

CANVASSING



KANSAS

An update on election news in Kansas.

Regional PPP a top priority for SOS

Creating a rotating regional presidential preference primary is a top priority for Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh.

"Implementing a regional preference primary would allow Kansans the opportunity to have an equal voice in who becomes president," Thornburgh said. "The National Association of Secretaries of State has developed a system that will equalize the process and give every American the opportunity to nominate their candidate for president."

The process is designed to begin with the presidential

election in 2004. States must enact legislation enabling participation in the rotating regional primary system no later than Jan. 1, 2002. NASS would coordinate the establishment of regions and a lottery determining the original order of the primaries. Regional presidential primary dates would be the first Tuesday in March, April, May and June. The order of the primaries would rotate so that each region would have the opportunity to begin the process. Whichever region goes first in 2004 would move to the end of the line in 2008.

Early in the 2000 Legislative Session, the Kansas Legislature passed two bills cancelling the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) which was scheduled for April 4.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 39 and House Substitute for Senate Bill 244, which cancel the PPP in different ways. The bills became effective Feb. 24.

However, House Substitute for Senate Bill 244 contains amendatory language supported by the SOS.

See PPP, page 5

SOS settles into new building

After a century of working in the State Capitol, the Secretary of State's Office has moved to another historic building.

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, located at 120 SW 10th Ave., on the corner of Jackson Street and 10th Ave., was built in 1914 as the largest monument to Civil War veterans. Previously,

Memorial Hall housed the Kansas State Historical Society and Museum.

The SOS moved into its new quarters over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, Jan. 14-17. A Rededication Ceremony was held in conjunction with Kansas Day activities on Friday, Jan. 28.

Despite about two inches of

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SOS settles into new building



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snow and frigid temperatures, the ceremony was successful.

“It went very well even though we moved inside due to the weather,” Director of Communications Kirsten Funk said.

Funk, along with Tammy Dishman, executive assistant, worked with the Attorney General’s Office, who also resides in Memorial Hall, and the

Memorial Hall was built in 1914 and housed the Kansas State Historical Society and Museum until 1995.

Kansas State Historical Society on planning the events.

Speakers for the Rededication included Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh, as well as Governor Bill Graves, Attorney General Carla Stovall and Kansas State Historical Society Executive Director

Ramon Powers.

Adding to the ceremony were a drum corps and a group of Civil War soldier re-enactors.

At the conclusion of their remarks, the dignitaries led a procession from the Capitol to

Memorial Hall. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Secretary of State, Attorney General and Governor

greeted visitors in a reception line.

The offices were kept open for visitation by the public.

“There are many memories associated with this building and it is a privilege that our office is becoming part of its legacy,” Thornburgh said.

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RON THORNBURGH

Kansas Secretary of State



The Presidential Preference Primary

Dear Friends:

As you have heard by now, the Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 244 and SB 39, which cancel this year's presidential preference primary. However, SB 244 contains an amendment that gives our office the authority to create a regional/multi-state primary on a common date with at least five other states.

Because Kansans do not have a voice in this year's presidential preference primaries, setting up a regional primary becomes even more crucial for the preservation of the democratic process. The National Association of Secretaries of State has developed a rotating regional primary system that will satisfy every state involved and give equal opportunities at the same time.

The process is designed to begin with the presidential election in 2004. States must enact legislation enabling participation in the rotating regional primary system no later than January 1, 2002. NASS would coordinate the establishment of regions and a lottery determining the original order of the primaries. Regional presidential primary dates would be the first Tuesday in March, April, May and June. The order of the primaries would rotate so that each region would have the opportunity to begin the process. Whichever region goes first in 2004 would move to the end of the line in 2008. The rotating plan would leave unchanged the traditional campaign kick-offs in Iowa and New Hampshire, which would be followed by four regional contests: East, South, Midwest and West.

Voters would have more time to learn about the candidates and the candidates would have to raise and spend less money. Presently, the primaries are too front-loaded and only well-financed candidates can afford the simultaneous national ad campaigns. A regional presidential preference primary would minimize the important of early spending and emphasize a grassroots organization of issues. Candidates would be able to set up a month-long camp in each region and focus on the issues facing the citizens of that region.

