

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 9:30 a.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Long, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk
Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk
Sherri Riebel, Allen County Clerk
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Elections and Legislative Matters
Kim Winn, League of Kansas Municipalities

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair reminded the committee that **SB 56** as amended had a motion on the floor and that it would be addressed later in the proceedings.

Senator Brungardt moved that the minutes of January 15, January 22, January 28, and January 29, 2009 be approved as written. Senator Reitz seconded. Motion carried.

The chair opened the hearing on **SB 79–Election; changing filing deadlines for candidates**. Staff noted that this bill was at the request of the Secretary of State's office and simply moves various filing deadlines approximately one month. As it stands now, the Secretary of State takes certified candidates' applications two days after federal service ballots are mailed.

Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk & Election Officer spoke in favor of the change as it allowed more time for the mailing of federal service ballots overseas (Attachment 1).

Donald R. Merriman, Saline County Clerk and Election Officer also presented testimony in favor as he felt it would help to insure absolute accuracy for each race (Attachment 2).

Also speaking in favor of the bill was Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk (Attachment 3)

Written testimony in support of **SB 79** was submitted by:

Janet Ruple, Sherman County Clerk (Attachment 4)

There being no further testimony, the hearing on **SB 79** was closed.

The chair returned to the hearing on **SB 56–Elections; security of advance voting ballots** as amended stating that Senator Wagle's motion moved the bill out, seconded by Senator Reitz. The amendment added language that would affix a statement to the ballot envelope regarding the designated deliverer. The motion was still open. Senators Faust-Goudeau and Kultala voted nay; bill passed.

Final action on **SB 118–Campaign finance; state-wide offices; electronic filing required** was opened for discussion. There being no objections, Senator Brungardt made a motion, Senator Kutuala seconded. Motion carried on a voice vote.

SB 71 - Question submitted elections; new reporting requirements was opened for discussion. Staff explanation indicated that this made the reporting requirements the same as for individual candidates. There

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Ethics And Elections Committee at 9:30 a.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

is a period for reporting 11 days before the election itself. Modification is basically the same and mirrors the individual candidates. Reports are submitted to the county election office. There is an annual report required but the report is not due until the end of the calendar year. This requires a report 11 days before the election. Current law requires that any committee, club, organization, municipality or association promoting the election or defeat of an issue file such a report. Senator Wagle asked if educating the public on both sides of the issue would be included and if there is clarity in the current law. Line 15 covers expressly advocacy. Senator Apple asked what deters school boards from engaging using tax dollars for express advocacy. Staff replied that State Statute 25-4961 addresses this issue.

Senator Brungardt moved for adoption of the balloon, Senator Reitz seconded, to recommend **SB 71** as amended favorably for passage. Motion carried.

The hearing for **SB 103—Elections—certain local units of government; primaries** was opened for discussion. Staff explained that this would put the law back to the status of a year ago. The law was amended last year; amending three statutes dealing with primaries. The first statute deals with school districts, the second with city primary elections and the third with community colleges. The change last year tried to eliminate the necessity for primaries depending on the number of those filing. The wording caused concern and confusion and therefore this bill was requested.

Chair recognized Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Elections and Legislative Matters who says his amendment (Attachment 5) as proposed would be to require to only hold primaries in those districts in which a fourth candidate files for office. If three or fewer candidates file, there is no primary and all candidate names are printed on the general election ballot in April. If four or more candidates file, a primary will be held to reduce the field to two for the general election. It will also remove the contradictory and confusing language contained in **HB 2973**.

Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk also spoke in support of this bill and the amendment indicating that the dollar savings would be substantial by not having a primary (Attachment 6)

Also speaking in support of this bill was Kim Winn, League of Kansas Municipalities (Attachment 7).

There being no further conferees the Chair closed the hearing on **SB 103**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2009.

