

Approved: 3/4/96
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, CONGRESSIONAL & LEGISLATIVE
APPORTIONMENT AND GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janice Hardenburger at 1:40 p.m. on February 22, 1996 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Bonnie Fritts, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brad Bryant, Office of Secretary of State
Sandy Praeger, State Senator, 2nd District
Marilyn Chapman, Election Commissioner, Sedgwick County
Elizabeth Endsley, Chairman, KCCA Elections Committee
Connie Schmidt, Election Commissioner, Johnson County

Others attending: See attached list

SB 691 **relating to elections; concerning primary elections**

Senator Hardenburger opened hearings on the bill.

Senator Praeger testified in support of the bill. This bill moves the date for primary elections, in Kansas, from the first Tuesday in August to the Fourth Tuesday in August. Some reasons for such a move are; this would promote greater voter turnout, there would be longer campaign time, and voters would have more time to study candidates (Attachment 1).

Brad Bryant, representing the office of Secretary of State voiced opposition to this bill saying the evidence doesn't indicate that a change of date will have a noticeable affect on voter turnout (Attachment 2).

Senator Hardenburger asked whether there would be the same opposition next year. That office feels it would be too disruptive and confusing to the voting public to make such a change during an election year and would be difficult to administer but does not oppose changing the date for subsequent years.

Marilyn Chapman, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner, and Elizabeth Endsley, KCCA Elections Committee Chairman, appeared opposing the date change for this year.

Senator Hardenburger closed the hearings on this bill.

SB 671 **concerning elections; relating to advance voting**

Hearings were opened on this bill.

Brad Bryant testified as a proponent of this bill. This bill would allow the elections officer to convene a special elections board to canvass advance ballots (Attachment 3).

Elizabeth Endsley appeared in support of the bill and submitted written testimony with voter turnout statistics from several counties (Attachment 4). This report supports advanced voting. Discussion followed.

Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner, testified as a proponent of the bill stating that passage of this bill would allow more timely reporting of election results on Election Day (Attachment 5).

Other county clerks appeared in support this bill. There were no opponents.

Marilyn Chapman, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner, submitted written testimony that her office has received a tremendous amount of positive response to advance voting and that there is a great advantage to having so much of the tabulation process completed before Election Day (Attachment 6).

Senator Hardenburger closed the hearings on SB 671.

Senator Bond moved to adopt the amendments on the bill. Senator Brady seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The committee did not vote on the motion. Motion will be brought up in the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 1996.

**SENATE ELECTIONS, CONGRESSIONAL &
LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT AND
GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE GUEST
LIST**

DATE: 2/22/96

NAME	REPRESENTING
Patty Jaimes	Douglas County
Brad Bryant	Sec. of State
Cornie Schmidt	Johnson County
Richard Kentrell	Johnson County
Jeanine Cain	Johnson County
Marilyn Chapman	Sedgwick Co.
Beverly Eley	Sedgwick Co.
Elizabeth Kelly	K & C Charles's Assoc.
Steve Forbes	
Steve Forbes	Publisher
Jane Williams	KCGSC
Jane Atkinson	KCGSC
Jenny Wentz	Sec. of State
Craig Grant	HNEA
Sd Rowe	LWU KS
Jenny Lawson	Sen. Wisdom
Jenni Rose	Rep. Ott
Bonnet Coanis	KU

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SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 CHAIR PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
 HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATIVE
 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
 MEMBER FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE
 CORPORATION FOR CHANGE
 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Senate Bill 691
 Senate Elections, Congressional & Legislative Apportionment
 and Governmental Standards
 Thursday, February 22, 1996

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 691, which moves the date for primary elections in the State of Kansas from the first Tuesday in August to the fourth Tuesday in August.

As we all know, under the current voting system, primary elections are held the first Tuesday of August in even years. I've attached voter-turnout comparisons between the primary and general elections for 1992 and 1994. As you can see, the turnout is considerably lower for the primary elections. There are no doubt numerous reasons for this lower turnout. One of them is the fact that this is a time when many Kansans take vacations with their families once summer activities are concluded and before school starts. Moving the date for the primary election to the fourth Tuesday in August could eliminate one reason for the lower turnouts. Most schools in Kansas will have reconvened and family schedules will have returned to a more normal routine. Participating in the election process is more likely a part of this routine than it would be a part of the vacation mode that so many are in in the first part of August.

I have discussed this with my election officer (County Clerk) and she could see no problem in moving the date. It still allows plenty of time to prepare for the general election.