An amendment was passed with SB 244 that says if we are unable to set up a common date for a regional primary, a state primary will be scheduled on or before April 4, 2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Thornburgh".

RON THORNBURGH
Secretary of State

Congress considers elections legislation

Currently, legislation regarding elections has been proposed in Congress.

The following is a list of that legislation:

S. 1789—Regional Presidential Primaries:

This bill would provide for a system of rotating regional presidential primaries each presidential election year. A different region would vote first each time. The plan is very similar to one proposed last year by the National Association of Secretaries of State.

S. 511—Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act:

This bill would require election officials to provide the means for handicapped persons to vote without

New legislation includes:

- Regional presidential primaries
- Voting accessibility
 - Same day voter registration
- Study Act on Internet voting

assistance in each voting precinct. Such means may include Braille ballots and audio ballots. The legislation is

on hold while a National Task Force on Voting Accessibility studies the issue.

HR 2864—Same Day Voter Registration Act of 1999:

This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require states to allow election-day registration by unregistered voters.

HR 3232—Digital Democracy Study Act of 1999:

This bill directs the President to form a group to study Internet voting.

The Secretary of State's Office will keep election officers informed of any bills likely to be enacted into law.

FEC clarifies college voter registration law

The Federal Election Commission clarified a federal law passed last year that requires colleges and universities to offer voter registration application forms to all enrolled students.

The clarification is that colleges and universities are required to distribute voter registration applications **only before general elections held in even-numbered years**. The corrective legislation is titled 1999 Amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965.

As originally enacted, the law, titled Amendments to the

Higher Education Act of 1965, would have required distribution of the forms not only before general elections,

Colleges are only required to distribute voter registration applications before general elections held in even-numbered years.

but also at primaries and other types of elections. This was not the intent of the bill, so Congress acted in 1999 to

clarify the language of the federal law.

Under the legislation, colleges and universities are directed to request an adequate supply of forms from the chief state election officer—not the county election officer—for distribution to their enrolled students. The requests must be made at least 120 days before the voter registration deadline prior to the election.

For information about the 1999 Amendment to the Higher Education Act, see page 2 of the March 1999 issue of *Canvassing Kansas*.

SOS participates in FEC online program

In December 1999, the Kansas Secretary of State's Office became one of the first 12 states to participate in the Federal Election Commission's state waiver program for federal campaign finance reports.

The FEC gave the Secretary of State's Office a public access computer that is used by the public to view federal campaign finance reports. The computer is set up in the elections division and the FEC's web site is www.fec.gov.

In this program, most federal candidates and political action committees are no longer required to file periodic paper finance reports with the state providing that the state can provide Internet access to the reports.

This program was created in 1995 by an amendment to the

Federal Election Campaign Act, which allowed the FEC to develop it. The program reduces the amount of paper filed in the offices of participating states.

However, the states were required to provide a public access computer with Internet access and a printer for people to use to access the reports on the FEC's web site.

To encourage participation by the states, the FEC offered free computers and printers. The SOS chose to participate in the early stages of the program and received the computer equipment in Fall 1999.

At present, the waiver program covers candidates for president, the U.S. House of Representatives, parties and most political action committees. It does not include candidates for U.S. Senate or

political committees dealing specifically with the Senate because federal law directs such candidates and committees to file their reports with the Senate, not the FEC.

The FEC's waiver program is one more step toward a reporting and disclosure system that will reduce the amount of paperwork in government, while increasing the public's access to information.

In a related project, the SOS began initial planning with the Governmental Ethics Commission two years ago for an electronic campaign finance reporting system for candidates for state office.

There is legislation currently being considered by the Kansas Legislature that would move the SOS a step closer to such a system.

Regional PPP a top priority for SOS

Continued from page 1

The language says that the state will move toward participation in a multi-state primary. It authorizes the SOS to negotiate and obtain commitments from five or more states to conduct primaries or caucuses on an agreed-upon date.

When the commitments are finalized, the SOS will certify the date of the multi-state PPP to the legislature. Most likely, the date will be earlier than the first

Tuesday in April as specified in current law.

The bill also directs the SOS to refund all filing fees to candidates who filed before cancellation of the PPP.

Since there is no primary for 2000, the Republican Party of Kansas and Kansas Democratic Party will choose their own delegates according to party rules.

