

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, October 15, 2014

Contact Information

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

Secretary of State Presents NASS Award to Tom Ray

TOPEKA (October 15, 2014) – In front of election workers at a training session, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach today presented a NASS Medallion Award to Tom Ray for his elections contributions.

“It is my honor to present this award to Tom Ray on behalf of the National Association of Secretaries of State,” said Kobach. “Tom has served Johnson County voters for over a decade with dedication and innovation. It is fitting that election workers he has recruited and trained are here to congratulate and thank him.”

Ray began working for the county in 1998, and was hired as Election Manager in January 2002 by Johnson County Election Commissioner Connie Schmidt. In October 2009 current Election Commissioner Brian Newby promoted Mr. Ray to Assistant Election Commissioner.

“Tom has had a tremendously positive impact upon Johnson County voting,” said Newby. “He has created recruitment and management processes that we will leverage in many future elections to come.”

Ray has led the polling place and election worker recruitment and retention efforts for more than 12 years. He’s a polling place expert, and his expertise in operations has enabled him to staff and schedule election workers for all Johnson County elections. He maintains a database of more than 2,000 election workers and knows most of them by name, knowing specific details about their work history.

Ray crusaded and negotiated for Johnson County’s first-ever advance voting location that was not a county property by securing a lease for advance voting at the Metcalf South Shopping Center. That location became a landmark for advance voting before closing this year. He secured facilities in Shawnee, Olathe, and Overland Park for in-person advance voting, and was instrumental in seeing Johnson County’s advance voting turnout swell to nearly 50 percent for major November elections. This allowed for the use of fewer polling locations and fewer election workers, raising efficiencies, and lowering election-day costs. He also was a proponent for the mailing of an election-specific postcard, customized to each voter, as a voting reminder. This postcard is emulated now throughout the country.

The NASS Medallion Award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to furthering the mission of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), including promotion of elections, civic education, service to state government, and commitment to giving.