

KRIS W. KOBACH
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(785) 296-4575
www.sos.ks.gov

STATE OF KANSAS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Contact Information

V. Kay Curtis, Public Affairs Director
Kansas Secretary of State
785-296-4580 | media@sos.ks.gov

ELECTION LAWS SIGNED

TOPEKA (May 8, 2013) – This morning Secretary of State Kris Kobach, Assistant Secretary of State Eric Rucker and Staff Attorney B.J. Harden attended the ceremonial signing by Governor Sam Brownback of two important election laws that have impact on both pre and post election day activities.

Prior to voting in Kansas a person must be on the voter registration list. Before the Secure and Fair Elections law required proof of citizenship to register to vote, potential voters merely stated that they were U.S. citizens, and many aliens were registered. Once on the voter rolls, it was extremely difficult to identify alien voters.

Now that HB 2164 is signed into law, Kansas courts must inform the secretary of state's office whenever a prospective juror declines jury service because he or she is not a U.S. citizen. This will help remove those names from the state's voter rolls. Said Kobach, "Every time an alien, legal or illegal, votes in a Kansas election, that vote cancels out the vote of a U.S. citizen. HB 2164 is a valuable tool that will enlist the help of the judicial branch in identifying aliens who are on Kansas voter rolls."

Voter privacy is improved with SB 122. After the polls close, candidates or other interested parties sometimes request a list of voters who were issued provisional ballots. How those requests were handled has varied from one county election officer to another, and even from one judge to another.

Now that SB 122 is signed into law, disclosing the name of any voter who has cast a provisional ballot is prohibited from the time the ballot is cast until the final canvass of the election. "The confidentiality of the ballot and the privacy of the voting process are fundamental aspects of our electoral system," said Kobach. "SB 122 will protect the integrity of the system and ensure that voters are not harassed or questioned about their ballots after election day is over."