I wish to thank the committee once again for allowing me to appear before them today. I hope the committee will look favorably on SB 691. We should do all we can to promote greater voter turnout. I believe this bill is one more effort to do just that.

SENATE ELECTIONS
 2-22-96
 ATTACHMENT 1

Registration vs. Turnout

1994 Primary and General Elections

County	CD	Primary			General		
		Reg.	Turnout	Pct.	Reg.	Turnout	Pct.
Allen	2	7,153	2,949	41%	7,365	5,102	69%
Anderson	2	4,300	1,483	34%	4,434	2,918	66%
Atchison	2	7,962	2,833	36%	8,292	6,074	73%
Barber	1	3,437	1,219	35%	3,565	2,610	73%
Barton	1	14,832	6,146	41%	15,144	10,787	71%
Bourbon	2	8,302	3,379	41%	8,535	5,439	64%
Brown	2	6,336	2,848	45%	6,404	4,081	64%
Butler	4	27,909	9,135	33%	28,786	17,848	62%
Chase	1	1,746	875	50%	1,760	1,300	74%
Chautauqua	4	2,380	831	35%	2,436	1,427	59%
Cherokee	2	11,093	4,011	36%	11,368	6,675	59%
Cheyenne	1	2,029	722	36%	2,109	1,681	80%
Clark	1	1,467	677	46%	1,499	1,061	71%
Clay	1	5,153	2,432	47%	5,303	3,622	68%
Cloud	1	6,257	2,218	35%	6,310	4,022	64%
Coffey	2	5,025	2,769	55%	5,291	3,791	72%
Comanche	1	1,404	811	58%	1,443	897	62%
Cowley	4	16,043	6,575	41%	17,144	12,028	70%
Crawford	2	8,685	8,923	48%	19,360	12,437	64%
Decatur	1	2,289	767	34%	2,326	1,653	71%
Dickinson	1	10,169	4,076	40%	10,432	6,999	67%
Doniphan	2	4,680	2,125	45%	4,797	2,948	61%
Douglas	2, 3	45,692	10,378	23%	49,046	28,782	59%
Edwards	1	1,970	895	45%	2,028	1,578	78%
Elk	4	2,047	972	47%	2,084	1,363	65%
Ellis	1	13,910	4,500	32%	14,184	9,628	68%
Ellsworth	1	3,697	1,864	50%	3,786	2,695	71%
Finney	1	11,939	3,763	32%	12,752	7,919	62%
Ford	1	12,202	3,706	30%	12,417	7,356	59%
Franklin	2	10,734	3,762	35%	11,215	7,585	68%
Geary	2	8,448	2,972	35%	8,740	5,270	60%
Gove	1	1,940	796	41%	1,990	1,388	70%
Graham	1	2,051	889	43%	2,084	1,375	66%
Grant	1	3,592	1,267	35%	3,673	2,283	62%
Gray	1	2,410	701	29%	2,427	1,751	72%
Greeley	1	960	573	60%	972	793	82%
Greenwood	4	4,433	2,035	46%	4,571	3,149	69%
Hamilton	1	1,592	549	34%	1,619	1,021	63%
Harper	4	3,650	1,388	38%	3,790	2,614	69%
Harvey	4	16,676	6,502	39%	17,392	12,370	71%
Haskell	1	2,022	786	39%	2,059	1,326	64%
Hodgeman	1	1,324	531	40%	1,360	1,052	77%
Jackson	2	6,383	3,412	53%	6,622	4,944	75%
Jefferson	2	8,803	3,484	40%	9,176	6,429	70%
Jewell	1	2,548	799	31%	2,565	1,637	64%

