

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, 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:

Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk
Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk
Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk
Kim Winn, League of Kansas Municipalities
Erik Sartorius, City of Overland Park
Lou Kern, Washington County Clerk

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair opened the hearing on **SB 419 - Elections; filing requirements for city offices**. Staff explanation of this legislation stated that current law requires candidates in first and second class cities to file a petition or statement of candidacy with the city clerk and candidates in third class cities to file with either the county election officer or the city clerk. This would require all candidates to file with the county election officer.

Speaking in favor of the bill, Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk, indicated that this would get filings to the county election officer in a more timely manner (Attachment 1).

Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk, also felt that this would create consistent, accurate and timely filings and urged passage (Attachment 2).

Also in favor of the bill was Linda M. Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk. She stated that this would clarify filing requirements for candidates and ensure that the proper forms are completed at the time of filing (Attachment 3).

Written testimony in favor of the bill was submitted by Joanne Long, Bourbon County Clerk (Attachment 4).

Speaking in opposition to **SB 419**, Kim Winn, Director of Policy Development & Communications, said that this bill would change the long-standing practice of filing for city office at city hall and would require city candidates to file with the county election officer. In their poll of city clerks, the overwhelming response was in opposition to this proposed change (Attachment 5).

Erik Sartorius, representing Overland Park, Kansas, stated that passage of this bill would likely create new confusion by its adoption and implementation and therefore he was in opposition to this bill (Attachment 6).

Written testimony in opposition to **SB 419** was also submitted by the following:

Denise Duerksen, City Clerk, Newton (Attachment 7)
Brenda Chance, City Clerk, Philipsburg (Attachment 8)
Bobby Busch, City Clerk, Neodesha (Attachment 9)
Susan Renner, City Clerk, Andover (Attachment 10)
Cheryl Wright, City Clerk, Clearwater (Attachment 11)
Vicki B. Zentner, City Clerk, Westmoreland (Attachment 12)
Kathy Raney, City Clerk, Rose Hill (Attachment 13)
Patty Gerwick, City Clerk, Mulvane (Attachment 14)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:30 a.m. on February 11, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Anna-Marie Keena, City Clerk, Spring Hill (Attachment 15)
Susan Hass, City Clerk, Blue Rapids (Attachment 16)
Cheri R. Peine, City Clerk, Oswego (Attachment 17)
Debra S. Giskie, City Clerk, Liberal (Attachment 18)

There being no further discussion, the hearing on **SB 419** was closed.

The Chair then opened the hearing on **SB 420 - County extension council elections; date of election of governing body**. Staff informed the committee that this legislation would change the candidate filing deadline for extension council districts from five weeks before the general election in April to ten weeks before the election.

The Chair again welcomed Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk. Speaking in favor of this legislation she said that if the county does not have a primary election they have to wait to finalize the General Election ballot causing problems with programming and printing (Attachment 19)

Lou Kern, Washington County Clerk, said they have a working relationship with K-State Research and Extension and both agree that it would greatly benefit the candidates; the voters, and especially the county election officers involved if the filing deadline for extension candidates is moved (Attachment 20).

Also in favor of this legislation, Linda M. Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk, said the bill simplifies the spring election process and allows county clerks to order their ballot for the April election much sooner than the current law allows (Attachment 21).

Written testimony in support of **SB 420** was submitted by:

Daryl D. Buchholz, Associate Director for Extension and Applied Research, Kansas State University, (Attachment 22)
Mary Arganbright, Ottawa County Clerk (Attachment 23)
Vicki Hall, Republic County Clerk (Attachment 24)
Linda Bogart, Cloud County Clerk (Attachment 25).

There being no further discussion, the hearing on **SB 420** was closed.

Chairman Schmidt called for final action on **SB 423 - Campaign finance; transfer of campaign funds to another candidacy**. Senator Wagle moved that the bill, as written, be passed out favorably. Senator Brungardt called for a Point of Information asking if this was the bill that allowed the money to move with the candidate, regardless of the office. The Chair stated this was the wording of the bill. Senator Brungardt then seconded, motion carried.

The Chair opened the floor for final action on **SB 416 - Governmental ethics; eliminating conflict of interest filing requirements for certain university faculty**. Senator Brungardt presented an amendment which would repeal the section referencing faculty members making over \$50K filing with the university. Motion to adopt a substitute for SB 416 by Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Reitz to accept the amendment. Motion carried. Motion was then made to move SB 416 favorably for passage by Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Reitz. Motion carried.

The hearing on **SB 417 - Requiring campaign contributions reports; to list the occupation, but not industry, of contributors of over \$150** was opened. Senator Huntington introduced an amendment which would strike the word "industry" and include the term "employer". Seconded by Senator Faust-Goudeau. Senator Wagle asked where language originated and was told that industry was inserted rather than employer in a previous conference committee. She indicated she preferred the original language and would vote against the amendment. The Chair pointed out that a technical amendment would be made on line 19 and "industry" would be deleted and "employer" inserted. Motion carried. It was moved by Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Reitz that SB 417 be moved out favorably for passage. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:30 a.m. on February 11, 2010, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

SB 420 - County extension council elections; date of election of governing body was opened for discussion. Senator Reitz moved that SB 420 be considered favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Kultala. Motion carried

The hearing for **SB 422 - Elections; certain local units of government; primary elections** was opened by the Chair. Following a brief history of this bill and further discussion by the committee Senator Kultala moved that SB 422 be moved unfavorably, seconded by Senator Reitz. Motion carried.

SB 419 - Elections; filing requirements for city offices was opened for discussion. After input by county clerks in attendance, Senator Brungardt recommended that the committee look at the actual language contained in the bill. The Chair asked that he work with Senator Apple for an amendment and discussion on the bill would continue at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Sherrie L. Riebel
COUNTY CLERK

1 N. Washington
Iola, KS 66749

620-365-1407
Fax: 365-1441
Email: coclerk@allencounty.org

February 11, 2010

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 419

From: Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk/Election Official
and Kansas County Clerks & Election Officials Election Committee Chair

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 419. Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association support this legislation.

