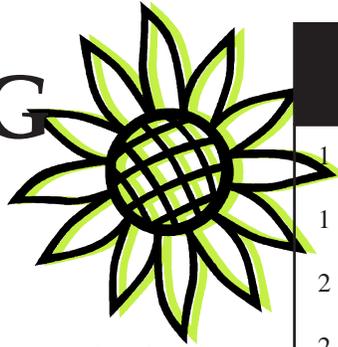


CANVASSING KANSAS



An update on election news from Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh

Working toward August primary

Turnout! That's the most important word to keep in mind as we prepare for this year's elections. All indications from early presidential primaries and caucuses held around the nation are that voters are engaged at higher levels than ever before. This was the message Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh delivered to the county election officers at the KCCEOA spring conference May 8 in Salina. In his remarks, Secretary Thornburgh emphasized the importance of being fully prepared for possibly record-breaking turnouts in both the primary and general elections this year.

Although voting for the office of president is not on the August primary election ballot, there is no reason to think that high turnout will occur only in the general election. The race for president is one of the main factors driving higher participation levels than seen in the recent past. Early indications support this particularly in the number of young voters who are participating in the electoral process.

In preparing for this year's elections, it is important to make whatever plans are necessary to ensure that polling places do not run out of ballots. If electronic voting equipment is used, it is important to provide paper backup in case of machine failure or if there are more voters than the machines can accommodate.

Another aspect of successful preparation is to do whatever possible to prevent long lines at polling places. Many voters will tolerate waiting 10 or 15 minutes to vote, but if the wait extends longer than that, there may be complaints. Often the busiest voting times are 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. If the CEO can deploy poll workers and other resources in such a way that these busy times do not produce long lines, the CEO has a greater chance of success.

Some CEOs are taking advantage of the new law allowing each county the option of conducting satellite advance voting. This is one way to drive more voting to the advance voting period, which reduces the strain on election day. One analysis used in some counties is that if a high turnout

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SOS will roll out E-Motor-Voter

Since the implementation of the National Voter Registration Act, the SOS office has been in discussions with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to enhance and streamline the transmission of voter registration applications from local DMV offices to county election offices (CEO).

With that in mind, the SOS office and the DMV have reached an agreement to electronically capture all voter registration data collected at DMV offices and transmit that data to CEOs using ELVIS. DMV, ES&S and the SOS office expect to complete the project

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Please see **E-Motor-Voter**, page 10

Welcome Whitney, Good Luck Matt!

We are pleased to announce that Whitney Jones has joined the team in the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office. Whitney started work in Elections on May 19, replacing Matt Woehrle. Welcome aboard, Whitney!

Whitney was raised in Arkansas City and attended Cowley Community College before transferring to Washburn University. She is a senior at Washburn, planning to graduate in December 2008 with a major in electronic media and a minor in political science. Her career goal is to work in television as a news broadcaster. Because of her interests in electronic media, one of the things Whitney enjoys doing in her spare time is shooting and editing short films.

Her other interests include playing the piano and working with children at the Topeka Boys and Girls Club. She is employed part time there in addition to her work at the SOS office.

Many county election officers got to know Matt Woehrle the past few years. Matt worked in the election office for three years while he finished his undergraduate studies at Washburn University. This spring, Matt went to work part time at the Johnson County Election Commissioner's office, and in May he accepted a full time position at the Wyandotte County Election Commissioner's office. We were glad to have Matt for as long as he was able to stay, and we wish him well in his future endeavors. We are glad he is staying in the election business.

SSIs: Important public disclosures

One of the most important public disclosure documents filed by candidates, public officeholders and others involved in policy making is the Statement of Substantial Interests, or SSI. The purpose of the SSI is to publicly disclose whether a person holds a position or owns assets that could create a conflict of interest with the office that they hold or seek to hold.

During the candidate filing season in an election year, sometimes questions arise about who must file SSIs and where they file them.

