

CANVASSING KANSAS

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

March 2007

Prospects good for PPP in 2008

CANVASSING KANSAS

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Nearing the midpoint of the 2007 legislative session, it appears likely that Kansas will conduct a presidential preference primary (PPP) in 2008. The PPP has the support of Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh, Governor Kathleen Sebelius, officials from both major state parties, and many legislators on both sides of the aisle.

Current law authorizes the Secretary of State's (SOS) office to set the date of the PPP on a date when at least five other states are holding primaries. If the SOS is unable to find such a date, the default date for the PPP is the first Tuesday in April - in 2008 that will fall on April 1. Many people see the April 1, 2008 date as too late in the process because of the "frontloading" phenomenon that in recent presidential election years has led more and more states to move their primaries to earlier dates. Due to state laws and national party rules, the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary will maintain their prominent status as the first two events in the primary/caucus season, but many states are moving their primaries to February to increase their influence on the process.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh appointed a task force of past and present political and party leaders to help him determine a date for the

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Planning for the 2007 KCCEOA underway

In early December the SOS office attended the KCCEOA officers' meeting in Manhattan to assist in planning the annual KCCEOA conference in May. This year's meeting will be held May 1 - 4 at the Clarion Inn (formally the Holiday Inn) in Manhattan. The SOS office has been invited to make its presentation on Thursday and Friday, May 3-4.

Since the 2004 passage of HAVA implementing legislation requiring CEOs to receive training on election procedures, the SOS office has conducted annual sessions where at least one person from each county must be in attendance.

Possible items for this year's agenda include: voting equipment issues, ELVIS, KBI handlings, poll worker recruitment, poll agent do's and don'ts, provisional ballots, legislation, Safe at Home program, presidential preference primary, user groups/task forces (ELVIS, voting equipment, satellite advance voting, advance voting), federal auditing of HAVA funds (see related article), audio ballot recordings, security procedures and the federal census.

The SOS office also is working on a short activity and possibly a resource fair for vendors and counties to share useful election information and ideas.

Bryant takes over as president

Brad Bryant, state election director for the Secretary of State's Elections and Legislative Matters division, assumed the role of president of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) during the NASED winter meeting in Washington D.C. NASED is a professional association of state election directors from all 50 states, District of Columbia and four territories—Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and American Samoa. The group meets twice annually in national conferences to discuss current issues, monitor federal legislation, plan for implementation of new laws, and generally promote good practices of election administration.

Formed in the late 1980s, NASED has shepherded nationwide administration of the Voting Rights Act, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, and most recently, the Help America Vote Act of 2002. One of NASED's successes was the development of standards and procedures for certification of voting equipment. The so-called ITA process (for independent testing authority) set standards for labs to test voting equipment, oversaw the testing process, issued "NASED numbers" to signify when voting systems had passed all the tests, and provided information to state authorities considering systems for use in their respective states. Due to HAVA, the ITA process has been turned over to the Election Assistance Commission and the National Institute of Standards and Technology due to HAVA.

NASED's operations are overseen by an executive committee composed of five officers - president, president-elect, vice president, secretary and treasurer - and a representative from each of four regions. Once a NASED member is elected to the position of treasurer, he/she customarily rises through the various offices annually and eventually assumes the presidency.

Bryant has served as the Midwest regional representative in the past and was elected treasurer in 2004. He would have served during 2007 as president-elect, but his predecessor resigned her position as election director in Georgia, thus vacating the NASED position of president-elect, causing a year to be skipped in the normal succession order.

NASED meets in Washington, D.C. each February in conjunction with the meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State, and alternates for its summer conference with NASS and the Election Center. This August, NASED will meet in New Orleans in conjunction with the Election Center. Officers are installed at the February conference in Washington, D.C. In February 2008, Bryant will end his year as president, turn his leadership duties over to John Lindback, election director in Oregon, and become president emeritus.