Currently all cities have three days in which to get filings to the County Election Officer once they have received them from candidates. (Third class city candidates have the option of the city clerk or county election officer.) We would like to have the filings in a timelier manner.

Allen County has actually had incidents where the second-class city candidate wanted to file with our office, because of political issues at the city; they did not want to file there. They came to the courthouse and did not have time to get back to the City of Humboldt before the filing deadline, therefore were not on the ballot. He had to launch a write in campaign.

It would take the guessing out of the place to file ...the city or the county...first class, second-class or third class. Most citizens do not know if their cities are first, second or third class.

It would save the cities from writing checks to the Election office because we cannot take third party checks, so they receipt the money and turn around and write us a check for the candidate filing.

KCC&EOA urge the committee to report Senate Bill 419 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 2-11-2010
Attachment 1



DONNA ZIMMERMAN
BARTON CO CLERK/ELECTION OFFICER
1400 Main Street - Room 202
Great Bend, Kansas 67530
PH (620) 793-1835 / FAX (520) 793-1990

February 11, 2010

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

From: Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk/Election Officer &
Kansas County Clerk's & Election Officials Election Committee Member

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 419

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 419. The Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials Association supports this legislation.

Briefly, County Election Officers are charged with the responsibility to conduct elections and furnishes all forms for the filings of office. Handling that responsibility off-site can create problems. For example:

- City personnel are not trained under the same mandates as the County Election Officer. As such, incomplete or inaccurate information may be provided as a result of off-site filing.
- In some instances, third class cities have limited office hours and resources. This may create a discrepancy or disadvantage in the availability of filing.
- City personnel may be not be aware of filing deadlines or may not have the resources to immediately and promptly remit filing information to the Election Officer. This may cause a delay in providing information to both the public and the media.
- Should information be delayed, this may result in critical and costly errors on the part of the Election Officer. Accurate and timely information is vital in the preparation of ballots, publications and other requirements.
- Often, the Election Officer is asked how many filing have there been for an office. Candidates do not always want to file if their filing will cause a primary and add operational costs to a city. By collecting filings offsite, the Election Office is not always able to provide a correct response.

Changing the requirement for all city offices to file directly with the County Election Officer will create consistent, accurate and timely filings. Therefore, KCC&EOA urges the committee to report Senate Bill 419 for passage. Thank you for your time consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Zimmerman
Certified Barton County Clerk/Election Officer
& KCC&EOA Election Com

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2010

Attachment 2

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@jfcountryks.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, 2010

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

Re: S.B. 419

By Committee on Ethics and Election

Chairman Schmidt and Committee Members:

As Jefferson County Clerk and Election Officer and President of the Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials Association, I am in support of the passage of Senate Bill No. 419.

This bill would allow all candidates for city office to file in the same place. Currently first and second class cities must file with their City Clerk and third class cities can file at either the City Clerk's office or the County Clerk's office. As County Clerk's deal with elections and their associated requirements and forms on a more regular basis than City Clerks it would make sense to have the County Clerks accept the filings. It would clarify filing requirements for candidates and ensure that the proper forms are completed at the time of filing thus reducing the possibility of invalidating candidates due to improper documents.

Thank you for your consideration concerning this bill.

Sincerely,



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

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2010

Attachment 3

BOURBON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Joanne Long
County Clerk

210 S. National Ave.
Fort Scott, KS 66701

620-223-3800
countyclerk@bourboncountyks.org

February 11, 2010

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

Re: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 419

From: Joanne Long, Bourbon County Clerk/Election Official
and Kansas County Clerks' and Election Officials' Association Treasurer

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of Senate Bill 419. The Kansas County Clerks' and Election Officials' Association supports this legislation.

Currently, candidates for city office in Cities of the 1st and 2nd class are required to file with the corresponding City Clerk. Candidates for city office in Cities of the 3rd class may file with the City Clerk or with the County Election Office. A city clerk has three days to turn over the filing documentation to the County Election Officer once they have received it from candidates.

Bourbon County has had two incidents in my tenure at the County where filing with the City Clerk has created a problem for the intended candidate. Once, a young man filed by petition for City Commission for the City of Fort Scott (1st Class City). It required 10 valid signatures on the petition and \$35.00 state filing fee. His paperwork was not delivered to the County Election Office until after noon on the filing deadline day. His petition only had 7 valid signatures on it. Even though the young man turned in his paperwork with the City Clerk several days prior to the filing deadline, because said paperwork did not reach the County Election Office until after the filing deadline, the potential candidate did not have the opportunity to circulate another petition or to pay the local filing fee. Therefore, he was not placed on the ballot and lost his \$35.00 state filing fee.

The second situation happened in 2009. The City Clerk of Bronson (3rd Class City) left City Hall at 11:00 am on the filing deadline day to drive her filings to the County Election Office. After she left, but before the noon deadline, a man went to the City Hall in Bronson to file for office and was told the clerk had already left to deliver the filings. The man called the County Election Office and was assured that his filing was timely and he would be placed on the ballot, but the potential of not receiving a filing would be detrimental to the election process.

Having all City candidates file with the County Election Office would eliminate future situations like those listed above and would eliminate the question as to where to file for office. All County, School District, Community College and Township candidates already file with the County Election Office and this would make it unanimous for local filings.

It would also save the cities from writing checks to the County Election Office because we cannot take third party checks, so they receipt the money and turn around and write us a check for the candidate filing.

