

CHAPTER 165

HOUSE BILL No. 2307

(Amends Chapter 129)

AN ACT concerning elections; pertaining to mail ballot elections; pertaining to mailing of ballots to inactive voters in local question submitted elections conducted by mail ballot; pertaining to certain primary elections; pertaining to political yard signs; amending K.S.A. 25-433, 25-2021, 25-2108a and 71-1415 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 25-433, as amended by Section 3 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562, K.S.A. 25-2021, as amended by Section 4 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562, K.S.A. 25-2108a, as amended by section 5 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562 and K.S.A. 71-1415, as amended by Section 6 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562 and Section 7 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 25-433 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-433. (a) The county election officer shall mail all official ballots with a return identification envelope and instructions sufficient to describe the voting process to each elector entitled to vote in the election on one date not sooner than the 20th day before the date of the election and not later than the 10th day before the date of the election. Ballots mailed by the county election officer shall be addressed to the address of each elector appearing in the registration records, and placed in an envelope which is prominently marked "Do Not Forward." *Ballots shall not be mailed to any inactive voter who, based on information provided by the postal service, appears to have moved to a residence address outside the county in which the voter is currently registered and who has been mailed a confirmation notice as described in subparagraph (4) of subsection (e) of K.S.A. 25-2316c, and amendments thereto, or because a "Forwarding Order Expired" or "Moved — No Forwarding Address" notice was received from the post office. Any inactive voter who believes such voter is entitled to vote in the election may request a replacement ballot as provided for in subsection (d) of this section.*

(b) Upon receipt of the ballot the elector shall mark it, sign the return identification envelope supplied with the ballot and comply with the instructions provided with the ballot. The elector may return the marked ballot to the county election officer by United States mail, if it is received by the county election officer by the date of the election, or personally deliver the ballot to the office of the county election officer before noon on the date of the election. The ballot shall be returned in the return identification envelope. The county election officer shall provide for the payment of postage for the return of ballot envelopes.

(c) The return identification envelope shall contain the following form:

I declare under penalty of election perjury, a felony, that I am a resident and a qualified voter for this election as shown on voter registration records and that I have voted the enclosed ballot and am returning it in compliance with Kansas law, and amendments thereto, and have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election.

I also understand that failure to complete the information below will invalidate my ballot.

Signature

Residence Address

(d) If the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received by the elector, the elector may obtain a replacement ballot from the county election officer as provided in this subsection. An elector seeking a replacement ballot shall sign a statement verified on oath or affirmation, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, that the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received. The applicant shall deliver the statement to the county election officer before noon on the date of the election. The applicant may mail the statement to the county election officer, except a county election officer shall not transmit a ballot by mail under this subsection unless the application is received prior to the close of business on the second day prior to the election. When an application is timely received under this subsection, the county election officer shall deliver the ballot to the voter if the voter is present in the office of the county election officer, or promptly transmit the ballot by mail to the voter at the address contained in the application, except when prohibited in this subsection. The county election officer shall keep a record of each replacement ballot provided under this subsection.

(e) A ballot shall be counted only if: (1) It is returned in the return

identification envelope; (2) the envelope is signed by the elector to whom the ballot is issued; and (3) the signature has been verified as provided in this subsection. The county election officer shall verify the signature of each elector on the return identification envelope with the signature on the elector's registration records and may commence verification at any time prior to the canvass of the election. If the county election officer determines that an elector to whom a replacement ballot has been issued under subsection (d) has voted more than once, the county election officer shall not count any ballot cast by that elector.

(f) The county election officer shall supervise the procedures for the handling and canvassing of ballots to insure the safety and confidentiality of all ballots properly cast.

(g) The names of voters whose mail ballot envelopes are returned to the county election officer as "undeliverable" shall be subject to removal from the voter registration book and party affiliation list in the manner provided in subsection (d) of K.S.A. 25-2316c, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. From and after July 1, 2008, K.S.A. 25-2021 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2021. ~~(a) In school districts in which a member district method of election is in effect, if there are more than two (2) qualified candidates for one (1) 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 (2) 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 (2) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for any member position at the primary election shall appear on the ballots in the general election.~~

~~(b) In school districts having the election at large method, if there are more than two (2) 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.~~

~~(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. If there are more than two (2) candidates for such unexpired term, the county election officer shall call and there shall be held, a primary election. The names of the two (2) candidates for such unexpired term receiving the greatest number of votes shall appear 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 (2) candidates have filed for such position.~~

(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.

~~(b)~~ *(b)* On the ballots in general school elections, blank lines for the name 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.

Sec. 3. From and after July 1, 2008, K.S.A. 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 (b) 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 ~~one (1)~~ two or more persons will be eliminated as candidates for office. In the event there are not more than ~~two (2)~~ three times the number of candidates for any one office 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.

Sec. 4. From and after July 1, 2008, K.S.A. 71-1415 is hereby amended to read as follows: 71-1415. ~~(a) In any college district having a district method and in which there are more than two 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.~~

~~(b) In any college district having the election at large method and in which there are more than two 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.~~

(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.

~~(b)~~ *(b)* 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.

New Sec. 5. (a) On and after the effective date of this act, any provision of a restrictive covenant which prohibits the display of political yard signs, which are less than six square feet, during a period commencing 45 days before an election and ending two days after the election is hereby declared to be against public policy and such provision shall be void and unenforceable.

(b) The provisions of this section shall apply to any restrictive covenant in existence on the effective date of this act.

Sec. 6. From and after July 1, 2008, K.S.A. 25-2021, 25-2108a and 71-1415 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 25-433 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 8. From and after January 1, 2010, K.S.A. 25-433, as amended by Section 3 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562, K.S.A. 25-2021, as amended by Section 4 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562, 25-2108a, as amended by Section 5 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562, 71-1415, as amended by Section 6 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562 and Section 7 of 2008 Senate Bill No. 562 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas register.

Approved May 18, 2008.

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