

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Ruby Gilbert, excused

Committee staff present: Theresa Keirnan, Revisor
Dennis Hodgins, Research
Shirley Weideman, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairman Powell introduced the guest, Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh. The Secretary of State gave an overview of the 2000 election, both statewide and nationally. He reviewed the types of voting systems in Kansas, how provisional ballots are handled, recounts, the possibility of court action and the Electoral College. He emphasized that all voting systems do not need to be uniform throughout the United States, but do need to have uniform security, uniform consistency and uniform access to the ballot.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh responded to questions from committee members.

Secretary of State Thornburgh outlined a six-point Election Improvement Plan:

Training of Local Officials

Conduct Forums at the Midwest Election Officials Conference and Check into Online Voting

Federal Legislation (Monitor and work with nation-wide legislation)

Voting Equipment Standard

Voter File Security and Maintenance (attachment #1)

Legislation - outlined by Brad Bryant at last committee meeting (See Ethics & Elections minutes for 1/17/01).

Chairman Powell thanked the Secretary of State for his testimony.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. by Chairman Powell. Next meeting will be January 24, 2001 at 3:30 p.m.

House Ethics and Elections

GUEST LIST Date January 22, 2001

Your Name	Representing
Kovtun Victoria	Intern
Aurica Balmus	intern
Chris Kroh	staff
Bill Brady	KS Golf Consulting
Jesse Bojon	Sec. of State
Brad Bryant	Sec. of State

Ron Thornburgh
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

RON THORNBURGH
Secretary of State

Kansas Secretary of State's Six-Point Election Improvement Plan

1. Training of Local Officials

- Increase training of county election officers, with emphasis on:
 - processing provisional ballots
 - recount procedures
 - the latest voting equipment
 - voter registration file maintenance

- Provide information to county canvassers and county attorneys to increase uniformity in:
 - canvassing procedures and ballot counting
 - recounts
 - provisional ballots

- Midwest Election Officials Conference in 2001
 - Coordinate with Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska to conduct a national-quality conference for county election officers.
 - Invite experts to present ideas on current election issues.
 - Provide for the interstate and intrastate sharing of ideas.

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Attachment 1

2. Innovation and Technology Exposition

- Conduct forums at the Midwest Election Officials Conference where manufacturers, vendors and election experts will provide demonstrations, education and training on technology, including:
 - Voting equipment
 - Software for voter registration and election administration
 - Computer technology for the election office

- Online voting

Continue efforts at the national level to develop standards of security for Internet-based online voting.

Coordinate with the:

- National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)
- National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED)
- Federal Election Commission (FEC)

3. Federal Legislation

- Monitor federal legislation that addresses election issues.
- Seek federal grants to improve election technology and training.
 - Establish a procedure for the state to apply for and receive federal funds and disburse them to counties.
- Participate in the national debate on possible reforms, including:
 - the Electoral College
 - standardized voting equipment
 - improved voting procedures
 - ballot design and tabulation

4. Voting Equipment Standards

- Monitor and assist in updating the FEC's voting equipment standards.
Plan for adoption of FEC software standards in Kansas.
- Participate in the further development of standards for the Independent Testing Authority process through NASS and NASED.

5. Voter File Security and Maintenance

- Improve the means for purging ineligible voters, including the use of:
 - a statewide list of deceased persons from the Bureau of Vital Statistics
 - a statewide list of deceased persons from the Social Security Administration
 - a statewide list of persons convicted of state felonies
 - lists of noncitizens from the Division of Motor Vehicles and jury lists
- Continue efforts with the Division of Motor Vehicles to automate voter registration data collection and transfer, including:
 - driver's license changes of address
 - new registrations

6. Legislation

- Establish a recount procedure for statewide offices.
- Update election crimes statutes.
 - Voter intimidation
 - Voter registration suppression
 - Electioneering during advance voting
 - Vote trading