

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:38 a.m. on March 10, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Paul Degener, citizen, Topeka
Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State
John F. Settich, Ph.D., Atchison (attachment)
Bob Harvey, AARP Kansas
Holly Weatherford, J.D., ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri
Kari Ann Rinker, State Coordinator, Kansas National Organization for Women
Stephanie Mott, Board Member, Kansas Equality Coalition
Thomas Witt, Chairman, Kansas Equality Coalition
Glenda Overstreet, 1st Vice- President; Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches
Ernestine Krehbiel, Kansas League of Women Voters
Richard Fry, November Patriots
Patrick Vogelsberg, Kansas County and District Attorney Association
Anne Byington, President, Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Representative Ann Mah, District 53, Kansas House of Representatives
Thomas Witt, Chairman, Kansas Equality Coalition
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Elections and Legislative Matters

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the continuation of the hearing on **HB 2067 - Voter photographic identification requirements**.

Paul Degener, Topeka, spoke as a proponent. Illegal aliens are being encouraged to register to vote in Kansas; we need safer elections. (Attachment 1)

Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, testified as a proponent. Of the 221 reports of voter crimes in Kansas, only 7 were prosecuted as these are considered low priority cases. This bill will increase the likelihood of prosecuting voter fraud, giving Kansas safer elections. It is patterned after the Indiana law. (Attachment 2)

Derek Schmidt, Attorney General of Kansas, a proponent, provided written testimony only. (Attachment 3)

Richard Fry, November Patriots, a proponent, provided written testimony only. (Attachment 4)

John F. Settich, Ph.D., Atchison, testified as an opponent. Dr. Settich felt that it is very difficult to win an election through fraud and that this bill is unnecessary. (Attachment 5)

Bob Harvey, AARP Kansas, testified as an opponent. By imposing complex rules for voter registration and absentee balloting tend to disproportionately prevent minorities, older persons and people with disabilities from voting or from having their vote counted. (Attachment 6)

Holly Weatherford, J.D., ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri, testified as an opponent. The right to vote is fundamental in the United States and this bill would prevent some from voting. This is an unfunded mandate and will be extremely high in costs. (Attachment 7)

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:38 a.m. on March 10, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Stephanie Mott, Board Member, Kansas Equality Coalition, testified as an opponent. **HB 2067** will cause transgender citizens not to be able to vote, as it is very difficult to update information on all of ID's required. (Attachment 8)

Thomas Witt, Chairman, Kansas Equality Coalition, testified as an opponent. He asked the committee to consider an alternate bill, **SB 222 - Relating to voter identification**. (Attachment 9)

Glenda Overstreet, 1st Vice- President; Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches, testified as an opponent. The language of the bill will create unnecessary obstacles for legal and law abiding citizens from exercising their constitutional right to participate in the election process. (Attachment 10)

Ernestine Krehbiel, Kansas League of Women Voters, testified as an opponent. The League of Women Voters would consider the cost of obtaining an approved ID would constitute a poll tax. It will create a large and expensive bureaucracy. (Attachment 11)

Patrick Vogelsberg, Kansas County and District Attorney Association, an opponent, provided written testimony only. (Attachment 12)

Anne Byington, President, Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, an opponent, provided written testimony only. (Attachment 13)

Kari Ann Rinker, State Coordinator, Kansas National Organization for Women, an opponent, provided written testimony only. (Attachment 14)

There being no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

The Chairman thanked the conferees for appearing before the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.