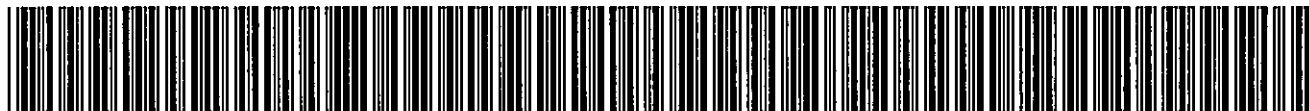


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PROMOTING VOTING

ELECTION NOTES

Johnson County Election Office, 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS 66061 782-3441
Internet Address: www.jocoelection.org E-mail: election@jocoelection.org

THREE VOTING OPTIONS IN JOHNSON COUNTY

Vote In Advance By Mail

- Complete an Application for an Advance Voting Ballot and mail it to Johnson County Election Office. Applications must be received at the Election Office before 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the election. To avoid delays, submit your application early. Applications for the November election are being accepted now. Remember, you do not need a reason to vote early! A separate application must be completed for each election.
- Applications are available at city halls, public libraries, voter registration sites and on Election Office Internet Home Page at <http://www.jocoelection.org>
- Ballots will be mailed 20 days prior to Election Day and thereafter upon receipt of application. Return your voted ballot by mail or in person to the Election Office before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Vote In Advance In Person At The Election Office

- Election Office will be open 20 days prior to Election Day on Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Vote At The Polls On Election Day

- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ELECTION NOTES

Johnson County Election Office, 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS 66061 782-3441
Internet Address: www.jocoelection.org E-mail: election@jocoelection.org

TO VOTE - YOU MUST BE REGISTERED!

You may register to vote if you are:

- United States citizen,
- Kansas resident, and
- At least 18 years old by the next statewide general election.

Registration forms are available at various registration sites throughout the County, City Halls, and Public Libraries.

You may request forms to register by mail by calling the Election Office, 782-3441 or obtain an application through the Johnson County Election Office Internet Home Page at <http://www.jocoelection.org>

Registration closes 14 days prior to each election.

You must re-register if you change your name, change your residence, or change your party affiliation.

You will receive a voter registration card listing your polling place location. Show the card at the polls to speed the election process.

WORKING AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY!

The minimum qualifications to serve as an election worker on election day are:

- Johnson County resident,
- Registered to vote at current address,
- Affiliated as Democrat or Republican (only in primary elections),
- Complete two (2) hours of training.

For information, call the Johnson County Election Office at 782-3441.



JOHNSON COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

ADVANCE VOTING.....IT'S YOUR OPTION!

If you are a registered voter in Johnson County, beginning in 1996 you will have the option of voting before Election Day. Starting 20 days before Election Day, you may have your ballot mailed to you or you may cast a ballot in person at the Election Office. To vote by mail, you must submit an application for an advance ballot. A separate application must be submitted for each election. Advance ballot applications will be available at the Election Office, City Halls, and Public Libraries throughout the County on January 1, 1996.

Advantages of voting early:

- Vote at home when it is convenient for you**
- Unforeseen events won't keep you from voting**
- Bad weather on Election Day won't be a problem**
- Avoid long lines and parking problems at the polls**

Remember, in 1996 you have three options:

- Advance voting by mail**
- Advance voting in person at the Election Office**
- Voting at the polls on Election Day**

For additional information, please contact Connie J. Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner, 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, Kansas 66061, (913) 782-3441.

Voting by mail extends the reach of democracy

Much to do is being made of Oregon voters who are electing a new U.S. senator by mail. Ho-hum. We in Blue Valley are old hands at mail-in ballots. We've done it for years.

The Oregon experience is, of course, the first time a Senate seat will be filled without voters going to the polls. Therefore, it merits attention as a "first." It's also a good reason to take stock of participatory democracy.

I've heard the act of voting described as the "sacrament of democracy." The sacrament has rituals: Waiting in line



STAFF COLUMNIST

Watching your name checked off on the voter rolls. Stepping behind the privacy curtain. Even getting the little "I voted in Johnson County" sticker. These are, indeed, solemn rites of citizenship.