NASED's daily functions and conference planning activities are conducted by the Election Center in Houston, which provides secretarial services for the organization.

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RON THORNBURGH
Kansas Secretary of State

Dear Friends:

As the nation begins to turn its attention toward the upcoming 2008 presidential election, several members of Congress and our state legislature have begun to look into changing both the way in which we conduct elections, as well as when (and if) citizens will cast their votes in a presidential preference primary.

Five years and several successful elections after the passage of HAVA, the voices calling for increased voter verification are growing louder on the national front. One such voice, Representative Rush Holt, D-NJ, has recently introduced legislation that would require every voting machine be equipped with VVPAT technology and that this technology be equally accessible to those with disabilities and citizens who are not primarily English speakers.

HR 811, the "Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act" would provide federal funding to aid in the transition to VVPAT machines, which roughly half of all states currently use. The measure also calls for random, unannounced audits of voter verified records for each federal general election in at least two percent of the precincts in each state. These audits would be conducted by members of the Federal Election Assistance Commission.

As you know, in Kansas we do not require a voter verified paper audit trail. Our reasoning for this is twofold: every DRE machine used in our state is already equipped with an auditable paper trail that has performed well and I am concerned about the unproven reliability of the printers. Failed printers would mean failed machines, thus further crushing voter confidence. This is not to discount those counties who have chosen to utilize VVPAT voting machines, but I do not believe they are necessary for statewide use.

In addition to voting technology, there is also a growing debate on the timing of presidential primary elections across the nation. Here in Kansas, the House Appropriations Committee recently approved language that would allow our office to select a date for the primary, as long as it takes place on or before February 29, 2008. The governor has also tentatively allocated \$2 million of state general funds to cover the cost of the election.

My goal in the selection of this date is to ensure that Kansans have as large a voice as possible in this process. In order to choose a date that will best serve both the citizens of our state, I have created a bipartisan Presidential Primary Advisory Committee made up of prominent Republicans and Democrats who have significant experience in elections and party rules.

This committee, made up of Republican National Committeewoman Alicia Salisbury, former Kansas Republican Party chair Kim Wells, former Democratic Lieutenant Governor Tom Docking, and Kansas Democratic Party Chair Larry Gates, will work within the party and state rules to determine a time frame that will allow Kansas to play a role in the selection of the candidates.

As always, we will continue our work to keep you informed of all the legislative happenings as they occur. I encourage you to contact our office if you have any questions regarding these, or any other elections issues.

Sincerely,

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

RON THORNBURGH
Secretary of State

2007 Legislation

2007 Session busy for election offices

This is a list of bills being considered in the 2007 legislative session that have impact on state and county election officers in Kansas. This year there is a record-setting number of bills dealing with elections, ethics and campaign finance, at least compared to the past ten years or so. Part of that is due to the fact that almost no legislation has passed into law in the past two years for various reasons. Most of the past two years' worth of bills have been reintroduced in 2007, some have been introduced in both the House and Senate, and some issues have multiple bills with only slightly different language in them.

Senate Bills

SB 65—This bill would make satellite advance voting optional for all counties in the state. Current law allows only Sedgwick and Johnson counties to conduct satellite advance voting. It is identical to HB 2019 and last year's HB 2744

SB 84—This bill deals with the presidential preference primary. Current law authorizes the SOS to set the date of the PPP on a date when at least five other states are having PPPs. If the SOS is unable to find such a date, the default date for the PPP is the first Tuesday in April. This bill would move the default date to eight weeks preceding the first Tuesday in April (in 2008 that would be Feb. 5). The bill also moves the candidate filing deadline for the PPP from Feb. 12 to seven weeks preceding Feb. 12.

SB 99—Proposed by the SOS, this is a recall petition cleanup bill. It requires the county/district attorney who has reviewed a recall petition to notify the person being recalled as well as the CEO and recall committee, and it changes the deadline for filing a mandamus action in court to challenge the attorney's decision from "not less than" 30 days to "within" 30 days.