Jefferson County, Kansas

Linda M. Buttron, COUNTY CLERK

P.O. Box 321 • Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066

Phone: 785-863-2272 • Fax: 785-863-3135 • email: lbuttron@jfcountyks.com

COUNTY OFFICES

Commissioners
863-2272

Clerk
863-2272

Attorney
863-2251

Sheriff
863-2765

Register of Deeds
863-2243

Treasurer
863-2691

Clerk of the
District Court
863-2461

Road & Bridge
863-2211

Appraiser
863-2080

Auxiliary Services
863-2581

Emergency
Services
863-2278

Extension
863-2212

Planning & Zoning
863-2241

Health
Department
863-2447

GIS/IT
863-2173

911 Dispatch
863-2247

February 11, 2009

Honorable Senator Vicki Schmidt
Chairperson-Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
And Committee Members

Re: S.B. 79
By Committee on Ethics and Election

Chairman Schmidt and Committee Members:

As Jefferson County Clerk and Election Officer and the Vice-President of the Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials Association, I am supportive of S.B. 79 moving the filing deadline for candidates from June 10 at noon to May 10 at noon.

Such change is needed primarily to allow more time between the filing deadline and other deadlines imposed for the mailing of federal service ballots to those serving overseas. For example in 2010; if the filing deadline were June 10, June 18th would be the deadline for County Clerk's to mail federal service ballots, (by law they must be mailed 45 days before an election). The Secretary of State's office has 10 days to verify the candidate's eligibility to be on the ballot. This date would be June 20, 2010, two days after we mail federal service ballots. If candidates are not found to be qualified it is too late to remove their names from the federal service ballots. Because of the short time frame, federal service ballots are most generally not custom printed ballots, but paper ballots prepared by the County Clerks and hand tallied on Election Day. Moving the deadline to May 10 would allow these ballots to be printed in the same manner as other ballots and save time and money in the tally of such ballots.

Thank you for your consideration concerning this bill.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Buttron
Jefferson County Clerk & Election Officer
(Vice-President of the Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials Association)

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2009

Attachment 1



SALINE COUNTY

Board Meetings - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Meeting Room 209 - Office Room 211 - 300 W. Ash

P.O. Box 5040
Salina, Kansas 67402-5040
Phone (785) 309-5825
FAX: (785) 309-5826

COMMISSIONERS:
Randall E. Duncan
First District

Craig Stephenson
Second District

Sherrri Barragree
Third District

February 11, 2009

Honorable Senator Vicki Schmidt
Chairperson – Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
and Committee Members

Re: S.B. 79
by Committee on Ethics and Elections

Chairman Schmidt and Committee Members:

As Saline County Election Officer and County Clerk, I am supportive of S.B. 79 in order to move the candidate filing deadline from June 10 at noon to May 10 at noon for even-year elections. With the current filing deadline of June 10, there is not sufficient time between candidate certification and the start of Advance Voting. For example last year the Advance Voting date was July 16 (20 days prior to the Primary Election). The Federal Service mailing deadline was June 21.

With the introduction of the new voting equipment for Advance and Election Day, the June 10 deadline places a strain on Election Officers, Election Commissioners, and Election Staff. The paper ballots and machine coding need a careful proofing before printing and set-up. The optical scan machine for paper ballots and the voting machines, also, require testing for each race to insure absolute accuracy.

If the filing deadline is moved to May 10, the chance for mistakes and inaccuracies would be lessened.

Thank you for your consideration and time concerning this bill.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Merriman
Saline County Clerk and Election Officer
(Secretary of the Kansas County Clerks' and Election Officials' Association)

DRM: //

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2009
Attachment 2

Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

Testimony on Senate Bill 79

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk/Election Official
and Kansas County Clerk's & Election Officials
Election Committee Chair

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 79. Senate Bill 79 would move the filing deadline for Federal, State and Local offices from June 10th to May 10th.

Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials Association supports this legislation.

One, because it would allow for the Federal Service Ballots to be the actual ballots all our other voters vote. Currently, Election officials have to create ballots before the final ballots are printed due to the mailing deadline being 45 days before Election Day. The problem being that from June 10th at noon until June 20th deadline for mailing Federal Service ballots is 9 ½ days. This is not enough turnaround time for actual ballots to be created and printed; therefore we are creating "make shift" ballots for our most important voters, the ones serving to keep our freedom so that we can vote.

