



# Introduction

Revised 5/9/02

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The Kansas Election Standards are a guide for anyone at the state or local level involved in administering elections in Kansas. This manual contains information on all the major components of the electoral process, including voter registration, election administration, filing for office, voting procedures, canvassing ballots, and types of voting systems.

However, this document is not comprehensive and any information contained here may be rendered inaccurate or obsolete at any time by passage of state or federal legislation or the issuance of court decisions or Attorney General opinions. For that reason the manual is organized in a format that may be easily updated.

The standards are intended to promote uniformity and consistency in procedures, compliance with federal and state laws, and equal protection of the laws governing voting. They are issued partly to address issues raised in the 2000 election and the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bush vs. Gore*. In reviewing procedures used to determine voters' intent on their ballots and how existing procedures reinforced, or failed to reinforce, the doctrines of one person, one vote and equal protection of the laws, the court said:

The problem inheres in the absence of specific standards to ensure its equal application. The formulation of uniform rules to determine intent based on these recurring circumstances is practicable and, we conclude, necessary.

and

The want of those rules here has led to unequal evaluation of ballots in various aspects... the standards for accepting or rejecting contested ballots might vary not only from county to county but indeed within a single county from one recount team to another.  
*121 S Ct 525 at 530*

Many people are involved in the administration of elections, including members of local governing bodies, precinct election board workers, county boards of canvassers, county attorneys and counselors, and the Secretary of State's office. However, it is the county election officer who is at the center of it all. The county election officer works in close contact with all of these individuals to ensure an accurate, expedient and legally defensible election process, and thus it is the county election officer who must possess a thorough knowledge of the legal requirements and must share that knowledge with the other individuals involved in the process.

Many legal sources contribute to the rules governing elections, and any of the following may be cited as needed throughout this document.

- a. Kansas Statutes Annotated
- b. Kansas Administrative Regulations
- c. County or district attorney or county counselor
- d. Kansas Attorney General
- e. Kansas Secretary of State
- f. Judiciary
  1. State District Court
  2. Kansas Court of Appeals
  3. Kansas Supreme Court
  4. U.S. District Court
  5. U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals
  6. U.S. Supreme Court

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