The requirements for filing SSIs cover nearly all public officers and many employees. The requirements are found in two areas of the Kansas statutes. Article 2 of Chapter 46 of the KSAs covers state officers and employees, and K.S.A. 75-4302a covers local candidates and officers, including those appointed to fill vacancies in the offices.

The Governmental Ethics Commission (GEC) is charged with prescribing the SSI forms and providing them to county election officers. GEC also has the authority to adopt rules and regulations governing the SSI

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RON THORNBURGH
Kansas Secretary of State

The 2008 presidential election has the potential to be one of the most important elections of our lifetime. With a pitched battle underway for the future of our nation, we as election officials should celebrate the heightened interest in democracy. That being said, we should also be doing everything in our power to encourage all of our citizens to vote, while ensuring that on Election Day our system remains one of the most secure and accurate in the nation.

Over the course of the next few months, my office will be unveiling our 2008 voter outreach campaign. More aggressive than outreach efforts of the past, we hope to capitalize upon the increased interest and engage citizens in new, innovative ways. For the first time, we will be partnering with Regents universities to spread our message to students and fans at local athletic events and on campus. We will expand our online presence through new tools on www.voteks.org and placements on the Web sites of many Kansas newspapers. In addition, my office will continue more traditional methods of outreach, including brochures, letters to the editor and our television and radio campaigns.

I am hopeful that through these increased efforts we can recruit new voters, while also drawing currently registered citizens out to the polls. If the primary and caucus turnout numbers across the nation are any indication, many Americans are incredibly interested in the upcoming presidential election and we must continue to engage these individuals to prevent burnout, which is possible with such a long race.

Our message will be a simple one: in light of the potentially divisive nature of the next several months of campaigning, we want to encourage all voters – red or blue – to put aside their differences or disappointment and practice the most meaningful method for change – casting a ballot.

At the local level, I know that many of you are also planning your voter outreach efforts and I encourage you to contact our office if you need any assistance, or have any suggestions for the statewide campaign. Together, we can ensure that every eligible Kansan makes his or her voice heard this fall.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron".

RON THORNBURGH
Secretary of State

New laws affect elections and campaign finance

The Kansas Legislature has been busy the past couple of years passing legislation in the areas of elections, campaign finance and ethics. A significant number of bills passed in 2007, and an equally impressive number passed in 2008. The following is a summary of bills that passed this year. Note that many of the bills were rolled into conference committee reports containing several bills.

House Bill 65—Satellite Advance Voting

This bill allows any county election officer the option of conducting satellite advance voting. Previously, the law limited satellite advance voting to counties with populations more than 250,000, which was only Johnson and Sedgwick counties.

Senate Bill 562—Elections

SB 562 is a conference committee report containing parts of four different bills.

NOTE: Although SB 562 became law on May 1, 2008, its provisions were repackaged and passed again by the Legislature in the form of House Bill 2307 due to a technicality involving the effective dates of various parts of the bill. This action does not change the following information about the contents of the bill.

a. Mobile Election Boards at Nursing Homes

This law establishes a special procedure for the CEO to appoint special mobile election boards to conduct advance voting at nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospital-based long-term care facilities.

Here are the main features of the bill:

- It goes into effect January 1, 2010.
- It is optional for everyone—the CEO *may* offer this voting opportunity to each qualifying facility in the county; each facility *may* choose to participate, and each resident of a participating facility *may* choose to cast his/her vote with the mobile election board.
- It is limited to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospital-based long-term care facilities as defined in Kansas law. The SOS will obtain a list of facilities meeting the definition and provide it to CEOs.
- It is limited to residents of qualifying facilities and staff members who work there. It is not a satellite advance voting site at which any voter in the county may vote.
- It applies to all official elections except mail ballot elections conducted pursuant to KSA 25-431 et seq.
- It is designed to expand voting opportunities for a segment of the voting public that needs it the most and to reduce opportunities for voter fraud and intimidation. Secrecy of each voter's ballot must be preserved.
- It follows advance voting procedures as closely as possible.
- Mobile election board workers must post a notice that the site is a voting site during the polling hours and must enforce all voting laws, such as the electioneering law.
- Facility residents still have the option to vote in traditional ways—at the polling place or permanent or regular advance voting. They may choose to receive assistance from a person of their choice.