Two, it would also eliminate possible errors on "make shift" ballots. You are trying to get everything on the ballot, and waiting for the Secretary of State's office for certification of candidates. Secretary of State's office has to wait on lawsuits, therefore time gets pressed and mistakes are more likely to happen. We take every precaution not to let this happen, but we are human.

Third, if the filing deadline were moved to May 10th, this would alleviate the problem and give both the Secretary of State and our offices time to prepare the ballots and have the correct certified names.

KCC&EOA urge the committee to report Senate Bill 79 favorably for passage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sherrie L. Riebel
Allen County Clerk/Election Official
& KCC&EOA Election Committee Chair

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2009
Attachment 3

SHERMAN COUNTY

Sherman County
Clerk
813 Broadway Room 102
Goodland, KS 67735
Phone: 785-890-4802
Fax: 785-890-4809

February 9, 2009

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

Re: SB79

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of SB79 which would change the candidate filing deadline from June 10th to May 10th.

My reasons for asking that this bill be passed is because of the difficulty of the Secretary of State's office and the County Election Officers in the State to meet the federal guidelines that require the federal military ballots be mailed out 45 days before elections.

I would like to use the year 2008 as an example of why I think this law needs to be changed. According to the federal law, the military ballots had to be mailed out by June 20, 2008, to the service men and women. Filing deadline was at noon on June 10, 2008. This gave the Secretary of State's office and our office a total of 9 ½ days to get the correct names and prepare the ballots with the names of the federal and statewide candidates so that we could prepare the military ballots. During the year of 2008, there were also law suits that had been filed against the Secretary of State's office which complicated the issue and delayed their office sending us the final certified list.

We have a small county and do not have the large number of federal military ballots that some counties have, however, we were put into a bind to try and meet the mailing deadline last year. If the filing deadline were moved to May 10th, this would alleviate the problem and give both the Secretary of State and our offices time to prepare the ballots and have the correct certified names.

I cannot see where one month would make any difference to the candidates if they know that they have to file by a certain date, but it would make a big difference to our offices and also assure that we get those ballots to our military soldiers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janet R. Rumpel
Sherman County Clerk/Election Officer

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2009
Attachment 4



STATE OF KANSAS

Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

Testimony on Senate Bill 103

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

February 11, 2009

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 103. This bill deals with the rules that govern primaries for city offices, local school boards and community college boards of trustees. These elections are held in the spring of odd-numbered years. Traditionally, primaries are held for these positions only if the number of candidate filings triggers a primary. Legislation in 2008 sought to reduce the number of primaries by increasing the number of candidate filings required to trigger a primary. However, that language created an inconsistency in the law that Senate Bill 103 seeks to resolve.

We support Senate Bill 103 because it resolves the contradictory language that is in current law. However, we wish to offer an amendment to accomplish the objectives of the 2008 legislation that created the contradictory language.

In 2007 and before, the law stated that a primary was required in spring elections only if more than two candidates filed for a position. The primary would eliminate one or more candidates, so the goal of the primary was to narrow the field of candidates to two in the general election, held on the first Tuesday of April.

In 2008 the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA) proposed legislation to reduce the number of these expensive primaries by increasing by one the number of candidates that would trigger a primary. Thus, if three candidates filed there would not be a primary; a primary would be required if four or more candidates filed. But the 2008 law was unclear as to how many candidates would be carried forward from the primary to the general election ballot. The contradiction in the language of the 2008 law created confusion and, in our view, needs to be amended.

SB 103 would resolve the confusion created in 2008 by returning the law to its 2007 language. We support the bill for that reason, but it does not accomplish what the KCCEOA attempted to accomplish with the legislation it proposed in 2008. Therefore, we wish to offer an amendment to Senate Bill 103. We have included the proposed amendment with this testimony.