SB 100—This bill would require the Governmental Ethics Commission to develop an electronic system to allow campaign finance reports to be filed via the Internet or email.

SB 101—This bill would allow a candidate to sign his/her campaign finance report instead of the treasurer. This applies only to reports filed by persons included in the campaign finance act—Article 41 of Chapter 25, which includes state, county and first-class city candidates.

SB 131—This bill would set a deadline of noon on the Friday before an election for the appointment of authorized poll agents.

SB 133—Proposed by the SOS, this bill creates a new election crime of advance voting suppression, similar to the crime of voter registration suppression. It would make it a crime to destroy or alter a person's advance ballot, obstruct its delivery to the election office, have it delivered to a place other than the election office, exercise undue influence on the voter, or open a ballot envelope and view or disclose the contents of the ballot unless acting in an official capacity as an election officer.

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SB 135—This bill would require authorized poll agents to be registered Kansas voters and residents of the county where they will serve as poll agents or in a contiguous county. The residency requirement would not apply to candidates and party officials serving in their own capacity as poll agents; only to appointed poll agents.

SB 136—This bill would declare void and unenforceable any local restrictive covenant prohibiting political yard signs smaller than 6 square feet during a period from 45 days before an election until 2 days after the election.

SB 149—This bill amends the election crime statute on voting machine fraud to include definitions of ballot, counting location, direct recording electronic voting system, electronic voting system, optical scan voting system and voting machine.

SB 150—This bill deals with the popular votes for President and the electoral college. It would authorize states to form interstate compacts comprising a majority of the electoral college votes nationwide and to base the winner of the presidency on the popular vote.

SB 152—This bill would provide a special election procedure to fill a vacancy in the office of US Senator instead of having the governor appoint a person until the next election. The election could be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled primary or general election or at a special election.

SB 158—Proposed by the SOS, this bill would update laws governing the testing, certification and standards for optical scan ballot machines and bring the laws into compliance with HAVA.

SB 159—Proposed by the SOS, this is an advance voting ballot security bill (similar to SB 142 in 2005). It would prohibit anyone from signing an advance ballot application for another person, and would require the voter to designate a person in writing if the voter wants the person to mail or deliver the ballot to the election office.

SB 160—Proposed by the SOS, this bill would update laws governing the testing, certification and standards for electronic voting machines and bring the laws into compliance with HAVA.

SB 195—This bill would require the “paid for by” or “sponsored by” attribution to be included on all automated telephonic campaign messages, sometimes referred to as robocalls.

SB 196—This is a campaign finance bill that would require candidates subject to the campaign finance act (state offices, county offices, first class cities, Wichita USD and Wyandotte County board of public utilities) to file campaign finance reports with the SOS and/or CEO during the 11 days preceding a primary or general election when they receive contributions during that period totaling \$300 or more. Reports could be filed by e-mail, fax, telegram or express delivery service.

SB 253—This bill would prohibit a person from holding the office of county attorney or district attorney if the person had a felony conviction.

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2007 Legislation

2007 Legislation

From page 5

SB 254—This bill would authorize the counties in any judicial district to create a district attorney position. An election would be required, and the election could be brought about by resolution adopted by the commissioners in each county or by submission of a petition to the SOS.

SB 283—This bill would authorize the SOS to write regulations allowing election boards to have split shifts during the election day. If the CEO opts to use split shifts on a given election board, the supervising judge and one other poll worker must be present throughout the day; other poll workers may work split shifts. Thus, split shifts would not work in 2-member boards in rural areas.

SB 310—This bill would require the presidential preference primary to be held in 2008 and every four years thereafter on the first Tuesday in April, removing the option for the SOS to set the date of the PPP on a date when five or more other states are conducting PPPs.