Please see 2008 Legislation, page 5

2008 Legislation

From page 4

b. Mail Ballot Elections—No Ballots Mailed to Inactive Voters

This bill amends the mail ballot act (KSA 25-431 through 25-440) to specify that when the CEO is conducting a local question-submitted election by mail ballot, the CEO does not send ballots to inactive voters in the initial mailing.

The term “inactive” is defined in the NVRA and Kansas law as a person who the U.S. Post Office says has moved out of the county and who has been sent a confirmation notice.

A voter who did not receive a ballot but who believes he/she should have been included may request a replacement ballot according to the regular procedure outlined in the mail ballot act.

c. Limit the Number of City/School/Community College Primary Elections

This law reduces the number of spring primary elections by requiring a primary only if needed to eliminate two or more candidates. The general election ballot for a given office may have names of three candidates. Under the old law, a primary was held if one or more candidates would be eliminated.

If the election is for a single-member district (Vote for One), a primary is held if more than three candidates file.

If the election is for at-large positions (for instance, Vote for Three or Fewer), a primary is held if more than three times the number of candidates file than there are positions to be filled.

Example: For a local school board with seven members, if three positions are to be elected in a given year, a primary is required if a tenth candidate files.

d. Restrictive Covenants Prohibiting Certain Political Yard Signs are Void

If a provision of a restrictive covenant prohibits the display of political yard signs that are less than six square feet during a period beginning 45 days before an election and ending two days after the election, that provision is “hereby declared to be against public policy and such provision shall be void and unenforceable.”

Senate Bill 196—Campaign Finance

Senate Bill 196 is a conference committee report containing parts of several bills. Sections a, b and c apply only to the Campaign Finance Act in Article 41 of Chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated. It covers state and county officers and candidates and first class cities, the Wichita school district and the Board of Public Utilities in Kansas City, Kansas. It does not cover second and third class cities and other local units of government not mentioned above.

Section d deals with state and local units of government.

a. Reports During 11 Days Before Election

1. Candidates must file reports during the 11 day “blackout” period before each primary and general election when contributions have been received from a single person totaling \$300 or more. Reports are due by the close of business on Thursday before the election.

2. Party committees and political committees must file during the 11 day “blackout” period (1) independent expenditures made and (2) contributions received totaling more than \$300. The reports may be made by hand delivery, express delivery, fax or any electronic method authorized by the Secretary of State.

Please see 2008 Legislation, page 6

2008 Legislation

From page 5

b. Use of Contributions for Membership Dues and Donations

1. Candidates may use campaign funds to pay for membership dues to clubs and organizations only if the memberships are related to the candidate’s campaign.
2. Candidates may use campaign funds to make donations only if the candidate receives no goods or services unrelated to the candidate’s campaign.

c. Additional Information on Contributors

Party committees and political committees are required to report more detailed information regarding certain campaign expenditures. For (1) in-kind contributions greater than \$300 or (2) aggregate expenditures of \$300 or more made without the consent or cooperation of the candidate and that expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of the candidate, the committee must report (1) the name and address of candidate, (2) the amount, date and purpose of expenditures, and (3) the specific service or product provided. Campaign finance reports must list the industry each contributor works in as well as the name, address and occupation of the contributor and the amount and date of the contribution.

d. Use of Public Resources for Express Advocacy

1. This provision expands the number of entities that are prohibited by law from using public funds, vehicles, machinery, equipment or supplies to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate. Previously this prohibition applied only to the governmental units covered by the Campaign Finance Act. The new law covers all other local units (referred to as municipalities).
2. If a municipality allows a person to distribute campaign materials on its premises, it must allow all other candidates for the same office the same opportunity.

