which an individual is removed from the voter registration and party affiliation lists.

Lines 17 through 19 will allow those persons who have changed their name to vote at the next election, by completing an affidavit. Under current law, an individual may only vote if she has changed her name in the 30 days prior to the election. Current law is obviously more restrictive to women than men, which may make it unconstitutional. We are seeking to have this changed prior to any court challenges.

Section "c" removes the requirement that a person be removed from the voter registration and party affiliation lists for not voting. In light of current Federal and State legislation aimed at increasing voter registration, we are trying to make it easier for those who are registered to stay registered. Failure to vote will cause the county election officer to send a notice to the person to verify their address. Only if the notice is returned as undeliverable, the person will be purged from the registration and party affiliation lists.

We strongly urge your approval of this legislation and ask that you consider it favorable for passage.

Thank you.

Senate Elections  
Attachment 1  
2-4-91

Bill Graves  
Secretary of State



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

## STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA BOSSEMEYER  
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 4, 1991

Senate Bill 84

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of Secretary of State Graves.

Senate Bill 84, which allows 16 and 17 year olds to be poll workers, provides us with a tool to increase voter education among the youth of Kansas. It will also create a larger pool of potential board workers for the county election officers.

Secretary Graves has always believed that the key to increasing voter participation is through voter education. Sixteen and seventeen year olds will build a lifetime of voting habits through this first-hand experience.

Because the election board worker system is partisan by nature, we will use teen-age poll workers only after the county chairs' recommendations have been exhausted.

An added benefit to this piece of legislation is the larger pool of potential board workers. It is becoming an increasing problem throughout the nation, and Kansas is no exception, for county election officials to recruit board workers. In the 1990 election the Thomas County Clerk made 486 phone calls to recruit 86 board workers.

We strongly urge your approval of this legislation and ask that you consider it favorable for passage.

Thank you.

Senate Elections  
Attachment 2  
2-4-91