The Republican State Committee will choose 35 delegates to the GOP convention at a meeting of their

state committee in May.

Democrats will choose 42 delegates to their national presidential nominating convention in an April 29 election.

"Primaries usually have a higher participation than in a delegation process," Thornburgh said.

"We will work hard to insure that the rotating primary system is implemented for the 2004 election. After all, without a fair primary system, we are losing a part of the democratic process."

Recruitment Ideas



Around the State Johnson County

Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner, was elected chairman of the Professional Education Program of the Election Center.

This program won the highest national award as the outstanding continuing education program in America in 1995 from the National University Continuing Education Association.

Successful completion of the program leads to certification as a Certified Election/Registration Administrator (CERA).

Resignations

Four county clerks have resigned in the last few months to pursue other opportunities.

The clerks and their respective years of experience are: Leona Randolph, Kearny County, 31 1/2 years; Suwayne Williams, Haskell County, 27 years; Shirley Jacques, Saline County, 20 years; and Pam Meadows, Edwards County, 8 years.

Their replacements are: Gina Schuette for Edwards County; Sharon Hinkle for Haskell County; Jana Swank for Kearny County; and Don Merriman for Saline County.

The Secretary of State's Office would like to commend Schuette, Hinkle, Swank and Merriman for their work in continuing a legacy of excellence.

Poll worker recruiting success story

Anyone who works in the field of elections knows that recruiting election board workers can be challenging.

Most county election officers in Kansas deal with this each election year, and most are constantly on the lookout for innovative ways to recruit potential workers.

Kansas election officers might want to take note of a successful program used in 1998 in DuPage County, Ill., which is located near Chicago.

Local election officials needed 3,585 poll workers to work in the 717 precincts which served 569,811 voters. They had used many of the standard recruitment methods—including press releases, newspaper advertisements and letters to senior citizens—but still came up short.

Their last tactic was the one that worked the best. They redesigned the postcard notice—a card sent to every voter household which reminds them of the time, date and

location of voting—to include a recruitment message. It received an overwhelming response. Office telephones were flooded with responses to the notice, so much so that there was an excess of poll workers for that election. Some had to be turned away for 1998, but plans are to use them in subsequent elections.

County election officers are encouraged to share any

successful programs and experiences of election board recruitment with colleagues and the Secretary of State's Office.

Additionally, a bill being considered by the 2000 Kansas Legislature seeks to improve the election board

worker recruitment process in another way. House Bill 2928 would allow county election officers to appoint one 16 or 17-year-old to work in each precinct, provided that the teenage appointees satisfy all other requirements, besides age, for being qualified electors.

DuPage County, Ill. redesigned the postcard notice to include a recruitment message.

Gearing up for Census 2000

Over 18,000 Kansans were not accounted for in the 1990 Census. This means that the state received less federal money.

Besides bettering Kansas financially, census information is used to redraw legislative and congressional districts. The results will affect legislators' decisions on issues such as school finance, social services and funding for the arts. The 2000 numbers will influence the distribution of billions of dollars of federal money for aging and poverty services and transportation, among other things.

To assist in getting a complete count, there are some important dates to keep in mind.

On March 6, the U.S.

Census Bureau began its mail delivery phase of the census project. This strategy includes the use of an advance letter, a questionnaire mailed to each



March 3 -
Census Bureau sets up a toll-free telephone service

March 6 - Mail delivery phase begins

March 6 - Final CCC meeting

address in the nation and a reminder card for nonrespondents.

In conjunction with the mail

delivery phase, the Bureau opened a bi-lingual toll-free telephone service on March 3 to provide assistance to respondents.

Also on March 6, Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh hosted the third and final Kansas Complete Count Committee meeting. On hand at the meeting was the Census 2000 road tour vehicle.

The Complete Count Committee is comprised of individuals representing community and business groups, educational institutions and religious organizations.

They have worked hard to bring informational and promotional materials to their communities, groups and institutions.

Census adjustment activities continue

Census Adjustment Activities are well underway at the Secretary of State's Office.

All colleges, technical colleges and universities have received their adjustment questionnaires. Military questionnaires were sent in late February for distribution to the four military installations.

As of this writing, a few have already returned completed questionnaires to the SOS.