It's not quite the same sitting at our kitchen tables, making tick marks on paper and sealing envelopes for unceremonious dumping in mailboxes.

But that kind of voting is every bit as important, and Blue Valley voters have understood that.

Kansas law has prohibited mail ballots for elections with candidates, but the Johnson County Election Board has made liberal use of mail balloting for other specific-issue elections. There have been 16 mail elections in Johnson County since 1983; five of them have been Blue Valley specific issues.

Election Commissioner Connie Schmidt said the benefits of mail balloting are clear. Voter response is greatly enhanced, and the per-vote cost of

See VOTING, Page 25, Col. 4

Voting by mail helps strengthen democracy

Continued from Page 2

the election is far lower.

A noncandidate bond election at the polls may draw one-fourth of registered voters. A bond election by mail draws two-thirds to three-quarters.

In our fast-paced lives — with jobs, kids' car pools, church meetings, volunteer activities, household chores and even the remote control vying for our time — anything that boosts democratic participation must be encouraged.

The need for extra encouragement hit home earlier this month at our neighborhood association's annual homeowners meeting. Meeting notices and proxies went out ahead of time. Executive board members made night-before telephone calls to encourage attendance.

Yet, at the appointed hour, scouting teams had to be sent out from the elementary school to round up unreturned proxies, if not homeowners themselves.

Without the last-gasp roundup, a quorum would not have been met, and business could not have been conducted.

Everybody's busy, I know. But it's important to remember that a lot of stuff just plain happens to us. A lot is out of our control. But we do have a

Your opinion

★ TOUCH 1456

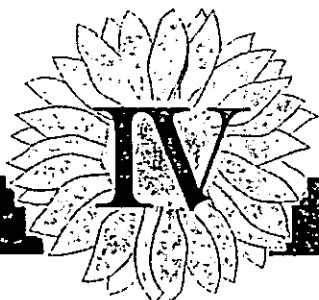
We welcome your opinions on any subject. Call StarTouch at 889-STAR (7827) and enter 1456 to respond. You will be asked to leave your name and telephone number for verification, although your name will not be published without your consent.

say in some things, and we shouldn't shrug off that privilege.

Effective Jan. 1, Kansas voters will have the right to choose how they want to vote in every election. They will have three options: request a ballot in advance by mail, cast a vote in person at the election office within 20 days before the polling date or go to the polls as usual on election day.

The options all but remove any excuse for not voting. We have some powerful influence ... if we use it.

Diane Stafford, a business columnist for The Star, lives and votes in Blue Valley.



ASSOCIATES' PRESS

SPECIAL EDITION

A Publication of the JCPenney Co., Inc., Regional Catalog Fulfillment Center, Lenexa, Kansas January 1996

Advance Voting Replaces Absentee Voting in Kansas

Voting will be easier in 1996. Starting 20 days before Election Day, you may have your ballot mailed to you or you may vote in person at the Election Office in Johnson or Wyandotte County.

To vote by mail, you must complete an Application for an Advance Voting Ballot and mail it to the Election Office. Remember, a separate application must be completed for each election. An original signature is required, therefore faxes and E-mail applications cannot be accepted. The Application for an Advance Voting Ballot is available at area city halls, and at all public libraries in Johnson County. A copy is also available in Personnel. For Wyandotte County information, call 334-1414.

You may vote in person at the Election Office in Johnson County at 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS or in Wyandotte County at 9400 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS. The dead-

line for voting in person at the Election offices is 12:00 noon on the Monday prior to Election Day.

There are two ways to register to vote. You may register in person at various registration sites throughout the Counties, i.e. city halls, public libraries, high schools or when obtaining or renewing your driver's license.

You may also register by mail by calling the Election Offices, in Johnson County, 782-3441 and in Wyandotte County, 334-1414. However, if you register by mail, Kansas law requires you to vote in person at the next election.