SB 320—This bill deals with the presidential preference primary. It would change the candidate filing deadline from a fixed date on February 12 of the presidential election year to a date seven weeks preceding the PPP. This allows for the floating date of the PPP if the SOS is able to secure five or more other states to hold primaries on the same date as Kansas.

SB 343—This is a campaign finance bill similar to SB 196.

SCR 1601—This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to allow only the legislature to provide for the financing of public education. The election would be held in November, 2008 unless a special election is held earlier.

SCR 1602— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to prohibit property tax valuation increases on real estate owned by persons over 65 years of age. The election would be held in November, 2008 unless a special election is called.

SCR 1607— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to prohibit the government from using the power of eminent domain to take private real property and transferring it to another private entity. The election on the amendment would be held in November of 2008 unless an earlier election was called by the legislature.

SCR 1608— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to prohibit the government from using the power of eminent domain to take private real property and transferring it to another private entity. This resolution is the same as SCR 1607, except that the election on the constitutional amendment would be held at the August primary in 2008 unless an earlier election is called by the legislature.

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House Bills

HB 2019—This bill would make satellite advance voting optional for all counties in the state. Current law allows only Sedgwick and Johnson counties to conduct satellite advance voting. It is identical to SB 65 and last year's HB 2744.

HB 2021—This bill would authorize townships that receive property by donation, contribution, gift, device or bequest to certain not-for-profit corporations.

HB 2022—This bill would allow certain USD employees to serve on the board of education.

HB 2079—This bill would require a “paid for by” attribution to be included on automated campaign telephone calls.

HB 2082—This bill would allow citizens to propose new countywide resolutions by filing petitions with signatures of 15% of the registered voters. If a valid petition is filed, an election is held, and if passed, the resolution becomes binding. Current law authorizes this procedure for cities; this bill extends it to counties.

HB 2083—This bill would allow candidates included under the campaign finance act to transfer unused campaign funds to campaigns for other offices.

HB 2094—Proposed by the SOS, this bill would change the formula for calculating the number of write-in votes needed by a candidate in a partisan primary to qualify for the general election ballot. Current law says 10% of the total vote for SOS in the last general election. This bill would change it to 10% of the voters affiliated with the candidate's party in the election district.

HB 2128—Proposed by the SOS, this bill would allow the county or district attorney more time to review proposed petitions before they're circulated and issue opinions as to the petitions' validity. It would change the time frame for petition review from 5 calendar days to 5 business days.

HB 2129—This bill would repeal the corrupt political advertising statute in the election crimes statutes (KSA 25-2407). The statute requires any campaign publications, printed materials or broadcasts to include the “paid for by” attribution.

HB 2130—This bill would establish a procedure for consolidation of county and city governments. If the governing bodies adopt joint resolutions, a commission is established to prepare a plan, which is submitted to the voters. If the voters approve it at the election, the plan goes into effect. The joint resolution may be proposed by petition.

HB 2153—This bill would provide for the election of a county appraiser in each county at the November general election in 2008 and every four years thereafter.

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2007 Legislation

2007 Legislation

From page 7

HB 2173—Proposed by the SOS, this bill would amend current voter ID laws to (1) clarify that once a first-time voter has provided ID, that voter will not be asked to provide it again, (2) clarify what constitutes valid identification, and (3) codify in state law the procedures required by HAVA to verify voter registration records with DMV and purge deceased persons and felons.

HB 2177—This bill would require candidates and campaigns making unsolicited automated telephone calls to identify themselves and to end the calls when receiving a negative response from the person receiving the call.

HB 2197—Similar to SB 195, this bill would require the “paid for by” or “sponsored by” attribution to be included on all automated telephonic campaign messages, sometimes referred to as robocalls. It would require persons or organizations sponsoring robocalls to keep records of their expenditures.

HB 2198—This bill deals with automated telephonic campaign calls. It would allow individuals to opt out of receiving such calls.

