

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Kahrs at 1:30pm on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 281-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joseph Scapa – Excused
Representative Steve Huebert – Excused

Committee staff present:

Ruth Mahner, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Lash, Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Meeting call to order

Chairman Kahrs welcomed those present and recognized the three new committee members. Committee staff were introduced.

Possible bill introductions

Representative Esau moved to introduce a bill relating to ballots, which would remove the city of residence from candidate information. Chairman Kahrs seconded. There were no objections.

Representative Dierks moved to introduce a bill relating to defamation of character. Chairman Kahrs seconded. The motion carried by voice vote. In the political arena, falsely defaming an opponent's character without documentation would be punishable by fine or public apology.

Review of Committee Rules

Chairman Kahrs directed attention to the Committee Rules and Instructions for Conferees. He made note of one minor revision to the conferee's instructions: On item 3, the word "business" should be stricken; conferees will contact the committee assistant 24 hours in advance.

Representative Carmichael raised a question about an apparent conflict with Roberts Rules of Order; Chairman Kahrs noted that the Committee Rules are generally accepted as standard.

Briefing on:

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Elections at 1:30pm on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 in Room 281-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Kahrs introduced Martha Dorsey from the Kansas Legislative Research Department to present a review of legislative action from the previous session.

Ms. Dorsey directed attention to a three-part summary of 2015 Elections Committee bills ([Attachment 1](#)). She briefly addressed Section 1 (bills that were enacted by the House) before going into greater detail on Section 2, which contains three bills that lie below the line on House General Orders.

The three bills in Section 2 all deal with campaign finance, and Ms. Dorsey provided several documents to help explain their history and background; a one-page summary of the history of campaign contributions in Kansas since 1974 ([Attachment 2](#)) ; a large packet dealing with campaign contribution limits nationwide ([Attachment 3](#)) ; a statement from the National Conference of State Legislatures ([Attachment 4](#)) ; a chart comparing 2015-16 contributions by state ([Attachment 5](#)) ; and a 2015 statement from the Kansas Legislative Research Department regarding campaign fund transferability ([Attachment 6](#)) .

She then briefly reviewed Section 3, which contains bills remaining in committee. She noted that **SB239** has been superseded by **HB2104** (which was enacted during the 2015 session). **HB2145** might need a name change to forestall confusion with another piece of legislation. And **HB2210** is scheduled for a hearing within the next week.

Martha Dorsey then stood for questions from the committee.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2016.

Chairman Kahrs adjourned the meeting at 2:03 pm.