1-2

1-2

County	CD	Primary			General		
		Reg.	Turnout	Pct.	Reg.	Turnout	Pct.
Johnson	3	214,744	55,887	26%	220,869	118,455	54%
Kearny	1	1,917	730	38%	1,862	1,338	72%
Kingman	4	5,008	2,185	44%	4,906	3,437	70%
Kiowa	1	2,185	920	42%	2,243	1,456	65%
Labette	2	11,571	4,579	40%	11,813	7,488	63%
Lane	1	1,377	529	38%	1,396	1,024	73%
Leavenworth	2	24,625	9,287	38%	25,820	16,671	65%
Lincoln	1	2,420	1,093	45%	2,413	1,742	72%
Linn	2	4,804	1,789	37%	4,942	3,027	61%
Logan	1	1,927	689	36%	1,955	1,312	67%
Lyon	1	17,066	5,709	33%	17,777	10,635	60%
Marion	1, 4	7,418	3,300	44%	7,649	5,314	69%
Marshall	1	6,356	2,828	44%	6,509	4,743	73%
McPherson	1	14,212	5,698	40%	14,655	10,197	70%
Meade	1	2,420	900	37%	2,492	1,670	67%
Miami	3	12,440	3,852	31%	12,885	8,371	65%
Mitchell	1	4,055	1,451	36%	4,150	2,843	69%
Montgomery	4	17,882	6,334	35%	18,697	12,772	68%
Morris	1	3,409	1,525	45%	3,453	2,574	75%
Morton	1	1,915	688	36%	1,957	1,340	68%
Nemaha	2	6,267	2,957	47%	6,437	4,573	71%
Neosho	2	8,948	3,598	40%	9,293	6,025	65%
Ness	1	2,420	773	32%	2,466	1,731	70%
Norton	1	3,292	1,338	41%	3,316	2,302	69%
Osage	2	8,460	3,916	46%	8,707	6,139	71%
Osborne	1	2,888	1,221	42%	2,948	2,092	71%
Ottawa	1	3,183	1,466	46%	3,332	2,474	74%
Pawnee	1	4,107	1,153	28%	4,204	2,810	67%
Phillips	1	3,850	1,974	51%	3,905	2,599	67%
Pottawatomie	2	9,928	4,328	44%	10,154	6,548	64%
Pratt	1	5,316	2,668	50%	5,462	3,554	65%
Rawlins	1	2,188	837	38%	2,238	1,487	66%
Reno	1	29,856	13,284	44%	30,944	20,926	68%
Republic	1	3,947	1,763	45%	3,946	2,833	72%
Rice	1	5,850	2,373	41%	6,041	4,169	69%
Riley	2	24,841	7,450	30%	26,145	14,106	54%
Rooks	1	3,485	1,405	40%	3,536	2,438	69%
Rush	1	2,381	779	33%	2,407	1,642	68%
Russell	1	4,303	1,993	46%	4,445	3,362	76%
Saline	1	26,753	9,906	37%	27,846	18,041	65%
Scott	1	2,917	1,614	55%	3,009	2,014	67%
Sedgwick	4	195,978	73,596	38%	203,036	135,996	67%
Seward	1	7,514	2,350	31%	6,546	4,086	62%
Shawnee	2	90,259	39,357	44%	93,390	65,672	70%
Sheridan	1	1,767	678	38%	1,790	1,306	73%
Sherman	1	3,532	1,361	39%	3,701	2,907	79%
Smith	1	3,223	1,411	44%	3,239	2,259	70%
Stafford	1	3,041	1,477	49%	3,088	2,099	68%
Stanton	1	1,047	373	36%	1,075	735	68%
Stevens	1	2,849	1,179	41%	2,876	1,834	64%
Sumner	4	12,887	4,506	35%	13,355	9,023	68%
Thomas	1	4,356	2,034	47%	4,583	3,513	77%

County	CD	Primary			General		
		Reg.	Turnout	Pct.	Reg.	Turnout	Pct.
Trego	1	2,181	913	42%	2,221	1,562	70%
Wabaunsee	1	4,126	2,082	50%	4,205	3,161	75%
Wallace	1	1,211	613	51%	1,203	802	67%
Washington	1	4,061	1,789	44%	4,114	2,804	68%
Wichita	1	1,287	395	31%	1,338	975	73%
Wilson	2	5,317	2,344	44%	5,354	3,420	64%
Woodson	2	2,128	993	47%	2,229	1,428	64%
Wyandotte	3	66,279	19,788	30%	66,991	34,687	52%
Totals		1,273,648	458,336	36%	1,314,213	836,251	64%