KCC&EOA urge the committee to report Senate Bill 419 favorably for passage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanne Long
Bourbon County Clerk/Election Official
& KCC&EOA Treasurer

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2010
Attachment 4



To: Senate Ethics & Elections Committee
 From: Kim Winn, Director of Policy Development & Communications
 Date: February 11, 2010
 Re: Opposition to SB 419

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) and our member cities. A few weeks ago, we were approached by the County Clerks Association regarding the issue of where candidates for city office file their paperwork. Current law requires that filings are with the city clerk in cities of the first and second class. In cities of the third class, the filing may be either with the city clerk or the county election officer. We were told about a few anecdotal examples where cities failed to meet deadlines when submitting the information to the county election official.

SB 419 would change the long-standing practice of filing for city office at city hall and would require that all city candidates file with the county election officer. After our conversation with the County Clerks Association, we polled the city clerks in Kansas and we received an overwhelming response in opposition to this proposed change.

City clerks across the state echoed the following concerns:

- **Discouraging Candidates.** Many city clerks expressed serious concern about discouraging candidates, particularly in smaller communities that have difficulty getting people to run for office. Allowing for local filing promotes ease of access to the election process.
- **City Information.** Many city clerks provide a packet of basic information about cities to all of those who inquire about running for office. Filing with city clerks also gives the individuals an opportunity to ask questions about the city on the spot.
- **More cooperation is needed.** Most city clerks indicated that any problems with communication between city clerks and county clerks is simply an indication that perhaps more training and communication is needed.

To this end, the City Clerks Association and the League of Kansas Municipalities have committed to working to provide a non-legislative answer to the questions posed by this bill. We would be happy to work with the County Clerks Association to provide space in our publications and on our training schedules to address any concerns that they might have about filing for city office. We do not believe that a legislative change to this policy is warranted.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you do not report SB 419 favorably for passage. Thank you and I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
 Date 2-11-2010
 Attachment 5

OVERLAND PARK

K A N S A S

ABOVE AND BEYOND. BY DESIGN.

8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
913-895-6000 | www.opkansas.org

Testimony before the
Senate Ethics & Elections Committee
Regarding Senate Bill 4719
By Erik Sartorius

February 11, 2010

The City of Overland Park appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 419. The legislation will bring more confusion, not less, to the process undertaken by individuals to run for municipal office.

Currently, individuals interested in running for office in the City of Overland Park are directed to the City Clerk's office. We elect a mayor and 12 council members in odd-numbered years on staggered, four-year terms. When prospective candidates come to the clerk's office, our experience has been that they often have questions about the duties and expectations of office.

Requiring prospective candidates for municipal office to go the county election office rather than the city clerk would make the filing process less efficient and more confusing for them. Currently, the City of Overland Park provides prospective candidates a document answering frequently asked questions about items such as:

- qualifications for the office
- the frequency of council and committee meetings
- compensation
- the calendar of important dates for the election cycle
- a list of the requisite forms and fees

The City of Overland Park believes Senate Bill 419 cures a problem that does not exist, or could be addressed by discussions between city and county clerks. Passage of SB 419 would likely create new confusion by its adoption and implementation. We ask that the committee not recommend SB 419 favorably for passage.

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2010
Attachment 6

Carolyn Long

From: Denise Duerksen [DDuerksen@newtonkansas.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 2:23 PM
To: Vicki Schmidt; Pete Brungardt; Pat Apple; 'terrie.huntinton@senate.ks.gov'; Roger Reitz; Kelly Kultala; Susan Wagle; Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Subject: Senate Bill 419

Dear Senators:

As Newton City Clerk, I would like to express my opinion and ask that you vote no to SB 419. I personally have a great working relationship with the Harvey County Clerk and we are in communication daily during the filing time for an election. Our practice has been that candidates wishing to file for City Commission, come to me and then I take the paperwork over to Harvey County. Having contact with the candidates when they file is very important to me because they normally have a number of questions that the County Clerk can not answer. If I am able to answer their question right away, that saves the individual from running from one place to another. Also, in some of the smaller cities, finding candidates to run for office is difficult. If they have to drive to the County Seat just to file, they are less likely to file.

PLEASE consider voting against this bill.

Best regards,

Denise Duerksen
City Clerk
City of Newton
dduerksen@newtonkansas.com
316-284-6015



City of Phillipsburg

P.O. Box 447 • Phillipsburg, Kansas 67661 • Phone 785-543-5234 • Fax 785-543-2302

February 8, 2010

Senator Vicki Schmidt, Chair
Senate Ethics & Election Committee
State Capital Building
Topeka KS 66603

RE: SB 419 – An Act concerning election of city officers; pertaining to filing requirements; amending K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 25-2110 and 25-110a and repealing existing sections.

Senator Schmidt and fellow committee members:

My name is Brenda Chance and I have served as the Phillipsburg City Clerk since 1987. During my time as city clerk I have been involved with the city officer election filings for eleven elections. Our city elects a mayor, city treasurer, and three city council members in the odd numbered years.

While I am fortunate that my city is the county seat and the courthouse is only three blocks away I am concerned about the affect enacting SB 419 might have on the other communities throughout Kansas which are not the county seat city. In small rural communities it is difficult to find residents who are willing to serve and many times they file at the very last minute at their city office. My concern is if we force them to take off work and drive a 40 mile round trip to file for office, will this encourage them to become involved in local government?

I believe if there is a problem with the current law not being followed it may be a lack of education and communication between the city clerk and the county clerk where the problem is. I would propose rather than changing the law that the County Clerks Association and the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas (CCMFOA) work together to provide the necessary information to make the current law work. As a past president of CCMFOA, I am very well acquainted with the educational opportunities which are available to city clerks. They include a spring conference and also a fall certification institute as well as a list-serv that could be used to send reminders to members state wide.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my comments to you.

Brenda L. Chance
City Clerk, MMC
PO Box 447
Phillipsburg, KS 67661

Phone: 785/543-5234
E-mail: pburgclerk@ruraltel.net

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2010

Attachment 3

Carolyn Long

From: Bobby Busch [bbusch@ci.neodesha.ks.us]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 1:54 PM
To: Vicki Schmidt
Subject: SB 419

Ms. Schmidt:

Please accept this e-mail as testimony from the City of Neodesha in opposition to SB 419.

