

CANVASSING KANSAS

AN UPDATE ON ELECTION NEWS IN KANSAS

NOVEMBER 2015

From the Desk of the Secretary



Greetings!

The Office of the Kansas Secretary of State is excited to introduce our new Canvassing Kansas e-publication. This newsletter is designed to provide you with informative election news throughout Kansas and across the nation.

As 2015 comes to a close we recognize this year has offered no shortage of exciting election news, and many big changes are on the horizon. These accomplishments include the grand opening of the new Shawnee County Elections Office, a state-of-the-art facility that will enhance election services to Shawnee County residents and promote the history and heritage of Kansas elections.

During the 2015 legislative session the Kansas Legislature passed House Bill 2104, a bill that moves all elections for officeholders of local governments currently held in the spring of odd-numbered years to the fall of odd-numbered years. This law is designed to increase voter participation and will take effect in 2017.

The 2015 Kansas Legislature also passed Senate Bill 34, a bill giving the secretary of state independent authority to prosecute individuals who commit election crimes. As the only secretary of state in the nation with the authority to prosecute election crimes, my office has already filed three cases in Johnson and Sherman county courts, reinforcing our commitment for Kansas to have the most secure and safe elections in the nation.

We hope you enjoy our new Canvassing Kansas e-publication and encourage you to distribute it throughout the state. We also want to make this the best publication we possibly can and in order to do so we need your help! If you wish to provide feedback on a particular article or would like to submit an article of your own for this publication please do so by contacting us at media@sos.ks.gov. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all a happy Election Day!

Sincerely,

Kris W. Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State

Newby Named EAC Executive Director

Johnson County Election Commissioner Brian Newby has been hired as the new executive director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Newby has spent more than ten years as the top election official in Johnson County, the largest county in Kansas, and is a member of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, and Election Officials. Newby is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, earning a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in communications. During his tenure Newby has been appointed by both Republican and Democratic secretaries of state, having served under Secretaries of State Ron Thornburgh, Chris Biggs and Kris Kobach.

Secretary Kobach voiced his approval of Newby's new position, stating "Brian has been a tremendous leader for Johnson County and the state of Kansas and the EAC is lucky to have such an innovative and accomplished election official join their organization. I'm grateful for his many years of service to the state of Kansas and wish him the very best in his new endeavor. He will be missed."



Brian Newby, Johnson County Election Commissioner

Business Fraud Alert

Attention Kansas Business Entities,

The Kansas Secretary of State's Office has identified a criminal scam that can potentially impact your business and Kansas citizens. The perpetrators of this scam are filing reinstatements of forfeited business entities and revocations of business entity dissolutions with our office in order to assume the identity of credible businesses. After reinstating these business entities the perpetrators direct potential victims to the Kansas Secretary of State's website in order to provide a false sense of legitimacy and longevity of their business dealings. The majority of these fraudulent scams revolve around the false purchase of timeshares from unassuming owners who are then deceived into paying up-front costs for the sale of their property.



The information collected by the Kansas Secretary of State's Office has been provided for public record by individuals submitting the filings. The Kansas Secretary of State's Office does not endorse the authenticity, accuracy, or validity of the information so provided nor does the status of a business entity indicate the honesty or credibility of that business entity. The designation of "good standing" merely confirms that reports have been filed and fees have been paid. Businesses are encouraged to review the information about their business with our office periodically to make sure it is up to date. Those who rely on this information may want to follow up with additional research to verify the data.

A great way to stay informed about the status of your business is to file your annual report electronically. By filing your report electronically you will automatically be notified of any changes to the status of your business, which is a feature reserved solely for those who file online. We encourage you to utilize the Kansas Secretary of State's website to ensure your business won't be compromised.