The amendment being proposed jointly by the KCCEOA and the Secretary of State's office amends the language of Senate Bill 103 to accomplish two objectives: it will remove the contradictory and confusing language and still reduce the number of spring primaries.

If the committee amends Senate Bill 103 as proposed, the policy regarding spring primaries will be that a primary will be required only in those districts in which a fourth candidate files for office. If three or fewer candidates file, there is no primary and all the candidates' names are printed on the general election ballot in April. If four or more candidates file, there will be a primary to reduce the field to two for the general election.

While we support Senate Bill 103 because it will remove the confusion from the law passed in 2008, we urge the committee to adopt the proposed amendment to accomplish the additional objective of the 2008 legislation. We ask the committee to amend Senate Bill 103 as proposed and to recommend the bill, as amended, favorably for passage.

We have included a chart to help explain the rules for holding primary elections under the 2007 law/Senate Bill 103, the 2008 law and Senate Bill 103 if amended as proposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

CITY / SCHOOL / COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRIMARY ELECTION CHART

PREVIOUS LAW / SB 103 PROPOSAL

NUMBER OF POSITIONS	CANDIDATES FILED - NO PRIMARY	CANDIDATES FILED CREATING PRIMARY	IF PRIMARY IS HELD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ADVANCING TO GENERAL
1	0-2	3 OR MORE	2
2 (at large)	0-4	5 OR MORE	4
3 (at large)	0-6	7 OR MORE	6
4 (at large)	0-8	9 OR MORE	8

2008 LAW AS IMPLEMENTED

NUMBER OF POSITIONS	CANDIDATES FILED - NO PRIMARY	CANDIDATES FILED CREATING PRIMARY	IF PRIMARY IS HELD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ADVANCING TO GENERAL
1	0-3	4 OR MORE	3
2 (at large)	0-6	7 OR MORE	6
3 (at large)	0-9	10 OR MORE	9
4 (at large)	0-12	13 OR MORE	12

2009 SOS / KCCEOA AMENDMENT TO SB 103

NUMBER OF POSITIONS	CANDIDATES FILED - NO PRIMARY	CANDIDATES FILED CREATING PRIMARY	IF PRIMARY IS HELD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ADVANCING TO GENERAL
1	0-3	4 OR MORE	2
2 (at large)	0-6	7 OR MORE	4
3 (at large)	0-9	10 OR MORE	6
4 (at large)	0-12	13 OR MORE	8

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL No. 103

Section 1. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-2021 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2021. (a) A primary election shall be held if needed to reduce the number of candidates for each office in the general election to no more than three candidates. No primary election of school district board members shall be held unless by holding such primary two or more persons will be eliminated as candidates for office. In the event there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are board members to be elected, the names of the candidates for such office shall not appear on the primary election ballots, and there shall be no primary election for such office, but the names of such candidates shall be placed on the general school board election ballot. *In school districts in which a member district method of election is in effect, if there are more than two three qualified candidates for one member position in any member district, the county election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election in each such member district and, if there are more than two qualified candidates for the at-large member position, the county election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election in such school district. The names of the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for any member position at the primary election shall appear on the ballots in the general election. **If there are three or fewer qualified candidates for any member position there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.***

*(b) In school districts ~~having the~~ in which the election at large method is in effect, if there are more than two three times the number of candidates as there are board members to be elected, the county election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election. The names of twice the number of candidates as there are board members to be elected who received the greatest number of votes at the primary election shall appear on the ballots in the general election. **If there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are board members to be elected there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.***

*(c) If a member is to be elected to fill an unexpired term ~~the rules in this section shall be modified consistent with the provisions of this subsection~~ the office shall be listed separately on the ballots. If there are more than two three candidates for such unexpired term, the county election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election. The names of the two candidates for such unexpired term receiving the greatest number of votes shall appear on the ballots in the general election. **If there are three or fewer qualified candidates for any member position there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.***

(d) ~~No ballot in a primary school election shall have either names or write-in blanks for any board member position unless more than two candidates have filed for such position.~~

(b) (e) On the ballots in general school elections, blank lines for the name names of write-in candidates shall be printed at the end of the list of candidates for each different office equal to the number to be elected thereto. The purpose of such blank lines shall be to permit the voter to insert the name of any person not printed on the ballot for whom such voter desires to vote for such office. No lines for write-in candidates shall appear on primary school election ballots.