As City Clerk for the City of Neodesha, I have a terrific relationship with the County. I feel this relationship works both ways and is beneficial to both of us. To remove the filing of City candidates outside the City is a detriment to our local government. We feel that this process should remain the way it is so that we always know who is running for local offices. This appears to be rather a drastic change to correct the ill behavior of a few.

If I can offer any additional information, or answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your consideration in opposing this bill would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Bobby Busch, CMC

Finance Director/City Clerk
City of Neodesha
PH: 620-325-2828 ext. 200
FX: 620-325-2481

Carolyn Long

From: Susan Renner [srenner@andoverks.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 2:41 PM
To: Vicki Schmidt; Pete Brungardt; 'pat.apple@senate.ks.gov'; Terrie Huntington; Dennis Pyle; Roger Reitz; Susan Wagle; Oletha Faust-Goudeau; Kelly Kultala
Subject: SB 419 - City of Andover response

Requiring citizens to go to our County Court House will further hamper an already apathetic population from getting involved – they won't travel to City Hall to attend a meeting on matters that effect them, why would they drive an additional 20 miles to file for office.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Renner
City Clerk
City of Andover
POB 295 - Andover - KS - 67002
316.733.1303 ext 221
Fax 316.733.4634
srenner@andoverks.com

See us on the web at www.andoverks.com



Consider the environment, print only when necessary

Carolyn Long

From: Cheryl Wright [Wricks@clearwaterks.org]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 2:43 PM
To: vicki.schmidt@senate.ks.gov; pete.brungardt@senate.ks.gov; pat.apple@senate.ks.gov; terrie.huntington@senate.ks.gov; dennis.pyle@senate.ks.gov; roger.reitz@senate.ks.gov; susan.wagle@senate.ks.gov; oletha.faust-goudeau@senate.ks.gov; kelly.kultala@senate.ks.gov
Subject: SB419

Members of the Ethics and Elections Committee - As a city clerk I am strictly against the change that would centralize the filing for all city offices at the County election official rather than at the office of the City Clerk. I believe that most of if not all of the people would decide it is just too much trouble and too difficult to go to Wichita (Clearwater is in Sedgwick County), find a parking place, find where to file for the office, and stand in line. The way it is now they can pop into City Hall I will hand them the forms explain the process and they can either fill them out in my office or take them home and bring them back at their convenience. I have created them no hassle and nothing unfamiliar to them. In all of the years I have been City Clerk we have never had a person file for a Clearwater City office in Wichita. The legislature would be doing an injustice to the small towns by passing SB419. We have a hard enough time getting people to run for Council, please do not make it difficult for them to file. Thank you for your time.

Cheryl Wright
City Clerk CMC
City of Clearwater

Carolyn Long

From: City of Westmoreland [westycity@bluevalley.net]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:07 PM
To: Vicki Schmidt
Subject: SB419

Ms. Schmidt:

I wish to express my opposition to senate bill 419.

Westmoreland is a city of 759 population, and although we are the county seat, we have a hard time getting residents to run for city council seats each year, other than those that are incumbents. This year, we have three (3) openings with only two (2) incumbents running. We did have one (1) person file for the vacant seat, however, this candidate filed with my office as I was open after they returned from their out of town job, whereas, the county election officer's office was closed.

I feel that by changing the filing to just the county would be a big mistake as stated in my example. Please reconsider passing this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Vicki B. Zentner
City Clerk
City of Westmoreland
202 Main, PO Box 7
Westmoreland, KS 66549
(785) 457-3361
fax (785) 457-3708

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2010

Attachment 12

Carolyn Long

From: Kathy [kathy@cityofrosehill.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:22 PM
To: Vicki Schmidt
Subject: SB419

Vicki: My name is Kathy Raney and I am the City Administrator/City Clerk for Rose Hill. I have been with the City for nearly 12 years. Our city lies in Butler County and we are 45 minutes from the county seat of El Dorado. Requiring our citizens to travel that far to register for local offices would be a hardship. We have a difficult time getting folks to run for local offices and we want to continue to make it as easy as possible for them to participate in city government. I ask that you oppose this change in election filing. Thank you for your time and consideration. Kathy Raney

CITY OF MULVANE

211 NORTH SECOND STREET
MULVANE, KANSAS 67110
(316) 777-1143
(316) 777-4081 (Fax)

February 8, 2010

Senator Vicki Schmidt, Chair
Senate Ethics & Election Committee
State Capital Building
Topeka, KS 66603

RE: SB419 – An Act concerning election of city officers; pertaining to filing requirements; amending K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 25-2110 and 25-110a and repealing existing sections.


Senator Schmidt and fellow committee members:

My name is Patty Gerwick and I have served as the City Clerk for the City of Mulvane since 1993. In odd numbered years we have a local election to elect either a mayor and two council members or three council members.

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to SB 419 pertaining to filing requirements for local elections. In small communities it can sometimes be very difficult to find local citizens who are interested in running for a public office (unless there is a controversial issue on the table). I feel if SB 419 is enacted, people will be even less likely to get involved in local government. I think the inconvenience (time and cost of gas) to drive 50-60 miles to the county courthouse will discourage people to file. For our citizens, it involves driving to downtown Wichita and dealing with traffic and parking issues, versus coming to city hall, where they can park at the front door, come in and work with people they know, to file for city office.

In Mulvane we try to encourage our citizens to become involved in local government and I feel that SB 419 will make it more difficult to get citizens to participate. If there are problems with the current law, I would suggest that the county clerks and the city clerks work more closely together through education and communication instead of changing the law which would make it more difficult for local citizens to become involved in their communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns about SB 419.


