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## STATE OF KANSAS

### NEWS RELEASE

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### Gaedtke Pleads Guilty

TOPEKA (December 2, 2015) - Steven K. Gaedtke appeared before Judge Thomas Sutherland in Johnson County District Court Wednesday to plead guilty to an election crime he committed in late 2010. Mr. Gaedtke was found guilty of an Unlawful Act while Advanced Voting as defined in K.S.A. 25-1128 (e), a Class C non-person misdemeanor. Mr. Gaedtke was found guilty by the court and fined \$500 dollars plus court costs.

During the 2015 legislative session the Kansas Legislature increased the severity of this crime from a class C misdemeanor to a severity level 9, nonperson felony. However, Mr. Gaedtke's crime occurred before this change in the law. Mr. Gaedtke is the first person to be prosecuted and found guilty of an election crime prosecuted by the Kansas Secretary of State's Office since the agency received the authority to prosecute voting crimes earlier this year.

Steven Gaedtke's wife Betty Gaedtke is scheduled for a first appearance on December 3rd, 2015 before Judge Daniel Vokins in Johnson County District Court on a three count misdemeanor complaint arising from similar allegations occurring in 2010.

Secretary of State Kris Kobach commented on the guilty plea: "Double voting is a serious crime that impairs the fairness of our elections. Hopefully people will be deterred from committing this crime by the fact that we are now prosecuting violators, and the fines are heavy."