House Bill 2217—Local Government

House Bill 2217 is a conference committee report containing parts of several bills.

a. Electronic Filing of Local Budgets

All taxing subdivisions and municipalities are required to file all required annual budget forms electronically beginning in 2009.

b. Council Approval of Mayoral Appointments

Mayoral appointments that are subject to council/commission approval must be approved within 45 days of the mayor’s appointment. If the council/commission does not approve the appointment it must pass a resolution stating that the appointee is not fit or not qualified to hold the position. If not done within 45 days, the appointment is in effect.

c. Abandoned Cemeteries

This provision voids all liens on abandoned cemeteries for which the title has been vested in the municipality where the cemetery is located.

Please see 2008 Legislation, page 7

2008 Legislation

From page 6

d. Fire Districts

A new consolidated fire district is created between DeSoto city and Johnson County, creating the Northwest Consolidated Fire District. It increases the number of members of the governing body of the fire district and the maximum mill levy. In general, the fire district’s maximum mill levy is raised from 11 to 15 mills. It removes requirements governing the use and transfer of fire district funds.

Township Dissolution, Disorganization and Consolidation

1. If a township has been dissolved or disorganized, the county commission may establish a county service taxing district, subject to protest petition.
2. If a township’s powers, duties and functions have been transferred to the county, the county commissioners may deposit township funds into the county general fund. It removes the township voters’ option to petition to have the powers, duties and functions returned to the township.
3. Two new conditions are added to the circumstances under which the county may disorganize a township. Previously there was one condition.
 - If the township residents total fewer than 200 (existing condition).
 - If a vacancy exists for two years in the office of trustee, clerk or treasurer (new condition).
 - If the township fails to file a budget for two consecutive years (new condition).
4. Townships are no longer required to license billiard halls, pool halls, skating rinks and bowling alleys.

Constitutional Amendments

No concurrent resolutions were passed in the 2007 or 2008 legislative sessions that would create statewide elections on constitutional amendments in 2008.

ELVIS candidate module being developed

As we have stated before, one of the last major modules of ELVIS, the candidate module, has yet to be installed. The SOS office, in conjunction with seven pilot counties, reviewed and tested the candidate module the last week of April. The results of this testing revealed several areas that need improvement before the module can be deployed statewide.

The SOS is working with ES&S to develop and fix these areas in time to use the module during the 2008 election cycle. If it is not possible to complete this module and

to conduct a comprehensive training program complete with training guide, the SOS will work with the counties to implement a different system to report unofficial election night results and the official abstract of votes cast. The goal of both the candidate module and the backup system is to allow the electronic transfer of election results, and discontinue the practice of using the handwritten paper abstracts.

When the candidate module is completed, it will be a major step forward in carrying out governmental functions electronically. The module

provides a place where election officers can keep track of candidates, tie each district to the appropriate precincts, assimilate this information with ballot design software on voting systems, and transfer tabulated results from voting systems back into ELVIS.

In preparation for this, a law was passed several years ago in the Kansas Legislature to authorize the electronic transmission of official election abstracts, and the candidate module will provide the first opportunity to accomplish the electronic transfer.

HAVA training an important part of KCCEOA conference

For the fifth straight year, the officers of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association devoted a significant portion of the spring conference agenda to the Secretary of State for what has become known as HAVA training. The training provided at KCCEOA actually covers a wide range of topics associated with election administration. However, it came to be known as HAVA training because of one provision passed into state legislation in 2004 that requires CEOs to receive HAVA training from the SOS.

Although the SOS office has appeared at the CEOs' spring conference for many years, only in the past five years has this much time been used for training on election administration. From 2004 to 2007, the SOS session lasted for 1 1/2 days; this year it was reduced to one full day.