Patty Gerwick, MMC
City Clerk
City of Mulvane, KS



February 9, 2010

Honorable Vicki Schmidt, Chair
Senate Ethics & Election Committee
State Capital Building
Topeka, Kansas 66603

RE: 5B 419 - An Act concerning election of city officers; pertaining to filing requirements; amending K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 25-2110 and 25-110a and repealing existing sections.

Dear Senator Schmidt and fellow committee members:

I have served as a Kansas Deputy and City Clerk since 2003. Along with necessary referendums, our city elects a mayor and five city council members every other year. I am frequently consulted regarding requirements, deadlines, and the necessary documents.

Having worked for the City of Olathe for 14 years and now City Clerk for the City of Spring Hill, I can attest it does not matter if the community is small or large. It is difficult to find residents who are willing to serve. The sacrifices are great and my concern is if we require potential candidates to make a 30 mile round trip to file for office, it not only inconveniences those individuals who are interested in providing service to their communities, it also keeps the cities they wish to represent uninformed and unable to assist them.

I propose rather than changing the law, the County Clerks Association and the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas (CCMFOA) work together to provide the necessary information to make the current law work. As an active member of the CCMFOA, I am confident the education opportunities available to City Clerks could encompass necessary training for successful election filings.

Sincerely,

Anna-Marie Keena
City Clerk

Cc: Mayor Mark Squire
City Council

Carolyn Long

From: Susan Hass [brcity@bluevalley.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 11:24 AM
To: Vicki Schmidt
Subject: SB419

I am writing to urge you to not pass senate bill 419. The filing for city council positions should remain with the city clerks so that we know who is filing for the positions.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Susan Hass, CMC
City Clerk
City of Blue Rapids
04 Public Square
Blue Rapids, KS 66411
785-363-7736
Fax: 785-363-7361
brcity@bluevalley.net

THE CITY OF OSWEGO

703 5TH STREET • P.O. BOX 210
OSWEGO, KANSAS 67356
(620) 795-4433 • FAX (620) 795-4873



February 9, 2010

Senator Vicki Schmidt, Chair
Senate Ethics & Election Committee
State Capital Building
Topeka, KS 66603

RE: SB419 – Concerning Election of City Offices; Pertaining to Filing Requirements;
Amending K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 25-2110 and 25-110a and repealing Existing Sections.

Senator Schmidt:

As President of the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association (CCMFOA) of Kansas I would like to present the following information regarding the proposed change in order to file for an elected city position.

During my 35 years working with the City of Oswego, 25 as City Clerk, my office has worked closely with the Labette County Clerk's office to provide the proper information to candidates who wish to file for an elected position with the city. We take this duty seriously and do our best to ensure it is done correctly.

Most candidates filing for positions with our city government choose to file through my office. We are fortunate the county seat is in Oswego, and directly across the street. In most cases, we could easily direct people to a new location in time to meet the deadline. However for those cities across the county whose candidates must make a 30 or 40 minute trip – one way – in order to file, they could very well lose their opportunity. It is difficult in many rural areas to find people who are even willing to place their name on the ballot, why would we want to do anything to discourage their decision to seek office?

Rather than changing the current law, I feel comfortable offering an opportunity for a representative of the County Clerk Association to speak on this subject at our spring conference and/or to new clerks each fall during our certification institute. Why not provide a simple set of instructions to cities across Kansas, and let's find a common ground and work together. CCMFOA is willing to take the necessary steps to provide this information to our members. Most importantly we want to find ways to encourage our citizens to become involved in their communities rather than make it cumbersome.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my comments.

Sincerely,

Cheri R. Peine
City Clerk
CCMFOA President

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2010

Attachment 17



The
CITY of LIBERAL

P.O. BOX 2199 • LIBERAL, KANSAS 67905-2199

February 10, 2010

Senator Vicki Schmidt, Chair
Senate Ethics & Election Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66603

Re: SB 419 – An Act concerning election of city officers; pertaining to filing requirements; amending K.S.A. 25-2110 and 25-110a and repealing existing sections.

Senator Schmidt and fellow committee members:

My name is Debbie Giskie and I have served as the Liberal City Clerk since November 1990. During this period of time we have had numerous elections in which the electors vote for three (3) city council members during the odd numbered years. Liberal is the county seat for Seward County and my office works closely with our county clerk to deliver the filing documents and associated fee the same day as the individual files for city commission. The County Clerk's office provides all the necessary filing forms for ease in the process and to my knowledge the process is working well.

I realize the filing process could be hindered in some of the small communities that don't serve as the county seat. However, I believe the proposed SB 419 could potentially result in less individuals filing for city commission because of the inconvenience of driving to the courthouse, instead of having the ease to file at City Hall.

Although I am not aware of the reason this legislation is being introduced, I feel it could possibly be solved with education and better communication between the officials instead of enacting a State law.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide my comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra S. Giskie
City Clerk, CMC
City of Liberal, Kansas

Phone: (620) 626-2206
E-mail: debbiegiskie@cityofliberal.com

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2010
Attachment 18

ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Sherrie L. Riebel
COUNTY CLERK

1 N. Washington
Iola, KS 66749

620-365-1407
Fax: 365-1441
Email: coclerk@allencounty.org

February 11, 2010

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 420

From: Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk/Election Official
and Kansas County Clerks & Election Officials Election Committee Chair

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 420. Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association support this legislation.

Extension Districts are a growing item due to funding. More and more county extension offices are merging their services to save monies and utilize their agents to be more specialized. This is causing more and more City/School Elections to have extension district candidates on the ballot as well.

Currently the extension district candidates have until the day before a primary election date to file for extension board. However, if the County does not have a primary election we have to wait to finalize our General Election ballot. This causes time problems with programming and printing when you have 105 counties wanting programming and printing done so that the ballots can be mailed out in a timely manner. Example this year we have primary election day Tuesday, March 3, 2010 the canvass is on Friday, March 5, 2010. Advanced voting for the Tuesday, April 6, 2010 General Election starts on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. This leaves one week and two days for our ballots to be programmed and printed to go into the mail on the 17th or if people come into our office to vote. My point is the City/School Elections are so tightly scheduled if the Election Officials are fortunate not to have a Primary Election could get their General Election ballots done as long as they don't have to wait on an Extension District filing date. This would leave the Election Officials that have Primary Elections to get their programming and ballots in a timely manner.

KCC&EOA urge the committee to report Senate Bill 420 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 2-11-2010
Attachment 19

Good Morning – I am Lou Kern, Washington County Clerk. Washington County is the home county for River Valley Extension District #4 comprised of Clay, Cloud, Republic and Washington Counties. It was formed in 2006 under K.S.A. 2-623 and we have had two elections since the formation of the district.

Before the implementation we were a paper ballot county. We now use precinct count machines and have our ballots printed by Lockwood Company through E S & S.

I have attached a 2009 election calendar from the April city/school election cycle. It shows the time line that we as county election officials must meet.

January 27 – Filing deadline for city/school candidates.

February 27 or before - Secretary of State sends instructions for the general election.

February 21 - Federal service ballots were to be mailed

March 4 - Extension candidates filing deadline

March 18 – Advance voting may begin in office

April 7 – General Election

While the time frame listed above appears to allow adequate time for county election officers to meet those deadlines it is barely possible to do so. ES&S/Lockwood requires that our information be prepared for printing 60 days prior to each election in order to allow time for us to submit the information, receive the draft, confirm any corrections that may be needed and then have ballots printed. In addition to the printed ballots Lockwood also prepares the card that lists all candidates for office by precinct and controls the scanners. Frequently the ballots are printed but the cards have not been burned for the counters so advance voting may not begin 20 days prior to the election. Our county voters have become accustomed to voting at their earliest convenience.

The map attached shows the number of extension districts that have or will be formed and represents a substantial impact on a majority of the counties in Kansas.

We have an excellent working relationship with K-State Research and Extension and both organizations agree that it would greatly benefit the candidates; the voters and especially the county election officers involved if the filing deadline for extension candidates is legislatively moved to 10 weeks prior to the general election rather than the current 5 weeks.

Do you have any questions for me? If not, thank you for your time and consideration.

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2010
Attachment 20

Local Extension Units Served by the Assigned Extension Director's Representative

Extension Director's Representative

Local Extension Units

James L. Lindquist, Extension Field Operations

Central Kansas, Douglas, Johnson, Reno, Riley, River Valley, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Wyandotte

Dale L. Fjell, Northeast Area Office

Atchison, Brown, Chase, Dickinson, Doniphan, Geary, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Leavenworth, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Meadowlark, McPherson, Morris, Pottawatomie, Rice, Wabaunsee

Chris Onstad, Northwest Area Office

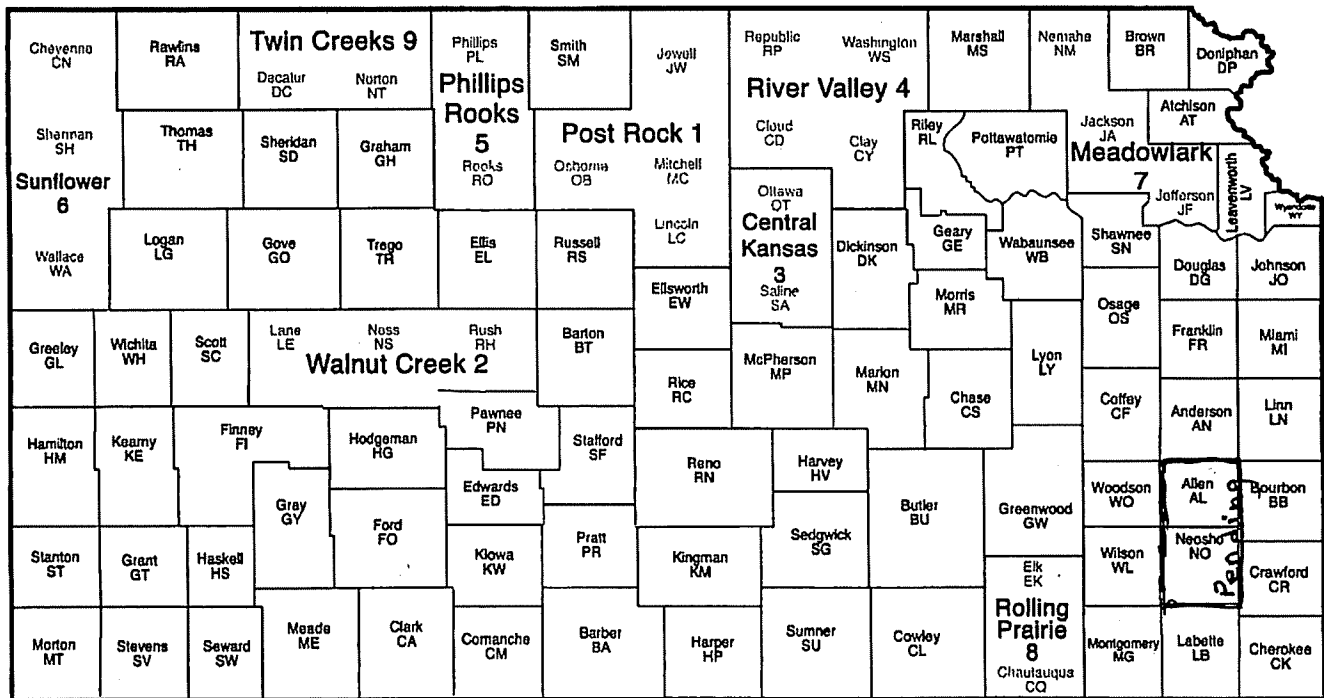
Barton, Ellis, Ellsworth, Gove, Graham, Logan, Phillips-Rooks, Post Rock, Rawlins, Russell, Sheridan, Smith, Sunflower, Thomas, Trego, Twin Creeks, Walnut Creek

