

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2004 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative David Huff- excused  
Representative Roger Toelkes- excused  
Representative Tom Sawyer- excused

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins Legislative Research Department  
Ken Wilke, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Weideman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Karen Hartenbower, Lyon County Clerk/Officer

Others attending: See Attached List.

Chairman Myers asked if there were any requests for committee bills.

The chairman introduced Karen Hartenbower, Lyon County Clerk and Chair of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association–Election Committee. She said that their association would like to request several bills (Attachment 1):

1. When mailing out ballots, ballots would only be sent to active voters, not to those in the inactive file.

Representative Gilbert moved and the motion was seconded by Representative Powers to introduce this as a committee bill. Motion carried.

2. Eliminate ballot rotation in 2<sup>nd</sup> class city elections and local school board elections. This would allow the county clerks to put the names on the ballot in alphabetical order rather than in rotation.

Representative Powers moved that this be introduced as a committee bill. The motion was seconded by Representative Miller. The motion passed.

3. Define “taxpayer” in drainage district elections. This bill would help determine who is the voting delegate in drainage districts where the taxpayer may be a corporation.

Representative Powers moved and the motion was seconded by Representative Yonally that this bill be introduced as a committee bill. The motion carried.

4. Change the deadline for county party chairs to make changes in ballots from 11 days to 30 days before the election. This allows time for the clerks to make sure the ballots are correct.

Representative Powers moved that the bill be introduced as a committee bill. Representative Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. Reduce the number of spring primaries in city, school board and community college board of trustees elections. In order to reduce the candidate field to 2 in the general election, a primary election is required if more than 2 candidates file for a given office. A primary election would not need to be held unless there were at least 4 (not 3) candidates.

A motion was made by Representative McLeland to introduce this as a committee bill. Representative Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried.