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STATE OF KANSAS

NEWS RELEASE

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Emergency Action for Municipal and School Board Primary Elections

TOPEKA (February 25, 2013) – Due to inclement weather expected throughout Kansas on Tuesday, February 26, the ability of voters to participate in primary municipal elections and primary school board elections in 24 counties may be affected. Accordingly, Secretary of State Kris Kobach has taken emergency action permitted under Kansas law to make voting easier under these conditions. While Kansas law does not allow the date of the election to be changed, it does allow the secretary of state to make alternative arrangements for ballot distribution under emergency circumstances.

“I have directed the county clerks and county election commissioners in the 24 affected counties to keep their offices open until 7:00 p.m. tonight and to allow voters to cast advance ballots in person until that time,” said Kobach. “I strongly encourage all voters to vote in advance at their county election offices today before 7:00 p.m. By doing so, they can avoid the danger of driving to the polls during a severe snowstorm.”

This emergency action is taken pursuant to the secretary of state’s authority under K.S.A. 25-622 to designate alternative methods of ballot distribution in emergencies. Normally, advance voting ends at noon the day before an election.

Many of the 24 counties that have a municipal or school board primary election tomorrow have taken additional actions to facilitate voting on Tuesday. Such actions include the consolidation of polling places, undertaking special contracts to ensure snow removal before the polls open, and working with the relevant sheriff’s office to get election workers and equipment to the polls.

The county election offices in Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte Counties, and the county clerks’ offices in the other 20 counties will have the latest information about polling places and other details.

Questions also may be directed to the secretary of state’s elections staff by calling (785) 296-4561, faxing (785) 291-3051 or emailing election@sos.ks.gov.