1-3

Registration vs. Turnout 1992 Primary and General Elections

County	Primary			General		
	Registered	Turnout	Pct.	Registered	Turnout	Pct.
Allen	6,778	3,163	47%	7,538	6,466	86%
Anderson	4,168	1,337	32%	4,415	3,619	82%
Atchison	6,974	2,559	37%	8,276	7,709	93%
Barber	3,400	1,612	47%	3,625	2,896	80%
Barton	13,900	7,062	51%	15,369	13,779	90%
Bourbon	7,446	2,311	31%	8,626	7,229	84%
Brown	6,034	3,691	61%	6,385	5,331	83%
Butler	25,251	14,999	59%	28,809	23,087	80%
Chase	1,709	1,155	68%	1,915	1,732	90%
Chautauqua	2,453	1,450	59%	2,601	2,039	78%
Cherokee	10,635	5,739	54%	11,843	9,881	83%
Cheyenne	1,984	1,094	55%	2,097	1,778	85%
Clark	1,451	668	46%	1,514	1,350	89%
Clay	5,311	3,024	57%	5,556	4,649	84%
Cloud	6,163	2,904	47%	6,554	5,530	84%
Coffey	5,078	1,935	38%	5,347	4,336	81%
Comanche	1,435	893	62%	1,490	1,300	87%
Cowley	16,101	6,377	40%	18,668	15,662	84%
Crawford	17,908	4,589	26%	20,715	15,515	75%
Decatur	2,495	1,071	43%	2,551	2,142	84%
Dickinson	9,427	4,688	50%	10,716	8,645	81%
Doniphan	4,688	2,451	52%	4,975	3,836	77%
Douglas	36,977	9,679	26%	49,628	41,917	84%
Edwards	2,179	807	37%	2,342	1,954	83%
Elk	1,979	1,376	70%	2,061	1,763	86%
Ellis	13,629	5,803	43%	15,366	12,629	82%
Ellsworth	3,936	2,061	52%	4,094	3,275	80%
Finney	11,012	5,214	47%	12,955	10,788	83%
Ford	11,785	4,121	35%	12,816	10,386	81%
Franklin	9,637	4,257	44%	11,266	9,907	88%
Geary	8,271	3,519	43%	9,906	7,644	77%
Gove	1,905	844	44%	1,996	1,752	88%
Graham	2,238	1,043	47%	2,328	1,735	75%
Grant	3,323	1,513	46%	3,825	3,113	81%

County	Primary			General		
	Registered	Turnout	Pct.	Registered	Turnout	Pct.
Gray	2,364	619	26%	2,587	2,208	85%
Greeley	988	587	59%	1,037	891	86%
Greenwood	4,583	2,566	56%	4,827	3,919	81%
Hamilton	1,576	1,061	67%	1,649	1,412	86%
Harper	3,698	1,860	50%	4,023	3,439	85%
Harvey	16,903	7,500	44%	18,269	15,174	83%
Haskell	1,683	1,077	64%	2,015	1,633	81%
Hodgeman	1,377	608	44%	1,416	1,252	88%
Jackson	6,344	2,325	37%	6,924	5,286	76%
Jefferson	8,362	3,133	37%	9,259	7,755	84%
Jewell	2,690	925	34%	2,825	2,339	83%
Johnson	176,068	71,055	40%	222,815	197,262	89%
Kearny	1,999	965	48%	2,108	1,723	82%
Kingman	4,779	2,404	50%	5,123	4,740	93%
Kiowa	2,175	1,281	59%	2,386	1,912	80%
Labette	11,702	3,469	30%	12,991	10,258	79%
Lane	1,368	614	45%	1,451	1,308	90%
Leavenworth	21,927	11,582	53%	26,157	23,304	89%
Lincoln	2,515	1,390	55%	2,589	2,202	85%
Linn	4,717	2,408	51%	5,182	4,124	80%
Logan	1,822	1,004	55%	1,999	1,708	85%
Lyon	15,977	4,358	27%	18,294	14,594	80%
Marion	7,210	2,765	38%	7,790	6,457	83%
Marshall	6,575	3,225	49%	6,900	5,954	86%
McPherson	13,394	6,306	47%	15,035	13,082	87%
Meade	2,407	977	41%	2,576	2,195	85%
Miami	11,457	5,083	44%	13,109	11,203	85%
Mitchell	4,127	1,325	32%	4,377	3,721	85%
Montgomery	17,774	8,322	47%	19,719	16,058	81%
Morris	3,316	1,451	44%	3,585	3,156	88
Morton	1,824	1,014	56%	1,973	1,764	89%
Nemaha	6,240	2,805	45%	6,581	5,195	79%
Neosho	8,400	3,792	45%	9,341	7,998	86%
Ness	2,423	1,248	52%	2,516	2,249	89%
Norton	3,337	2,023	61%	3,519	3,093	88%
Osage	7,830	3,896	50%	8,692	7,460	86%
Osborne	2,980	1,231	41%	3,149	2,633	84%
Ottawa	3,349	1,388	41%	3,536	2,861	81%
Pawnee	4,557	1,339	29%	4,887	3,662	75%
Phillips	3,964	2,327	59%	4,081	3,417	84%
Pottawatomie	8,923	4,213	47%	9,728	8,083	83%