Paul D. Hartman, Southwest Area Office

Barber, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kiowa, Meade, Morton, Pawnee, Pratt, Scott, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Wichita

J. D. McNutt, Southeast Area Office

Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Butler, Cherokee, Coffey, Cowley, Crawford, Franklin, Greenwood, Labette, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Rolling Prairie, Sumner, Wilson, Woodson



Office of the Kansas Secretary of State

January 2009

2009 City & School Election Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1 CEO - Deadline for city & USD clerks to certify offices to be elected. 25-2017a, 25-2118</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 CEO - Voters may apply for mailed advance ballots for primary and general. 25-1122(e)(3),(4)</p> <p>←</p>	<p>3 Term of office begins at noon for U.S. House & Senate</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	<p>12 Term of office begins for state, county, township officers (except county treasurer). 25-313</p>	<p>13 SOS - Send CEOs city & school primary advance ballot forms and voter instructions (35 days before election) 25-1121. Deadline January 27.</p>	<p>14 CEO - On or before January 15, publish notice of election one time for school election. Publication not required for city election. 25-2108(b), 25-2112</p>	15	16	<p>17 CEO - Deadline to mail primary election ballots to federal service voters. 25-1220</p>
18	<p>19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	20	21	22	23	24
25	<p>26 CEO - biennial list of county elected officials due to SOS. 19-323</p>	<p>27 Candidate filing deadline Noon deadline for city, school, community college, hospital district candidates to file or withdraw. 25-2007(c), 25-2109, 71-1414(c), 80-2508</p>	28	29	30	31

20-4

Office of the Kansas Secretary of State **February 2009** 2009 City & School Election Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SOS/CEO - Deadline for in-state residence change for city & school primary. Voter who moves outside precinct within 30 days before election may vote in former precinct. 25-3701	2 CEO - County party chairs recommend board workers for city & school primary. (At least 30 days before election) 25-2803(a)	3	4	5 CEO - Prepare advance ballots for city & school primary (At least 20 days before election) 25-1120 Deadline February 11.	6 CEO - Deadline to publish times, places and close of registration for primary. Date may vary with daily or weekly newspaper schedule. 25-2310, -2311(a)(4), -2311(d), KAR 7-23-4	7 SOS - Notify CEOs of close of registration for general election. (At least 60 days before election) 25-2311(c) ←
8	9	10	11 CEO - Begin mailing primary advance ballots. (20 days before primary) 25-1123	12	13	14
15	16 SOS/CEO - Voter registration deadline for city & school primary. 25-2311(a)(4) Presidents Day	17 SOS/CEO - Registration books closed for primary (14 days before election) 25-2311(a)(4) CEO - Deadline to appoint poll workers (10 days before election) 25-2801 CEO - Train poll workers any time 25-2806	18 SOS - Send CEOs general election advance ballot forms and voter instructions. (35 days before election) 25-1121 Deadline Feb. 27.	19	20	21 CEO - Deadline to mail general election ballots to federal services voters. 25-1220
22	23 CEO - Primary campaign finance report deadline for 1 st class city candidates. 25-4148(a)(1)	24 CEO - First day to vote primary advance ballots in CEO office. May begin as early as Feb. 11. 25-1122(f) CEO - Publish notice of school primary (if required) 25-2018(d)	25	26	27 CEO - Last day voters may apply for mailed advance ballots for primary. 25-1122(e)(3)	28

20-5

Office of the Kansas Secretary of State

March 2009

2009 City & School Election Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 CEO - Noon deadline to vote regular advance primary ballots in CEO office. 25-1122(f)	3 City & school primary election 25-2010, 25-2108(a) CEO - Sick/disabled advance voting until polls close. 25-1124(c)	4 CEO - Registration books reopen. 25-2311 <i>Extension Board Member Voting</i>	5	6 CEO - County canvass of city & school primary today or Monday. 25-3101(d),(e), 25-3104	7
8 SOS/CEO - Deadline for in-state residence change for city & school general. Voter who moves outside precinct within 30 days before election may vote in former precinct. 25-3701	9 CEO - Noon deadline to request recount if canvass was Friday. 25-3107(b) CEO - Issue nomination certificates if recount not requested. 25-3110, KAR 7-26-1 CEO - Alternate date for county canvass of primary. 2-3104	10 CEO - 5:00 pm deadline to request recount if canvass was Monday. 25-3107(b) CEO - County party chairs recommend board workers for general. 25-2803(a)	11	12 CEO - Prepare advance ballots for general. Deadline March 18. 25-1120	13 CEO - Complete recount by 5:00 pm if requested Monday. 25-3107(b) CEO - Deadline to publish times, places & close of registration for general. Date may vary with newspaper schedule. 25-2310, 2311(a)(5), 2311(a), KAR 7-23-4	14
15	16 CEO - Complete recount by 5:00 pm if requested Tuesday. 25-3107(b)	17	18 CEO - Begin mailing general advance ballots (20 days before election) 25-1123	19	20	21
22	23 SOS/CEO - Voter registration deadline for city & school general. 25-2311(a)(5)	24 CEO - Deadline to appoint poll workers for general. (at least 10 days before election) 25-2801 SOS/CEO - Registrations books closed for general. 25-2311(a)(5) CEO - Train poll workers any time. 25-2806	25	26	27	28
29	30 CEO - General campaign finance report deadline for 1 st class city candidates. 25-4148(a)(2)	31 CEO - First day to vote advance ballots in CEO office for general. May begin as early as March 18. 25-1122(f)				