25-2102. Definitions; primary and general elections. (a) "General election" means the election held on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November of even-numbered years, the elections held for officers on the first Tuesday in April, and in the case of special elections of any officers to fill vacancies, the election at which any such officer is finally elected.

(b) "Primary election" means the election held on the first Tuesday in August of even-numbered years, the election held five weeks preceding the election on the first Tuesday in April, and any other preliminary election at which part of the candidates for special election to any national, state, county, city or school office are eliminated by the process of the election but at which no officer is finally elected.

(c) "District method" means the election of city officers where the city is divided into member districts.

(d) "Election at large method" means the election of city officers without member districts.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-2108a is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2108a. (a) There shall be a primary election of city officers on the Tuesday preceding by five weeks the first Tuesday in April of every year that such city has a city election, except as otherwise provided in subsection **subsections (b) and (c)** of this section.

~~(b) A primary election shall be held if needed to reduce the number of candidates for each office in the general election to no more than three candidates. No primary election of city officers shall be held unless by holding such primary two or more persons will be eliminated as candidates for office. In the event there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are officers to be elected, the names of the candidates for such office shall not appear on the primary election ballots, and there shall be no primary election for such office, but the names of such candidates shall be placed on the general city election ballot.~~

~~(b) No primary election of city officers shall be held unless by holding such primary one or more persons will be eliminated as candidates for office. In the event there are not more than two candidates for any one office, the names of the candidates for such office shall not appear on the primary election ballots, and there shall be no primary election for such office, but the names of such candidates shall be placed on the general city election ballot.~~

(b) In cities in which a district method of election is in effect, if there are more than three qualified candidates for one member district, the county election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election in each such member district. The names of the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for any member district at the primary election shall appear on the ballots in the general election. If there are three or fewer qualified candidates for any member district there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.

(c) In cities in which the election at large method of election is in effect, if there are more than three times the number of candidates as there are members to be elected, the county election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election. The names of twice the number of candidates as there are members to be elected who received the greatest number of votes at the primary election shall appear on the ballots in the general election. If there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are members to be elected there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.

(d) On the ballots in general city elections, blank lines for the names of write-in candidates shall be printed at the end of the list of candidates for each different office equal to the number to be elected thereto. The purpose of such blank lines shall be to permit the voter to insert the name of any person not printed on the ballot for whom such voter desires to vote for such office. No lines for write-in candidates shall appear on primary city election ballots.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 71-1415 is hereby amended to read as follows: 71-1415. (a) A primary election shall be held if needed to reduce the number of candidates for each office in the general election to no more than three candidates. No primary election of trustees shall be held unless by holding such primary two or more persons will be eliminated as candidates for office. In the event there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are trustees to be elected, the names of the candidates for such office shall not appear on the primary election ballots, and there shall be no primary election for such office, but the names of such candidates shall be placed on the general election ballot for the board of trustees. *In any college district having a **in which the** district method of election is in effect, and in which if there are more than two **three** candidates for a member position, the election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election. The names of the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for any member position shall appear on the ballots in the general election. **If there are three or fewer qualified candidates for any member position there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.***

*(b) In any college district having **in which** the election at large method is in effect, and in which if there are more than two **three** times the number of candidates as there are trustees to be elected, the election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election. The names of twice the number of candidates as there are trustees to be elected who receive the greatest number of votes in the primary shall appear on the ballots in the general election. **If there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are trustees to be elected there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.***

~~(b) (c) In the general election, there shall appear on the ballots a line appropriate for write-in candidates. No lines for write-in candidates shall appear on the primary election ballots.~~

(c) If a member is to be elected to fill an unexpired term the office shall be listed separately on the ballots. If there are more than three candidates for such unexpired term, the county election officer shall call, and there shall be held, a primary election. The names of the two candidates for such unexpired term receiving the greatest number of votes shall appear on the ballots in the general election. If there are three or fewer qualified candidates for any member position there shall not be a primary election and the names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballots in the general election.

