

Approved: February 11, 2011
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schwab at 9:00 a.m., on January 19, 2011 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present .

Committee staff present:

Doug Taylor, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Katherine McBride, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Diane Brian, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

The Honorable Kris Kobach, Secretary of State

Chairman Schwab asked for bill introductions.

Representative Mah introduced a bill that would extend the filing deadline for the Extension office elections. Bill was entered with no objections.

The Chairman welcomed new members Representative Rubin Gonzalez and Representative Robert Montgomery to the committee. Introductions were made by the committee members.

The Chairman welcomed Secretary Kobach, who gave a presentation on the 2010 Elections with General Election Statistics for Voter Registration, Turnout and Advance Voting, the MOVE Act, and the Legislative Agenda for 2011, (Attachment 1). Secretary Kobach said the Secretary of State's office would be supporting the following 2011 legislative agenda:

- Secure and Fair Elections Act
- Plan to reintroduce changes to correspond to the federal MOVE Act
- Military and Overseas voter bill
- Candidate filing deadlines in redistricting years

Secretary Kobach addressed questions from the committee:

Representative Mah would like to see the percentage of new registrations that occur in election offices versus schools, malls, nursing homes, etc. - Secretary Kobach will follow up with this information.

Representative Ruben asked if moving the deadlines for the primary election might result in timing problems with the MOVE Act. Secretary Kobach said that this would need to be taken into consideration when changing the deadline.

Representative McCray-Miller voiced concerns about the low level of voter participation since 1992. Secretary Kobach agreed that this is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Representative Gregory thought it might be helpful to have a Constitutional Bee, similar to a Spelling Bee, to stimulate interest among our young people. She would also like the same information that Representative Mah requested as it relates to the general population of the state. Secretary Kobach will follow up with this information.

Chairman Schwab announced we will start the meeting Monday at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:50 a.m.