The SOS is charged by law with conducting the adjustment and reporting its findings back to the Legislature no later than July 31, 2001, in preparation for the state legislature's redistricting in 2002. Also, the SOS has negotiated with an outside vendor to assist in computerizing certain aspects of the adjustment.

Through the use of advanced technological methods, the SOS will be able

to automatically geocode a large percentage of respondents taking part in this year's adjustment.

In the upcoming weeks, the SOS will continue with the census adjustment activity as questionnaires are returned and processing begins.

If you would like more information regarding the census adjustment, please contact Mike Brassel at (785) 296-0080.

2000 Election Information

Primary Election—Tuesday, August 1
General Election—Tuesday, November 7

Candidate Filing Deadlines

Primary Election: Noon, Monday, June 12
Independent Nominations: Noon, Monday, July 31

Offices to be elected or retained

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ U.S. President/Vice President ✓ All four U.S. Representatives ✓ All 40 State Senators ✓ All 125 State Representatives ✓ State Board of Education (2,4,6,8,10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two Kansas Supreme Court Justices ✓ Three Kansas Court of Appeals Judges* ✓ District Court Judges (51 retained, 44 elected)* ✓ District Magistrate Judges (19 retained, 36 elected)* ✓ All Six District Attorneys (DG,JO,RN,SG,SN,WY) |
|---|---|

* as of Oct. 1, 1999

Filing Fees

Petition Requirements

<u>Office</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Filing Fee</u>	<u>Report Fee</u>	<u>Total Fee</u>	<u>Party Candidates</u>	<u>Independent Candidates</u>
U.S. President/ Vice President	N/A	N/A			N/A	5,000
U.S. Representative	\$136,700	\$1,367	N/A	\$1,367	2% party	4% or 5,000
State Senator	N/A	\$75	\$30	\$105	2% party	4% voters
State Representative	N/A	\$50	\$30	\$80	2% party	4% voters
State Board of Education	N/A	\$25	\$30	\$55	200 voters	200 voters
District Judge	\$93,509	\$936	\$30	\$966	2% party	4% voters
District Magistrate Judge	N/A	\$100	\$30	\$130	2% party	4% voters
District Attorney	\$93,509	\$936	\$30	\$966	5% SOS vote	5% SOS vote
County Commissioner	N/A	\$5 or 1% salary	\$30	N/A	3% party	4% voters
Other County Officers	N/A	\$5 or 1% salary	\$30	N/A	3% party	4% voters
Township Officers	N/A	\$1	N/A	\$1	3% party	10 or 5% of voters

Independent candidates may file for office only by petition. Upon filing a valid petition and paying the report fee, the candidate's name will be placed directly on the general ballot. An independent candidate must be registered as an unaffiliated voter. Percent requirements for petitions are based upon the total number of registered voters in the district as provided by K.S.A. 25-205 and 25-302.

Salary Information Sources: U.S. Senate Financial Clerk; U.S. House of Representatives Chief Administrative Officer; Kansas Division of Personnel Services; Kansas Office of Judicial Administration.

2000 State Primary Calendar

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, which administers the federal services voting in the United States, has issued a calendar of 2000 primary elections in the various states. We have reproduced the chart here for public information purposes. Also, the Federal Election Commission has posted various other calendars relating to the 2000 elections. The web site is: <http://www.fec.gov/elections.html>

