

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:40 AM on February 8, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except for:
Senator Kelsey

Committee staff present:
Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Laura Jurgensen, Kansas Legislation Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Ryan Kriegshauser, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Secretary of State's Office
Brad Bryant, State Election Director, Secretary of State's Office

Others attending:
See attached list.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and asked for bill introductions; there were none.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 333 – An act concerning elections; relating to petitions**. Staff provided an overview.

Ryan Kriegshauser, Secretary of State's Office, testified as a proponent of SB 333. He indicated that the Attorney General supports this bill with an amendment to retain the requirement that a petition circulator be 18 years of age and agree to submit to the jurisdiction of Kansas for the purpose of subpoena enforcement. The Chairman requested that the Secretary of State's office provide the language for an amendment. (Attachment 1)

Brad Bryant, Secretary of State's Office State Election Director, explained the mechanics of reviewing the signatures on the petitions. Under Kansas law, every signature is checked and then it is reported how many were valid or invalid. He also provided the Committee with instructions on the SAFE Act photo ID options for nursing home residents and the SAFE Act education plan for nursing homes and voters with disabilities. (Attachment 2) In response to discussion, Mr. Bryant stated that one must register or change party affiliation 21 days before the primary election, with the deadline being July 17, 2012, at 5:00 PM for this year's primary election.

After further discussion regarding unaffiliated party registration, Mr. Bryant offered to subsequently provide a chart that is used by election workers, which determines the party affiliation voting choices on the day of the primary election. (Attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:35 AM on February 8, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Bryant also stated all provisional ballots are sealed in envelopes and subsequently reviewed by the county board of canvassers.

There being no further discussion, the Chairman closed the hearing.

The Chairman stated that the Committee would work **SB 333 – An act concerning elections; relating to petitions** at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be February 15, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.