

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:34 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Principal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Principal Analyst, Legislative Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk, Kansas County Clerks & Election Officials Association
Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and asked for bill introductions. The Chairman recognized Sherrie L. Riebel, Election Legislation Committee Chairman, Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials, who requested two bills. The first would establish the number of candidates that would continue on to the General Election if a primary were to be held. The second bill request was to change the candidate-filing deadline from June 10 to June 1. (Attachment 1)

Motion moved by Senator Schmidt, seconded by Senator Kelsey. Motion carried.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State. He made introductory remarks and introduced his staff members who were present, Brad Bryant, Ryan Kriegshauser and Eric Rucker. Secretary Kobach indicated the willingness of his department to work closely with the Ethics and Elections Committee. Secretary Kobach summarized what has happened in voting in Kansas over the last two decades, so that the Committee will better understand the trends that have been reported by his agency. (Attachment 2)

Secretary Kobach presented a request for the introduction of four bills: the first would allow overseas voters to vote a full ballot at all elections; apply for, receive and return their ballots by electronic means; and vote a write-in ballot, if needed. (Attachment 3)

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Petersen.

The second bill would cancel the Presidential preference primary election in 2012; maintain the law to have the primary in 2016 and beyond.

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt.

The third bill would remedy a confusing situation that arose with the resignation of a state senator and the need for an expedited election.

Senator Brungardt, seconded by Senator Schmidt.

The fourth bill would change candidate filing deadlines in redistricting years.

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Petersen. All motions carried.

Secretary Kobach spoke about the Secure And Fair Elections (SAFE) Act that is in the House Omnibus Bill and that he anticipated that the Committee will hear this act.

The Chairman thanked Secretary Kobach for appearing.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that January 31 is the last day to request individual bill drafts.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections at 9:34 a.m. on January 27, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.