County	Primary			General		
	Registered	Turnout	Pct.	Registered	Turnout	Pct.
Rawlins	2,301	1,396	61%	2,354	1,984	84%
Reno	31,940	11,726	37%	35,223	28,619	81%
Republic	4,009	2,617	65%	4,251	3,851	91%
Rice	5,556	2,903	52%	6,127	5,274	86%
Riley	19,003	6,697	35%	25,579	21,942	86%
Rooks	3,653	2,106	58%	3,824	3,145	82%
Rush	2,482	1,382	56%	2,590	2,163	84%
Russell	4,281	3,724	87%	4,580	3,993	87%
Saline	23,692	11,843	50%	27,450	23,727	86%
Scott	2,767	1,503	54%	2,958	2,586	87%
Sedgwick	191,211	84,732	44%	216,089	187,939	87%
Seward	7,367	2,917	40%	8,192	6,722	82%
Shawnee	84,245	31,775	38%	96,014	82,778	86%
Sheridan	1,768	814	46%	1,858	1,682	91%
Sherman	3,462	2,298	66%	3,729	3,323	89%
Smith	3,468	1,497	43%	3,548	2,932	83%
Stafford	3,090	1,750	57%	3,271	2,752	84%
Stanton	1,072	261	24%	1,155	1,013	88%
Stevens	3,021	1,655	55%	3,165	2,520	80%
Sumner	12,344	5,766	47%	13,672	11,124	81%
Thomas	4,308	2,515	58%	4,607	3,987	87%
Trego	2,179	1,088	50%	2,307	1,960	85%
Wabaunsee	3,834	2,217	58%	4,105	3,575	87%
Wallace	1,215	890	73%	1,243	1,088	88%
Washington	4,239	2,402	57%	4,428	3,760	85%
Wichita	1,233	363	29%	1,396	1,249	89%
Wilson	5,177	2,819	54%	5,693	4,667	82%
Woodson	2,109	1,290	61%	2,220	1,904	86%
Wyandotte	64,044	28,770	45%	73,333	60,782	83%

Statewide totals

1,187,515 516,532 43% 1,365,849 1,161,927 85%

Ron Thornburgh
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

Senate Committee on Elections, Congressional and Legislative Apportionment and Governmental Standards

Testimony on SB 691

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Elections and Legislative Matters

February 22, 1996

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 691. The Secretary of State generally supports efforts to increase voter turnout as long as the security of elections is not threatened and the election process is not disrupted.

If the intent of this legislation is to increase turnout, we question whether moving the date of the primary will accomplish it. The evidence doesn't indicate that the date of an election has a noticeable effect on turnout. People vote if they want to vote and if they feel their vote is meaningful. Factors such as close races, controversial ballot issues and attractive candidates have more effect on turnout than the date of the election.

We don't believe that 1996 is the time to make this change. We are already into the election season, and changing the date of the primary 35 days or even several months before would be confusing to the voting public and difficult to administer. Further, as a state we have recently taken a big step toward increasing turnout by expanding voting opportunities through advance voting.

For your consideration I have distributed with my written testimony a time line showing some of the important dates in the administration of elections.