The conference began on Tuesday, May 6, with a welcome reception. It continued with full-day sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, and concluded just before noon Friday with a repeat performance by the ever-popular Juli Burney. Her humorous speech this year was titled "FUN"amentals of Success. The banquet was held on Thursday night and featured word games and brain teasers solved in teams. The SOS presentation was all day Thursday.

The theme of the 2008 KCCEOA spring conference was "The Main Event." In keeping with that theme, the SOS presentation began with an opening round, had five rounds of topics and ended with the closing bell. The following is a brief summary of the presentation.

Opening Round

Welcome, Opening Remarks, Housekeeping Items

Round 1 - General Issues

2008 Legislation, Review of 2007 Legislation, Status of Federal Legislation, HAVA Audits, Accessibility Grants, Census & Redistricting, SOSIX Update, Safe at Home, US Postal Service Update.

Round 2 - Polling Place Management

Review of 2007 Session, General Rules for Polling Place Management, Election Day Disaster Procedures, Poll Agents, Vote Caging, Polling Place Posters.

Round 3 - ELVIS

Candidate Filing Module, VoterView Enhancements, Database Cleanup, PSR Training, Merged Records Policy, Archiving Canceled Records, Power Lock Cleanup/Security, Electronic Motor-Voter, Electronic Campaign Finance, NCOA, Interstate Data Crosschecks.

Round 4 - CEO Task Force Reports

Panel discussions by members of the Task Force on Satellite Advance Voting, Task Force on Mobile Election Board Voting at Nursing Homes, and Task Force on Ballot Programming Costs.

Please see HAVA training, page 9

HAVA training

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Round 5 - Election Administration

County Canvassing Best Practices, Processing Provisional Ballots, What Constitutes a Vote, Federal Voting Assistance Program, New Administrative Regulations, U.S. Supreme Court Decisions on Voter ID, SOS 2008 Voter Outreach Program, Pointers on Ballot Design.

The discussion on the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) featured an appearance by John Godley, Senior Program Analyst, who discussed the various programs designed by the FVAP to enhance federal services voters' voting experience and answered CEOs' questions about military and overseas citizens voting.

Between Round 4 and Round 5, Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh addressed the CEOs. He discussed his office's efforts to assist counties in reducing their ballot programming costs and the \$1 million in new HAVA funding recently provided by the federal government. Thornburgh also announced a new reduction in counties' ELVIS work station fees from \$825 to \$500. He announced his office's policy to accept voter registration applications by fax and his policy on the issue of vote by mail, or all-mail ballot elections. Thornburgh also provided a summary of the presidential caucus system that occurred this year in the absence of a presidential preference primary and gave pointers on preparing for this year's presidential election. Thornburgh concluded his presentation by indicating this year may have a high voter turnout maybe even a record-breaking turnout and emphasized the need for CEOs to do all they can to prepare for it.

Other presenters from the SOS office were Craig Bourne, HAVA Coordinator; Melissa Wangemann, Legal Counsel; Bryan Caskey, Administrative Assistant in Elections; and Brad Bryant, Election Director.

CEOs who served on panels during round 4 were:

Satellite Advance Voting Task Force: Brian Newby, Johnson County; Vienna Janis, Osborne County; and Jamie Shew, Douglas County

Mobile Election Board/Nursing Home Voting Task Force: Karen Hartenbower, Lyon County; Bruce Newby, Wyandotte County; Vickie Hall, Republic County; and Sharon Wolters, Smith County

Ballot Programming Task Force: Crystal Clemens, Seward County; Bill Gale, Sedgwick County; and Krystal Hutfles, Rawlins County.

The discussion titled "Pointers on Ballot Design" in round 5 was led by Elizabeth Ensley, Shawnee County Election Commissioner; and Bill Gale, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner. Representatives from the two voting equipment vendors active in Kansas were on the panel to answer questions: Brent Wagoner, Henry Adkins and Sons/Premier Election Solutions; and Ellie Ono, Election Systems & Software.