State	<i>Officials to be nominated for the General Election</i>				
	State Primary Date	State Runoff Primary <i>(if necessary)</i>	Federal	U.S.	State
			U.S. Senator	Representative	Governor
Alabama	June 6	June 27	No	7	No
Alaska	Aug. 22	----	No	1	No
American Samoa	-----	----	-----	1 Delegate	Yes
Arizona	Sept. 12	----	Yes	6	No
Arkansas	May 23	June 13	No	4	No
California	March 7	----	Yes	52	No
Colorado	Aug. 8	----	No	6	No
Connecticut	Sept. 12	----	Yes	6	No
Delaware	Sept. 9	----	Yes	1	Yes
District of Columbia	Sept. 12	----	-----	1 Delegate	No
Florida	Sept. 5	Oct. 3	Yes	23	No
Georgia	July 18	Aug. 8	No	11	No
Guam	Sept. 2	----	-----	1 Delegate	No
Hawaii	Sept. 23	----	Yes	2	No
Idaho	May 23	----	No	2	No
Illinois	March 21	----	No	20	No
Indiana	May 2	----	Yes	10	Yes
Iowa	June 6	----	No	5	No
Kansas	Aug. 1	----	No	4	No
Kentucky	May 23	----	No	6	No
Louisiana	Oct. 7	Nov. 7	No	7	No
Maine	June 13	----	Yes	2	No
Maryland	March 7	----	Yes	8	No
Massachusetts	Sept. 19	----	Yes	10	No
Michigan	Aug. 8	----	Yes	16	No
Minnesota	Sept. 12	----	Yes	8	No
Mississippi	March 14	April 4	Yes	5	No
Missouri	Aug. 8	----	Yes	9	Yes
Montana	June 6	----	Yes	1	Yes
Nebraska	May 9	----	Yes	3	No
Nevada	Sept. 5	----	Yes	2	No
New Hampshire	Sept. 12	----	No	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 6	----	Yes	13	No
New Mexico	June 6	----	Yes	3	No
New York	Sept. 12	----	Yes	31	No
North Carolina	May 2	May 30	No	12	Yes
North Dakota	June 13	----	Yes	1	Yes
Ohio	March 7	----	Yes	19	No
Oklahoma	Aug. 22	Sept. 19	No	6	No
Oregon	May 16	----	No	5	No
Pennsylvania	April 4	----	Yes	21	No
Puerto Rico	Nov. 14	----	-----	1 Resident Commissioner	Yes
Rhode Island	Sept. 12	----	Yes	2	No
South Carolina	June 13	June 27	No	6	No
South Dakota	June 6	June 20	No	1	No
Tennessee	Aug. 3	----	Yes	9	No
Texas	March 14	April 11	Yes	30	No
Utah	June 27	----	Yes	3	Yes
Vermont	Sept. 12	----	Yes	1	Yes
Virgin Islands	Sept. 9	Nov. 16	-----	1 Delegate	No
Virginia	June 13	----	Yes	11	No
Washington	Sept. 19	----	Yes	9	Yes
West Virginia	May 9	----	Yes	3	Yes
Wisconsin	Sept. 12	----	Yes	9	No
Wyoming	Aug. 22	----	Yes	1	No

Computer Explosion

Voting on the Internet becoming a reality

Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh and many other election officials believe it is only a matter of time before voting on the Internet is a reality.

Election officials are generally advocating a go-slow approach to be sure security is in place before any type of binding Internet elections are held. While a number of technology-based groups are lobbying Congress to authorize Internet voting, election officials believe that without proper and adequate security, Internet voting could turn elections into shams and undermine the reputation for stability and security that has taken decades to nurture.

Today's technology would allow the vote to be cast, but the identification and security measures are not perfected yet. Also, the software that would facilitate Internet voting has not been tested, at least not with the involvement of election officials.

Current voting procedures, ranging from electronic to regular paper ballots, are built

on statutes that preserve voters' secrecy, require proof of identity and ensure that each voter has the opportunity to cast only one ballot.

Voting equipment and its software is thoroughly tested and certified before being used in any jurisdiction.

Today's technology would allow the vote to be cast, but the identification and security measures are not perfected yet.

Legislation was introduced in the 1999 Kansas Legislature that would have moved toward a system where all voting in 2002 and thereafter would be conducted by the Internet or advance voting. While the bill did not

pass, its existence indicates the interest among policymakers in pursuing the use of technology in elections.

The Arizona Democratic Party conducted a binding vote in their presidential preference primary March 7-10. Though, the plan was challenged in court, it took place. Groups challenged this because they claimed it was more advantageous to voters who owned computers.

Recently, President Clinton appointed a study group headed by the National Science Foundation to take a year to look at the issue of Internet voting and to make recommendations.

The National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) first discussed the issue seriously when the Federal Voting Assistance Program proposed a pilot program in several states to be facilitated by IBM. The pilot program was supposed to be conducted in 1998, but did not occur. Therefore, some states will be involved in tests this year.



Will voting booths become a thing of the past? Keep reading your *Canvassing Kansas* to find out more on these latest questions.