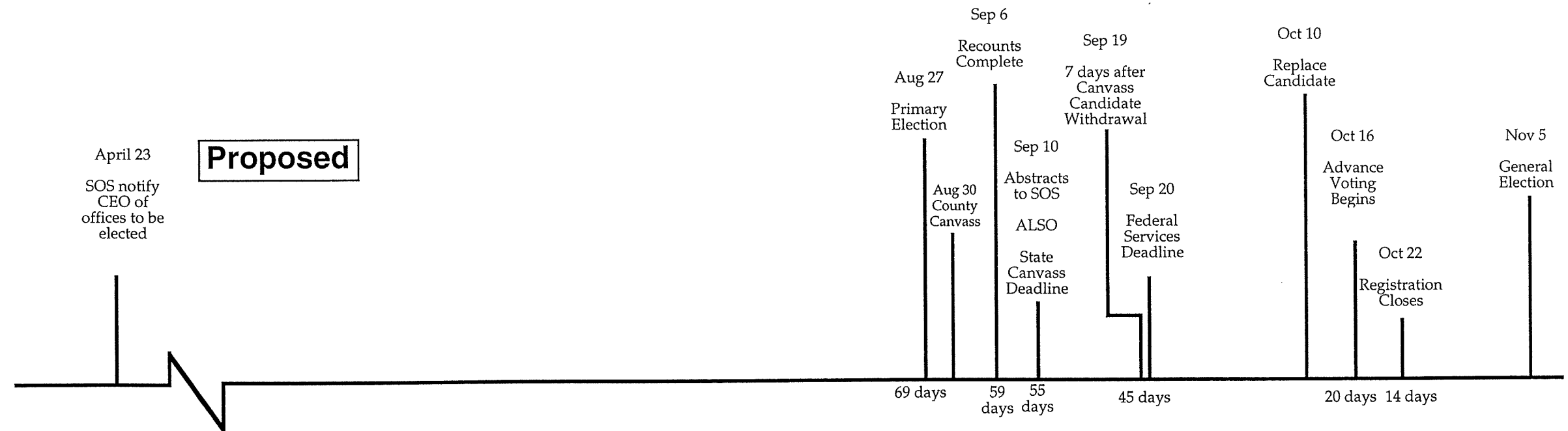
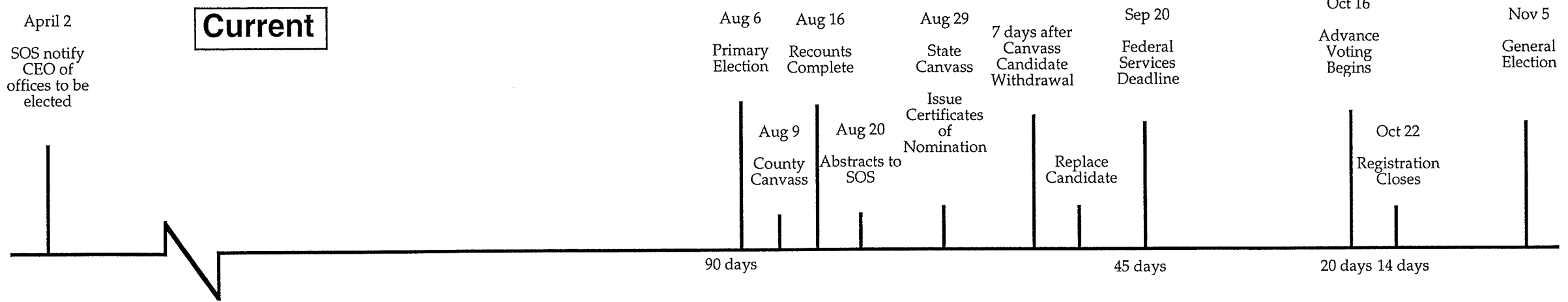
Thank you.

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SENATE ELECTIONS
2-22-96
ATTACHMENT 2



Ron Thornburgh
Secretary of State



2nd Floor, State Capitol
300 S.W. 10th Ave.
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(913) 296-2236

STATE OF KANSAS

Senate Committee on Elections, Congressional and Legislative Apportionment and Governmental Standards

Testimony on SB 671

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Elections and Legislative Matters

February 22, 1996

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 671. The Secretary of State requested introduction of this bill to allow county election officers a certain amount of flexibility in processing advance voting ballots.

Last year's advance voting law expands voting opportunities and the convenience of voting for a large segment of the voting public. Election officials must have rules in place to allow them to administer advance voting with the same efficiency and security as exist in other aspects of elections.

Many county election officers, especially in the larger counties, expect advance voting to be a popular innovation among the public. If large numbers of voters cast advance ballots, particularly by mail, it will be difficult for election boards to process the ballots on election day and produce results that night.

The right of the press and public to know the results on election night is the major reason we proposed SB 671. There is considerable pressure from national, state and local media, as well as candidates, political parties and interested voters, to produce unofficial results on election night as soon as they're available.

Under current law, the special election board appointed by the county election officer to canvass advance ballots cannot meet until election day. This bill would allow the board to convene earlier than election day as deemed necessary by the county election officer. The board could determine advance voters' qualifications, verify signatures on ballot envelopes, open the envelopes, and prepare them for the county canvassers. The process would be the same as it is now, only it could occur over more than one day. If a county

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SENATE ELECTIONS
2-22-96
ATTACHMENT 3

uses optical scan ballots, the ballots could be scanned but no results could be tabulated until election night.

