

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 9:30 a.m. on January 20, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Sean Ostrow, 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:

Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Elections and Legislative Matters
Sherrie L. Riebel, Election Legislation Committee Chairman, Kansas County Clerk's & Election Officials

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Vicki Schmidt called the meeting to order and introduced Senator Terrie Huntington as the newest member of the Committee. Senator Huntington responded by introducing legislation regarding unexpended campaign funds. Motion moved by Senator Reitz, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Motion carried.

Senator Huntington also introduced legislation relating to electioneering communication. Motion moved by Senator Reitz, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Motion carried.

The Chair introduced Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State. Secretary Thornburgh then deferred his comments to Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Elections and Legislative Matters. Mr. Bryant outlined three committee bills the Secretary of State would like to see introduced. The bills were the UOCAVA/MOVE bill, moved by Senator Huntington, seconded by Senator Reitz; the Voting Crime Bill, moved by Senator Apple, seconded by Senator Huntington; and the Selection Security Bill which was moved by Senator Huntington and seconded by Senator Reitz. All motions carried (Attachment 1). The Chair thanked Mr. Bryant for his presentation.

The Chair recognized Sherrie Riebel, Election Legislation Committee Chairman, Kansas County Clerk's & Election Officials. Ms. Riebel presented a request for the introduction of three committee bills: requiring all candidates for city offices to file with the County Election Officer, moved by Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Reitz; changing the filing deadline for extension districts, moved by Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Reitz; and reducing the number of primaries for city/school primary elections moved by Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Reitz. All motions carried (Attachment 2).

The Chair thanked Ms. Riebel for appearing.

Secretary Thornburgh returned to the podium and presented information from a "Report of the Study Group on the Future of Elections in Kansas". (This report, dated December 2009, is available from the Secretary of State's office.) He feels there should be limited structural changes during an election year and that attention should be focused on election security; mainly who is handling the ballot. Senator Faust-Goudeau inquired if individuals applying for SRS benefits had the same opportunity to register to vote as they did when applying for a driver's license. Secretary Thornburgh said the opportunity was there but it was not a proactive environment.

The Secretary was thanked for the work he has done for the State of Kansas in his role as Secretary of State and also for his appearance today.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2010.


CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:30 a.m. on January 20, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 20, 2010

NAME	REPRESENTING
Kent Cornish	KAB
Brad Bryant	Sec. of State
Sherril L. Kiehl	KCC & EOR, Allen County Clerk
	Senator Huntington

RON THORNBURGH
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

Request for Introduction of Committee Bills

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

January 20, 2010

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Secretary of State requests introduction of three committee bills:

1. UOCAVA / MOVE bill—

This bill would improve the voting process for military and overseas voters who qualify under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and it would comply with new requirements of the federal Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment Act passed in 2009.

2. Voting crime bill—

This bill would increase the penalty for illegal voting from a misdemeanor to a level 9 nonperson felony.

3. Election security bill—

This bill would accomplish three things:

- a. It would enhance the security of advance ballots cast through the mail.
- b. It would require voters to provide valid identification at each election.
- c. It would amend several Kansas statutes to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

Thank you for your consideration.

ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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COUNTY CLERK

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Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

Request for Introduction of Committee Bills

Sherrie L. Riebel, Election Legislation Committee Chairman
Kansas County Clerk's & Election Officials

January 20, 2010

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas County Clerk's & Election Officials request the introduction of three committee bills:

1. **This bill would require all candidates for city offices to file with the County Election Officer.** — Current law says 1st & 2nd Class city candidates file the city clerk; 3rd class candidates file with either city clerk or County Election Officer.

2. **Change the filing deadline for extension districts**—This bill would change the extension council candidate-filing deadline from early March to 10 weeks before the April election to coincide with the deadline for City/School board candidates.

3. **City/School primary elections**—This bill would reduce the number of primaries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 1-20-2010
Attachment 2