

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on January 16, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State  
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Allen recognized Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State to present the Kansas Secretary of State's Six-Point Election Improvement Plan to the committee (Attachment 1).

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, introduced by the Secretary of State briefed the committee on pending federal legislation regarding election reform (Attachment 2). Brad also had 2001 proposed legislation to introduce 4 bills being (1) Recount Bill (2) Election Crimes Bill (3) Election Administration Bill (4) Cleanup Bill (Attachment 3). Senator Clark made a motion that the Committee introduce the four Secretary of State's bills as outlined by Brad Bryant, seconded by Senator O'Connor. The motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2001



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 (NASED)
- 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

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## STATE OF KANSAS

### Pending Federal Legislation Regarding Election Reform

H.R. 5631 Federal Elections Review Commission Act  
Sponsored by Mr. Defazio and Mr. Leach

The purpose of this act is to create the Federal Elections Review Commission that would study the Federal electoral process and make recommendations to ensure Americans confidence in Federal elections. After one year of study, the Commission will submit a report to the President and Congress outlining the Commission's findings and recommendations for addressing the problems outlined in the report.

H.R. Federal Election Standards Act of 2000  
Sponsored by Mr. Delahunt and Mr. Graham

Title I of this act establishes the National Advisory Commission on Federal Election standards. This Commission shall examine state procedures used in federal elections, develop standards for federal elections, and make additional suggestions to Congress over which Congress may exercise legislative authority.

Title II of this act establishes a program to provide grants to implement the reforms suggested by the commission. No later than 30 days after the establishment of the program will the Federal Election Commission begin accepting applications from the states for the grants. This bill does not allow for grants to fund the entire cost of the reform. However, the Federal Election Commission reserves the right to waive this stipulation.

S. 3273 Voting Study and Improvement Act of 2000  
Sponsored by Mr. Schumer, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Cleland,  
Mr. Kerry, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Leahy

Under this act, the Federal Election Commission will perform a study of the feasibility and advisability of alternate means and instruments of voting in Federal elections. Some of the issues the Commission will investigate: Internet voting, computerized voting, voting by mail, redesigned ballots, expanding or changing the hours and places in which voting occurs, and means and instruments particularly relevant to voting in rural or urban areas. The Commission will then develop a plan to disburse Voting Improvement Grants to States to facilitate the adoption by States of the recommendations for alternative means and instruments of voting.

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Attachment 2





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S. 3264      Commission on the Comprehensive Study of Voting Procedures Act of  
2000  
Sponsored by Mr. Specter and Mr. Harkin

This act establishes the Commission on the Comprehensive Study of Voting Procedures. The Commission will be responsible for completing a thorough study of all issues relating to voting procedures in Federal, State, and local elections.

S.1            Election Reform Act  
Sponsored by Mr. McConnell and Mr. Torricelli

This act combines the Federal Election Commission's Office of Election Administration and the Department of Defense's Overseas Voting Assistance Office into one commission named the Election Administration Commission. The Commission will study and make recommendations to the states on various election issues. Every year there will be an opportunity for the States to make appeals to the Commission for grant money that will be used to improve and modernize the administration of elections.

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## STATE OF KANSAS

### Office of the Kansas Secretary of State

## 2001 Proposed Legislation

### Recount Bill

Provide a procedure for recounts of statewide offices

### Election Crimes Bill

Vote trading--prohibit it

Voter intimidation--prohibit campaign tactics that involve false information intended to keep voters from voting

Voter registration suppression--require persons/groups conducting voter registration drives to deliver completed applications to the county election officer

Electioneering--prohibit electioneering during advance voting

### Election Administration Bill

Petition circulators--delete the requirements that petition circulators be registered voters and residents of the county and election district

Permanent advance voting lists--provide an administrative mechanism for county election officers to remove permanent advance voters' names from the permanent advance voting list if they miss two consecutive elections

Voter registration addresses--allow voters to request the county election officer not disclose their residence addresses on the voter registration list if their safety is threatened

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Attachment 3



## Cleanup Bill

County canvass boards--revise the statute to accommodate five-member boards of commissioners

County party committees--delete a reference to KSA 25-3802, which was repealed

Year 2000--change 19\_\_ to 20\_\_ in KSA 25-616 and 25-618

Oath of challenged ballot--delete a reference to KSA 25-413, which was repealed

County surveyors--delete the office from ballot forms statutes because there are no elected county surveyors

Candidate filings in redistricting years--update 1992 statutes to provide special deadlines if new districts are not finalized early in 2002