At the end of the SOS presentation on Thursday, Secretary Thornburgh swore in the new officers of KCCEOA who will take their offices in September. The new officers will be:

President—Stacia Long, Seward County

Vice President—Linda Buttron, Jefferson County

Secretary—Don Merriman, Saline County

Treasurer—Janet Rumpel, Sherman County

Secretary of State Thornburgh and his staff wish to thank Sumner County Clerk Shane Shields, KCCEOA president, and the other officers for the opportunity to meet with the CEOs and discuss the important issues of the day. Also, thanks goes to Shane for a job well done this past year and congratulations goes to the new officers.

E-campaign finance site up and running

In 2007, the Kansas Legislature passed a law requiring the Secretary of State's office to design and build an electronic campaign finance system. A brief status report of the project was contained in an earlier issue of this newsletter (see *Canvassing Kansas*, December 2007, page 10). The new system will be optional for candidates, party committees and political action committees (PACs) required to file campaign finance reports. However, we hope to have as many as possible use it in July and hope to have the number grow each time thereafter.

E-campaign finance consists of three main parts:

- An online site where filers can appoint treasurers, obtain user names and passwords, and enter records of their receipts and expenditures,
- An upload feature that allows filers to upload their data at the filing deadline if they wish to use other software programs to store their receipts and expenditures, and
- A public viewer allowing anyone with Internet access to view reports.

SOS office personnel reviewed various programs in existence in other states and localities and decided to build the system in-house. It is modeled on other systems built in-house during the past several years: the electronic system for reporting Statements of Substantial Interests and the electronic lobbyist registration/reporting system.

The first part was completed in late December, and as candidates for state offices began to file, the SOS office told them about the system and encouraged them to create accounts. During the first three months only nine accounts were created, but the number should grow after the legislative session ends and the campaign season is in full swing. As of this writing, the upload feature and public viewer are still being programmed.

Reports filed on paper are being scanned and will be posted on the SOS Web site along with the electronic reports.

Besides ease of use for filers and easy access for the public, one important feature of an electronic campaign finance system is that all the data goes into a database that is searchable and able to be sorted. For example, with the paper-based system a person viewing reports would have to flip through pages of reports to find specific contributions or expenditures. This is true even with scanned documents. But with the electronic system, if a person wishes to know all the candidates who received contributions from a specific donor, the person can search the database and receive a report of all contributions from a certain source. The same holds true for expenditures. This feature alone will shed more light on the campaign finance system than ever before.

Once the new system has been used for an election cycle and any necessary improvements are made, the SOS office hopes to be able to share the software with county election offices who wish to implement it locally. This would require a certain amount of configuration by the county.

E-Moter-Voter

From page 1
in July 2008. The anticipated roll out of this program is scheduled to be after the primary election. When completed, every registered voter who changes their address at DMV, or who registers to vote at a DMV office, will have their information, including digitized signatures, sent electronically to each county via ELVIS.

Counties will no longer have to wait on receiving paper applications periodically from the local DMV offices. Instead, a nightly upload from the DMV system to ELVIS will take place, thus increasing the timeliness and efficiency in processing these applications. This will be a great improvement in processing voter registration applications, especially at peak registration times!



Exciting additions in 2008 outreach

The SOS office has designed an exciting and expanded voter outreach program for the 2008 election season. The plan includes the same materials as in previous years with the addition of a few new ideas.