We recommend the committee report SB 671 favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

KANSAS COUNTY CLERK'S ASSOCIATION

Opal Hall
President
Stevens County

Rosalie Seemann
Vice President
Thomas County

Linda Scheer
Secretary
Leavenworth Co.

Don Proffitt
Treasurer
Linn County

DATE: February 22, 1996

TO: Senate Elections Committee, Senator Hardenburger, Chairman

FROM: Elizabeth Ensley, KCCA Elections Committee Chairman

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today on **SB 671**. This bill was initiated in response to the new Advance Voting laws which went into effect on July 1, of 1995. The County Clerks have had some experience with implementing advance voting in special elections since that time. The following indicates some of the responses which we had:

COUNTY	ELIGIBLE VOTERS	# VOTED IN ELECTION	# OF ADV. VOTERS	# VOTED IN OFFICE	% VOTED IN ADV.
DICKINSON	10443	2400	107	20	4.46%
EDWARDS 1	2042	1199	76	more than half	6.33%
EDWARDS 2	1513	873	49	more than half	5.61%
HAMILTON	1544	920	45	64	4.89%
LEAVENWORTH	11757	2424	111	72	4.57%
LINN	673	142	3	2	2.11%
LYONS	1583	794	42	14	5.29%
MIAMI 1	832	466	30	3	6.44%
MIAMI 2	3051	1850	83	31	4.49%
SHAWNEE	13069	2504	555	296	22.16%

ADVANCE VOTING IS POPULAR WITH VOTERS - Many were pleased with voting at their convenience.

POSSIBLE LATE RESULTS - The statistics indicate that there will be a large increase in the number of voted ballots for the special election board to count. During a Presidential year, that number may be so great that it will be impossible for the final count to be made available in a timely manner for two reasons.

LACK OF EQUIPMENT - Some counties may not have the equipment to process large quantities of paper ballots.

PROCESSING TAKES TIME - A significant amount of time on election day is spent checking names in the poll book, opening envelopes, unfolding ballots and reviewing challenges. Plain paper ballot counties must clip numbers and sort ballots. Opti-scan counties must stack or feed the ballots into optical scan machines. This will take a great deal of time if a large percentage of ballots is cast in advance.

ADDITIONAL PROCESSING TIME IS NECESSARY - Therefore, we are requesting that you pass **SB 671**, which would allow a special election board to be called, if necessary, to begin processing ballots. The County Clerks have been working with the Secretary of State's Office since November on possible legislation. Since each county's circumstances are so radically different, this legislation is meant to encompass any situation. If you wish to clarify the duties of the special board, we would like to be able to work with you on the wording.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

LIBBY SB671.doc
SENATE ELECTIONS
2-22-96
ATTACHMENT 4



Johnson County
Kansas

**TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,
CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT AND
GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS**

Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner

Thursday, February 22, 1996

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 671.

In Johnson County we currently have 215,566 registered voters. Based on the percentage of increase that occurred in 1992, we project that that number will grow to 274,080 registered voters by November, 1996.

Our past statistics also indicate that 90% of registered voters in Johnson County vote in a presidential election. Based on these projections, a total of 246,672 voters would vote in the November 1996 presidential election.

Since this is the first year for advance voting, we must plan for the worst case scenario. Therefore, we are projecting that 50% of the registered voters will choose to vote in advance. Again, past statistics for absentee voting indicate that 75% vote by mail, and 25% vote in person. Therefore, our projections for November 1996 are that 92,502 people will vote in advance by mail, and 30,834 will vote in advance in person at the Election Office.

Faced with the task of processing over 120,000 paper ballots, we are convinced that without this legislation we will not be able to produce results on Election Day. Our job is to conduct elections, under specified conditions to maintain ballot security and accountability, culminating in the timely reporting of election results on Election Day.

Senate Bill 671 gives us that ability.