HB 2218—This is a campaign finance bill that would require anyone involved in electioneering communication with a value of more than \$500 to file reports of their expenditures. Electioneering communication is defined as any broadcast, print, mailed or hand delivered campaign messages. It is not the same as the crime of electioneering at the polling place.

HB 2257—This bill deals with automated telephonic campaign calls. It would require individuals and organizations making such calls to identify themselves and to cease making the calls when they receive a negative response from the person receiving the calls.

HB 2258—This bill is nearly exactly the same as HB 2257.

HB 2259—This bill deals with direct recording electronic voting equipment (DREs). It would require a voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) on all DREs used in Kansas after January 1, 2008. It would prohibit the SOS from certifying any DRE without a DRE, and would allow the VVPAT to be used as the basis for a recount. Counties owning DREs without VVPATs would be required to retrofit their DREs with VVPATs by the end of calendar year 2007 at an estimated cost of \$700 per unit.

HB 2260—This bill would prohibit the use of public funds of any city, county, USD or other political subdivision for paying individuals to lobby in the legislature.

HB 2281—Similar to SB 159, this bill would prohibit anyone from signing an advance ballot application for another person, and would require the voter to designate a person in writing if the voter wants the person to mail or deliver the ballot to the election office.

HB 2307—This bill would allow the county commissioners in Sherman County to be elected at large.

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2007 Legislation

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HB 2329—This bill would move the city/school primary to August of even-numbered years and the city/school general election to November of even-numbered years. At one place in the bill the August primary is moved from the first Tuesday to the Tuesday following the fourth Monday, but not all sections of the bill are consistent on the date of the August primary. Other primaries and general elections currently held in the spring of odd-numbered years are not affected—community college, drainage districts, extension councils.

HB 2330—This bill would move the state primary currently held on the first Tuesday of August, to the second Tuesday in September.

HB 2332—This bill would require CEOs to report advance votes and provisional votes allocated among the precincts in their state abstracts filed with the SOS rather than reporting advance and provisional votes in lump sums. (This bill was proposed by the House committee as a result of HB 2094, proposed by the SOS to change the formula for calculating the number of write-in votes need in the primary to qualify for the general election.)

HB 2334—This bill deals with party district conventions held to select persons to fill vacancies in party candidacies (not office holders). It would require any person wishing to be considered for such selection to submit his/her name to the county party chair at least 10 days before the convention, and the names of all candidates would be included in the notice of the convention sent by the party chair to all precinct committee members.

HB 2357—This bill would potentially increase the number of election commissioners. Current law authorizes the SOS to appoint an election commissioner in counties with populations over 130,000 (currently, JO, SG, SN and WY counties). This bill would allow any of the other 101 counties to establish an office of election commissioner by adoption of a resolution by the county commissioners. If a protest petition is filed within 60 days, the issue is put to a vote countywide. The board of commissioners appoints the election commissioner to a four year term.

HB 2364—This is a photo voter ID bill much like SB 169.

HB 2408—This bill would require political committees and party committees to report aggregate in-kind contributions of \$300 or more spent each candidate.

HB 2409—This bill is very similar to, but not exactly the same as, SB 196.

HB 2410—This bill is similar to HB 2409 and SB 196 dealing with campaign finance reporting during the 11 day “blackout” period before any primary or general election.

HB 2452—This bill deals with electronic and optical scan voting systems. It would do 2 things: (1) require the manufacturer or vendor to disclose the software and trade secrets on request by the SOS, and (2) prohibit any voting equipment from being connected to the Internet.

HB 2465—This bill would create an office of district attorney in Cowley County.

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HB 2494—This bill would move the city/school board spring general election two weeks later, from the first Tuesday in April to the third Tuesday in April.

HCR 5004— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to require a supermajority of 60% of each house of the legislature to pass any new appropriations or to increase a previous year's appropriation for any purpose.

HCR 5005— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to prohibit property tax valuation increases on real estate owned by persons over 65 years of age. The election would be held in November, 2008.