Registration closes 14 days prior to each election. You must re-register if you change your name or change your residence. You will receive a voter registration card listing your polling place location. Show the card at the polls to speed the election process.

Absentee Voting Is Your Option In Missouri

Absentee Voting in Missouri is available for those registered voters who will be away from their jurisdiction from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

For further information on Absentee Voting call your local County Election Office.

In Clay County call 792-7671.

In Platte County call 858-2232.

In Jackson County call 521-4600

or the Election Board

of Kansas City

at 842-4820.



ASSOCIATES' PRESS

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The Best Times

A Newspaper for Johnson County's 60-and-Older Citizens

Johnson County, Kansas

July/August 1996

APPLICATION FOR AN ADVANCE VOTING BALLOT

Affirmation of an Elector of the County of Johnson, and State of Kansas Desiring to Vote an Advance Voting Ballot.

State of Kansas, County of Johnson, ss:

I do solemnly affirm that I am a qualified elector residing at number and street and in the city or township printed below, in the County of Johnson, and State of Kansas. I am entitled to vote an advance voting ballot and I have not voted and will not otherwise vote at the election to be held on: (Check One Date) () AUGUST 6, or () NOVEMBER 5, 1996.

- A SEPARATE APPLICATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH ELECTION -

1. Print Name _____
Last First Middle Initial
 2. _____
Johnson County Residence Address
 3. My Political Party is _____
(for primary elections only)
 4. Date of Birth _____
- I desire my ballot to be sent to the following address:
5. _____
Street Address City State Zip Code
 6. _____
Daytime Telephone Number (Johnson County)
 7. _____
Signature of Voter

B. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION IF APPLYING FOR PERMANENT ADVANCE VOTING STATUS

Note: Applicants for permanent advance voter status must have a permanent physical disability or have been diagnosed as having a permanent illness.

The nature of my permanent illness or disability is _____

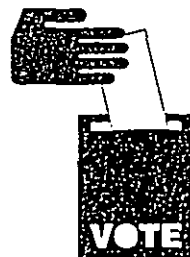
Note: False statement on this affirmation is a seventh level 9, nonperson felony.

(For Office Use Only)

Reg. # _____ Ballot # _____ Layout # _____
Form AV1 Rev. 4/94 K.S.A. 25-1125(a), (b)

Mail To: Johnson County Election Office - 2101 E. Kansas City Rd., Olathe, KS 66061

You can vote by mail



Two elections are coming soon: the Primary, Aug. 6; the General Election, Nov. 5.

To avoid long election lines, you can vote in advance by mail. It's easy. Complete the application duplicated here and mail it to the Election Office. Applications must be received at the Election Office before 5 p.m. the

Friday prior to the election. A separate application must be completed for each election.

Ballots will be mailed 20 days prior to Election Day and thereafter upon receipt of application. Return your voted ballot by mail or in person to the Election Office before 7 p.m., on Election Day.

Remember, you do not need a reason to vote early!

To vote, you must be registered. You may request forms to register by mail by calling the Election Office, 782-3441.

Advantages of Voting Early!

- Vote at home when it is convenient for you!
- Take as much time as you need to mark your ballot!
- Set an example encouraging others who may not otherwise vote!
- Avoid long lines and parking problems at the polls!
- Your busy schedule or unforeseen events won't keep you from voting!
- Bad weather on Election Day won't be a problem!
- Parents won't have to find a sitter for the kids!
- Avoid conflicts with your schedule!
- Free up time to help others get to the polls!

Facts about Advance Voting!

Advance voting replaces absentee voting - you no longer need an excuse to vote early. If you are a registered voter in Johnson County, you can vote up to twenty (20) days prior to Election Day. Your Options are: (1) Vote by mail; or (2) Vote in person at the Election Office.

How To Vote Early!

Vote by Mail ... to vote by mail you must complete an Application for an Advance Voting Ballot and mail it to the Election Office. You can complete the form (on the right), or call the Election Office at 782-3441 to request additional forms. Forms are also available at area City Halls, and at all public libraries. Remember - a separate application must be submitted for each election. Your completed application must be received at the Election Office before 5:00pm on Friday, prior to the election. Your completed ballot must be received at the Election Office before 7:00pm on Election Day.