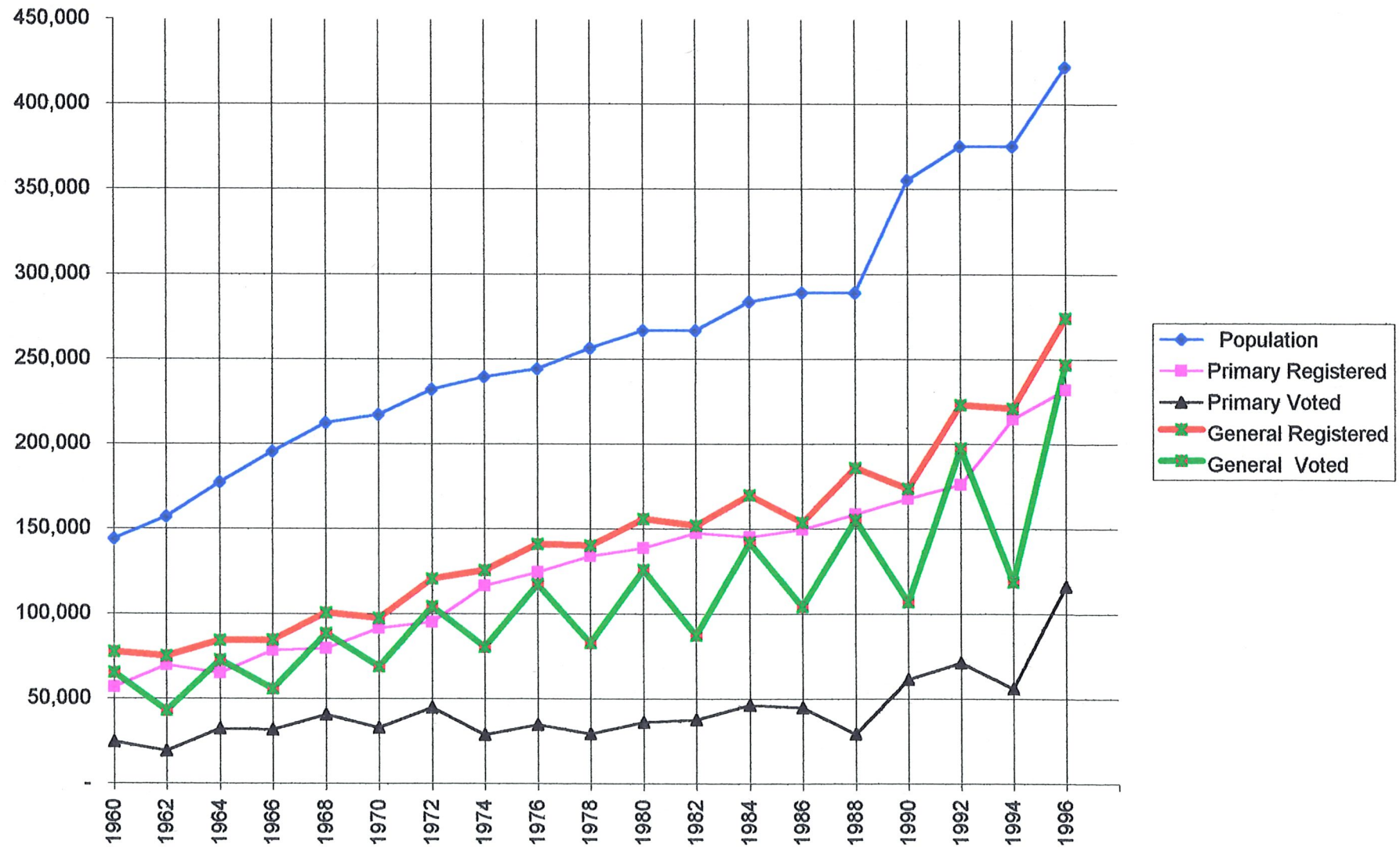
Thank you.

*SENATE ELECTIONS
2-22-96
ATTACHMENT 5*

1960-1996



REGISTRATION AND VOTING TRENDS JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS



5-2





SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

Commissioner of Elections

Marilyn K. Chapman

Historic Courthouse * 510 North Main * Wichita, Kansas 67203-3798 * Telephone (316) 383-7101 * Fax (316) 383-7388

TO: Senate Elections Committee
FROM: Marilyn Chapman
SUBJECT: SB 671
DATE: February 21, 1996

I come to you today in support of this bill. Early response to advance voting has been tremendous. After an article in the Wichita Eagle in early January, over 300 requests were made that same day for applications for the Presidential Preference Primary. In all nearly a thousand applications had been received -- two months before the scheduled election date.

The most time consuming portion of handling ballots which are received by mail (and most of the advance ballots in Sedgwick County will be by mail) is simply opening the envelopes and removing the contents. It is a slow process! We have developed a procedure that does not allow anyone to know whose ballot is being removed. To have that part of the process completed, or nearly so, before election day would ensure that tabulation could be completed in a timely fashion.

I urge you to pass this bill favorably.

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-22-96
ATTACHMENT 6