HCR 5006— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to limit increases in real estate property valuations. The election would be held in November, 2008.

HCR 5008—This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to change the method of selection of justices of the Kansas Supreme Court. It would do away with the judicial nominating commission and allow the governor to appoint justices, subject confirmation by the Senate. If the resolution passes, the amendment would be on the statewide ballot in November, 2008 unless a special election is called on an earlier date.

HCR 5012— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to clarify that the executive and judicial branches of government are prohibited from requiring the legislature to appropriate money for any purpose. If the resolution passes, the amendment would be on the statewide ballot in November, 2008 unless a special election is called on an earlier date.

HCR 5013— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to prohibit property valuation increases on real or personal property owned by persons 65 years of age or older. If the resolution passes, the amendment would be on the statewide ballot in November, 2008 unless a special election is called on an earlier date.

HCR 5014— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to require a 2/3 vote of the legislature to create new taxes or raise taxes. If the resolution passes, the amendment would be on the statewide ballot in November, 2008 unless a special election is called on an earlier date.

HCR 5015— This concurrent resolution, if passed by a 2/3 majority of both houses of the legislature, would create a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to provide for separate classification and taxation of watercraft and to exempt such property from property taxation. The election on the amendment would be held at the time of the November general election in 2008.

Valuable information for HAVA reporting

Each winter, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) holds a conference in Washington, D.C. This year's conference included a workshop on federal auditing and financial reporting. Nancy Bryant, chief of staff for the SOS, and Craig Bourne, HAVA coordinator, attended the session and gained very useful information regarding federal reporting and auditing practices.

Currently, each state is required to complete a number of very extensive financial reports detailing each HAVA fund it receives. The number of reports required varies from state to state based on the types of HAVA funds received. Kansas is required to complete three separate reports annually.

The first two reports are submitted to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) detailing our HAVA Title I and Title II funds. First, we must submit a financial status report (SF269-long form) that details all expenditures, interest earned, etc., for that reporting period. The same form is used for both reports with a few small differences. Once we have completed our SF269 form we must then prepare a narrative report for both HAVA Title I and Title II funds. The narrative report must include details of all expenditures and how they relate to the activities described for use under HAVA law, the number of articles of voting equipment obtained, and an analysis and description of these activities and how they conform to our state plan. The HAVA Title I report is due February 28 and the HAVA Title II report is due March 30. Each report must be submitted annually until all funds are disbursed.

The third report required is submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These reports detail each of our HAVA VOTE Grants (received fiscal years 03-05) we received for voting accessibility. Similar to the EAC reports, we must first complete a financial report (SF269-short form) for each grant showing any expenditure(s) for that period followed with a narrative report explaining how the money was spent. The narrative must describe how the state followed the state plan for each of the four required areas.

Based on these financial reports, the Inspector General Office's determines which states to audit. While attending the workshop we learned that Kansas is not on its list for 2007, however, every state that received HAVA money will be audited at some point. Here are a few tips from the auditing workshop that county election officers need to be aware of:

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Johnson County's Newby appointed to national board

Johnson County Election Commissioner Brian Newby was recently appointed to the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC) Board. NACRC is a professional organization of elected and appointed county administrative officials who network on a national level to share information and ideas.

A member of the NACRC board resigned, leading to Newby's appointment to fulfill an unexpired term. He will serve through 2008.

NACRC works closely with the National Association of Counties through a series of monthly meetings and conference calls. The group's next meeting is in March in Washington, DC.

Newby also serves as a member of the Election Center's legislative committee, which meets regularly to review and communicate legislative impacts to the Election Center leadership and members. WAY TO GO BRIAN!

Election night tabulation nets money for scholarships

During the 2006 election cycle, the SOS office, with the help of each county election office, provided up-to-date election night results that were distributed via our Web site to the general public and media. In keeping with longstanding tradition, the Associated Press and other media outlets donated money to help cover the costs of providing this service.