Some of the highlights of this year's program include:

- Radio and television public service announcements
- Newspaper advertisements and newspaper articles
- Web-based advertisement on newspaper sites
- Media kits to counties, public libraries and the press
- General election media guide brochure
- Vote! Kansas press conference with Secretary Thornburgh
- HAVA brochures
- VoterView brochure
- Weekly Ron Blog on the SOS Web site (election issues, travel, etc.)
- Textcasting system where voters can sign up for text alerts or find their polling places
- Partnering with state universities to enhance on-campus awareness, as well as activities at athletic events
- Booth at the state fair
- Regional meetings with local disability groups
- Team of interns traveling to county fairs across Kansas to encourage voting

The program has a significant focus on the youth vote. Since the legal voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 in 1972, the 18-to-24 age group has been the lowest voter turnout group. Members of this group have traditionally been hard to get involved in the political process because they have fewer stakes in the outcome of elections and they tend to feel their vote does not count for much. However, this year, there are signs that the youth vote may be larger than in past years. Some candidates, including presidential, have succeeded in mobilizing the younger group during the presidential primary season through use of the Internet and other technological means, reaching these voters most comfortable with electronic communication.

The Kansas voter outreach program attempts to reach young voters through programs on college campuses, including athletic events where large numbers are congregated in one place in the weeks leading up to the election.

The program also will provide information to local media representatives to help spread the word.

County election officers will be included on distribution lists when the voter outreach materials are released.

August primary

From page 1

produces a voting percentage of 80%, if 30% of the voting public casts ballots in advance, that leaves only 50% for election day, which is a normal and manageable turnout level for the polling places.

As always, effective poll worker training is a must. Since HAVA has been implemented, there is more voting equipment at the polling place that poll workers must be familiar with and be able to help voters use. There is an increased emphasis on accessibility and sensitivity to voters with disabilities. Poll workers must be aware of the issues associated with these factors. In some locations there are more poll agents, more people wanting to visit the polling place, and more scrutiny of the process than in years past. These are additional factors that can complicate a poll worker's job. Clear policies set by the CEO and effective training are tools to help poll workers be successful and to improve the experience for voters.

Improving voter outreach among the disabled population

The Secretary of State's office held a planning meeting April 22 for disabilities groups and provided them with a list of resources and materials offered for usage in their daily programs. The meeting which included the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns and the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, and gave these groups the opportunity to discuss how they may also be of assistance. The group ended the meeting discussing additional ideas in preparation of this year's upcoming elections.

The plan developed at the meeting includes the following as part of the SOS 2008 voter outreach program:

- Offer printed material via e-mail using the statewide e-mail servers set up by the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns.
- Set up three to six regional meetings across the state to train local individuals/groups who work with people having disabilities.
- Write articles for state disability newsletters.

This effort is designed to include disabilities groups in the overall voter outreach effort. Too often voters with disabilities have limited access to information about how to register to vote or obtaining a ballot. By including disabilities groups in the discussion, the voter outreach program should be more efficient in tailoring and delivering the message to voters with disabilities. It will still be the service agencies that have the one-on-one contacts with the voters and who ultimately deliver the message.

The SOS office has received federal grant money intended for accessibility products, training and education. This aspect of the voter outreach program is funded from HAVA disabilities grants payment. Until this year these grants have been mostly devoted to improving the accessibility of polling places.

Questions about the program may be directed to Craig Bourne at (785) 296-0080 or Craigb@kssos.org.

SSIs

From page 2

filing process. County election officers accept SSI filings from all individuals at the local level who file as candidates for local offices or who hold such offices.

At the state level, candidates and state officeholders are required to file SSIs. Also, persons employed by officeholders who are designated by the officeholders are required to file SSIs as well as persons holding appointed positions in state boards, councils and commissions. All state-level SSIs are filed with the Secretary of State, who maintains the files for public access. The SOS office provides GEC with copies of the reports so they can perform their statutory duties of overseeing the filing process, notifying persons who fail to file, and other duties associated with oversight of the process.

In 2005 the SOS office deployed an electronic SSI filing system for use at the state level. The persons required to file SSIs are given notice when it is time to file each year and informed of the web site where the filing is done. Those who wish to file on paper may request a copy of the form. The vast majority of state SSIs are filed electronically today out of the more than 9,000 required to file.