20-6

Office of the Kansas Secretary of State

April 2009

2009 City & School Election Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 CEO - Deadline to publish notice of school general. 25-2018(e) CEO - Primary campaign finance report deadline for 2 nd & 3 rd class city, school, commt., college candidates. 25-904(b)	3 CEO - Last day voters may apply for mailed advance ballots for general. 25-1122(e)(4)	4
5	6 CEO - Noon deadline to vote regular advance general ballots in CEO office. 25-1122(f)	7 City & school general election 25-2010, 25-2107 CEO - Sick/disabled advance voting until polls close. 25-1124(c)	8 SOS/CEO - Registration books reopen. 25-2311	9	10 CEO - County canvass of general today or Monday. 25-3101(d),(e), 25-3104 <i>Public test</i>	11
12	13 CEO - Alternate date for county canvass. 25-3104 CEO - Noon deadline to request recount if canvass was Friday. 25-3107(b) CEO - Issue election certificates, certify results to city governing body if recount not requested. 25-3110, KAR 7-26-1	14 CEO - 5:00 pm deadline to request recount if canvass was Monday. 25-3107(b)	15	16	17 CEO - Complete recount by 5:00 pm if requested Monday. 25-3107(b)	18
19	20 CEO - Complete recount by 5:00 pm if requested Tuesday. 25-3107(b)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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@jfcountryks.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, 2010

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

Re: S.B. 420
By Committee on Ethics and Election

Chairman Schmidt and Committee Members:

As Jefferson County Clerk and Election Officer and President of the Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials Association, I am in support of the passage of Senate Bill No. 420.

The bill makes the filling deadline for Extension District Directors the same as City and School candidate's filing deadlines. This simplifies the spring election process and allows County Clerk's to order their ballots for the April election much sooner than the current law allows.

Thank you for your consideration concerning this bill.

Sincerely,



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

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2010

Attachment 21



K-State Research and Extension
Office of the Associate Director
for Extension and Applied Research
123 Umberger Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-3401
785-532-5820
Fax: 785-532-6290

February 8, 2010

Senator Vicki Schmidt, Chair
Ethics and Elections Committee
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 552-S
Topeka KS 66612-1504

Dear Senator Schmidt:

It was been brought to our attention by the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association that they have introduced a bill in the Senate (SB420) to change the filing deadline for Extension District candidates to be the same as that of a city/school election. As this change will affect the election process for all current and future Extension Districts, I am writing this letter to indicate that K-State Research and Extension does not oppose this change. Further, we understand this change will remove any issues election officials may have with programming machines and printing ballots in a timely manner for the general elections held the first Tuesday in April.

Sincerely yours,

Daryl D. Buchholz
Associate Director for Extension and Applied Research

Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment
Station and Cooperative
Extension Service

K-State, County Extension
Councils, Extension Districts,
and U.S. Department of
Agriculture Cooperating.

K-State Research and
Extension is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.

1-1-11

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte

Date 2-11-2010

Attachment 22

February 4, 2010

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

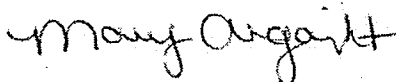
Re: Testimony on Senate Bill No. 420

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

Please consider the revision of K.S.A. 2-624, in regards to the filing deadline of Extension Councils as worded in Senate Bill No. 420. Ottawa County is in favor of this revision, as changing the filing deadline to coincide with the other elections would be a great help for election officials to prepare more efficiently in fulfilling other statutory obligations for the City/School Elections in odd-numbered years. I would encourage you to vote in favor of the proposed Senate Bill No. 420, in a way to help streamline the election process in order to fill ballot requests for advanced voting on a timely manner.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 420.

Sincerely,



Mary Arganbright
Ottawa County Clerk/Election Officer

Mary Arganbright
County Clerk

Vickie J. Hall
Republic County Clerk

785-527-7231
Fax: 785-527-2668

1815 M Street
Belleville, Kansas 66935

February 4, 2010

Vicki Schmidt
Chair, Ethics and Elections Committee
5906 SW 43rd Court
Topeka, KS 66610-1632

RE: Testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 420

Honorable Chair and Members of Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 420 which would move the filing deadline for County Extension offices to coincide with the filing deadline for City / School candidates.

As you know, we conducted an Extension election with our last City / School election on April 7, 2009. The Extension filing deadline was March 4, 2009, five weeks later than that of the January 27, 2009 City / School candidate filing deadline.

We were required by law to have Federal Service ballots mailed by February 21, 2009. The March 4, 2009 filing deadline for Extension held up the programming of our election equipment and audio files. With Advance Voting starting on March 18, 2009, it was not practical to expect the ballots to be printed, shipped and proofed as well as media programmed and logic and accuracy tests performed in less than two weeks.

I have asked our Extension employees if they would have any objections to moving the filing deadline up to the same date as the City / School deadline and they had no objections.

I ask that you please consider this bill to assist us in conducting future City / School elections in a timely manner.

Thank you,

Vickie J. Hall
Republic County Clerk and Election Officer

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2010
Attachment 24

Linda Bogart
Cloud County Clerk
811 Washington
Concordia, KS 66901

clerk@cloudcountyks.org

Telephone: 785-243-8110

Fax: 785-243-8123

February 5, 2010

To: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 420
From: Linda Bogart, Cloud County Clerk/Election Official

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 420. The Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association is in support this legislation.

This legislation would allow Election officials in the eight (8) Extension Districts, which includes twenty-three (23) counties to be able to prepare for the City/School General Election in a timelier manner. They would be able to submit their complete candidate listing, media programming and ballot information to their equipment vendor by their suggested submission date, which in 2009 was one week after the candidate filing deadline.

This legislation would allow for the Extension District candidate filing deadline to be prior to the deadline for mailing Federal Service ballots.

Also, it would allow sufficient time for candidate inspection of ballots, equipment testing prior to the beginning of Advance voting, twenty (20) days before to the election.

KCC&EOA urge the committee to report Senate Bill 420 favorably for passage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Linda Bogart
Cloud County Clerk/Election Official

Senate Ethics and Elections Cmte
Date 2-11-2010
Attachment 25