(d) On the ballots in general college district elections, blank lines for the names of write-in candidates shall be printed at the end of the list of candidates for each different office equal to the number to be elected thereto. The purpose of such blank lines shall be to permit the voter to insert the name of any person not printed on the ballot for whom such voter desires to vote for such office. No lines for write-in candidates shall appear on primary college district election ballots.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-2021, 25-2108a and 71-1415 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.



SALINE COUNTY

Board Meetings - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Meeting Room 209 - Office Room 211 - 300 W. Ash

P.O. Box 5040
Salina, Kansas 67402-5040
Phone (785) 309-5825
FAX: (785) 309-5826

COMMISSIONERS:
Randall E. Duncan
First District

Craig Stephenson
Second District

Sherri Barragree
Third District

February 11, 2009

Honorable Senator Vicki Schmidt
Chairperson – Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
and Committee Members

Re: S.B. 103 – Reduce the Number of City/School Primaries
by Committee on Ethics and Elections

Chairman Schmidt and Committee Members:

As Saline County Election Officer and County Clerk, I am supportive of S.B. 103, as amended, to change the candidate filing numbers from 2 to 3 for each open position in City/School/College District Elections.

This year we had 9 filings for 3 open positions on the City of Salina Commission. By current statutes no Primary is needed, and the City of Salina will save approximately \$20,000 in election costs for 2009.

The following are election turnouts and expenses for Saline County/City of Salina/USD 305/USD 306/City of Gypsum:

February 27, 2001 – City of Salina Commission and USD 305 School Board

2,725 votes cast (9% voter turnout) - \$14,473.00 overall cost (\$5.31/vote)

February 25, 2003 – City of Salina Commission

4,250 votes cast (14% voter turnout) - \$15,104.00 overall cost (\$3.55/vote)

March 1, 2005 – City of Salina Commission

4,496 votes cast (14% voter turnout) - \$17,080.00 overall cost (\$3.80/vote)

March 1, 2005 – City of Gypsum Mayor

119 votes cast (46% voter turnout) - \$370.00 overall cost (\$3.10/vote)

February 27, 2007 – City of Salina Commission

4,133 votes cast (14% voter turnout) - \$18,429.00 overall cost (\$4.46/vote)

As an Election Officer, I strive to be as fiscally responsible as possible in conducting elections. This is especially important in this time of reduced revenues for cities, counties, and school districts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this election matter.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Merriman

Saline County Clerk and Election Officer

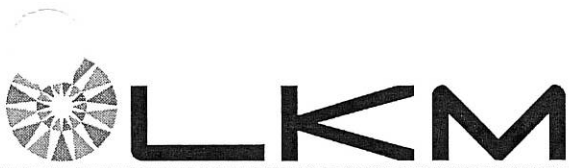
(Secretary of the Kansas County Clerks' and Election Officials' Association)

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2009

Attachment 6

DRM://



League of Kansas Municipalities

300 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3912
Phone: (785) 354-9565
Fax: (785) 354-4186

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
From: Kim Winn, Director of Policy Development & Communications
Date: February 11, 2009
Re: Support for SB 103

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of SB 103. This bill would amend the local primary statutes to take them back to the law as it was prior to the 2008 legislative session.

Since the changes made during last session, we have received a large number of inquiries from cities and other interested parties attempting to apply the language. Needless to say, there has been much debate, many conflicting opinions, and an overall sense of confusion regarding this new language.

We believe that the previous law was appropriate and understandable. In addition, because the election laws are nonuniform, cities would have the option of using their constitutional Home Rule authority to alter the requirements.

For these reasons, we fully support SB 103 and its return to the prior law with regard to city primaries. Thank you and I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2009
Attachment 7