All media outlets that request real-time access to SOS election results make donations to the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association for their scholarship fund and to the SOS to offset programming costs. This year's donation from the media outlets to the scholarship fund was \$3,300. In addition, Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh plans to donate a portion of the money received by the SOS office to the scholarship fund during the May KCCEOA meeting.

Prospects are good

From page 1

PPP that will maximize the voice of Kansas party voters. The task force will meet in March. February 5, 2008, is a date under consideration for Kansas' primary. However, the date could be moved as a result of the task force's work before a certification of the PPP date is made.

The SOS has requested \$2 million in fiscal year 2008 state general funds to reimburse counties for their costs in conducting the PPP.

The Kansas PPP under current laws exhibits the following characteristics:

- The SOS is authorized to print ballots for counties as a cost-saving measure.
- There is no ballot rotation—the SOS draws candidates' names to establish ballot order.
- There is no write-in blank, only a "none of the names shown" option.
- Candidate filing requirements are either a fee of \$120 or a petition with 1,000 signatures.
- Local units of government may use the PPP as a "free" election and schedule question-submitted elections to coincide with the date.
- CEOs submit their itemized costs within 60 days after the PPP; the SOS and state Division of Accounts and Reports reviews them and reimburses counties for direct costs.
- The SOS publishes notice of the PPP statewide.

Three bills affecting the PPP are being considered by the Legislature in 2007: Senate Bill 84, Senate Bill 310 and Senate Bill 320. These bills deal with the timing of the default date of the PPP, the SOS's authority to set the date and the filing deadline for candidates.

The last two presidential primaries conducted in Kansas were in 1980 and 1992. Since 1992, the law calling for a PPP has remained on the books, but every four years the PPP has been canceled for various reasons, often related to the cost of the election in lean budget years.

Valuable information

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- Each county must have documentation of ownership of all equipment and list of the serial numbers that must match the state list.
- Auditors will visit a random sample of counties to see if their voting equipment is stored in a safe and secure location when not in use.
- We need to provide a list of agreements between state and counties regarding HAVA funds.
- Auditors will require a copy of the financial report from each county visited.

There will be a lot of work the state and counties must do to prepare for (and during) our audit, and we look forward to working together during the whole process for a very smooth and successful experience.

Local address program helps 2010 Census

The United States Census Bureau has begun mailing informational booklets to all state, local and tribal governments asking for their assistance in providing updated addresses for their communities. This is an integral part of early efforts to make the 2010 Census as accurate as possible.

A complete address list is needed to accurately count each person living in the United States. Developing an accurate and up-to-date Master Address File is the first and most vital stage of the decennial census process, ensuring that people residing at the addresses listed in the file will receive a census questionnaire in 2010.

In partnership with the Census Bureau, state, local and tribal governments will use their local knowledge to improve the list of addresses for housing units and group quarters addresses, includ-

ing growth as a result of new construction or annexation. This information contained in the address list is confidential by law. Those governments that choose to participate in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program will then be provided an option to review the Census Bureau's address list. The Census Bureau will use the updated address list to deliver the census questionnaires and ensure a successful 2010 Census.

Decennial census data directly affect how more than \$200 billion in federal grant funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments each year. Participation in the LUCA program will ensure local governments across the state will receive their fair share of funding for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and more. By 2010, there will be more than 310 million people living in an

estimated 130 million households across the country who must be counted.

The Secretary of State's office strongly encourages each county to participate in this program, and to ask each county to encourage local units of government within the county to participate as well. It is in their best interests, and if local units of government participate in pre-census programs they have more input into the census results and a better voice if they decide to request changes to census figures after the results are released.

For more information contact Dennis Johnson, U.S. Census Bureau, Kansas City office, at (913) 551-6728, or Bryan Caskey, Secretary of State's office, at (785) 296-3488.