Vote in Person ... You may also vote early in person at the Election Office, 2101 East Kansas City Road, Olathe, Kansas, beginning twenty (20) days before the election. The office will be open Monday through Friday until 9:00pm, and on Saturday from 9:00am, to 5:00pm.

APPLICATION FOR AN ADVANCE VOTING BALLOT

Affirmation of an Elector of the County of Johnson, and State of Kansas Desiring to Vote an Advance Voting Ballot.

State of Kansas, County of Johnson, ss:

I do solemnly affirm that I am a qualified elector residing at number and street and in the city or township printed below, in the County of Johnson, and State of Kansas. I am entitled to vote an advance voting ballot and I have not voted and will not otherwise vote at the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 6, 1996. My political party is indicated below if applicable.

1. Print Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

2. _____
Johnson County Address

3. My Political Party is _____ 4. Date of Birth _____

I desire my ballot be sent to the following address:

5. _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

6. _____ 7. _____
Daytime Telephone Number Signature of Voter
(Johnson County)

8. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION IF APPLYING FOR PERMANENT ADVANCE VOTING STATUS

Note: Applicants for permanent advance voter status must have a permanent physical disability or have been diagnosed as having a permanent illness.

The nature of my permanent illness or disability is _____

Note: False statement on this affirmation is a severity level 9, nonperson felony.

(For Office Use Only)

Reg.# _____ Ballot# _____ Layout# _____

Form AV1 Rev. 10/95 K.S.A. 25-1122d(a), (c)

★ Johnson County Election Office ★
2101 East Kansas City Road ★ Olathe, KS 66061
(913) 782-3441 ★ Fax (913) 791-1753

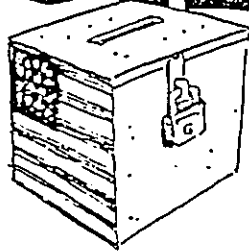
Please complete, cutout, and mail to the Johnson County Election Office at the address above. Your 1996 Primary Election Advance Ballot will be mailed twenty (20) days before the Primary Election. Your ballot must be received at the Election Office no later than 7:00pm on election day to be counted.

Now You Can Vote Early From Home!

120,000 MAILED
BY A CANDIDATE

Sept./Oct. 1996 — *The Best Times*

VOTE!



by mail

The election is coming soon:
Nov. 5!

To avoid long election lines, you can vote in advance by mail. It's easy. Complete the application duplicated above and mail it to the Election Office, 2101 E. Kansas City Rd., Olathe, KS 66061. Applications must be received at the Election Office before 5 p.m., the Friday prior to the election.

Ballots will be mailed 20 days prior

to Election Day and thereafter upon receipt of application. Return your voted ballot by mail or in person to the Election Office before 7 p.m., on Election Day.

Remember, you do not need a reason to vote early!

To vote, you must be registered. You may request forms to register by mail or by calling the Election Office at 782-3441.

Government

EARLY BIRD VOTING: WILL IT FLY?

Advance voting is expected to eventually be a hit, and it may affect the way campaigns are run

Although the Aug. 6 primary is still a couple of weeks off, dozens of people have probably already voted for their favorite candidate by now.

They won't be climbing into their hot cars after a long day at work to wait in lines at the polling sites that day. No sir. Thanks to advance voting, up to 25 percent of voters will have cast their votes by the time Aug. 6 rolls around, according to the most optimistic estimates.

Any of the county's 226,703 registered voters can call the election commissioner's office to request a mail-in ballot or can vote in person between July 17 and Aug. 5.

The program was enacted following the 1992 presidential election, during which waits of up to four hours were reported at some polling places in Johnson County. At the time, the only alternative to polling places was to request an absentee ballot, which was only granted under certain circumstances.

Election Commissioner Connie Schmidt expects a significant number of Johnson Countyans to participate in advance voting because there are so many two-income households.

It's designed to make voting easier," she said. "It's really a way to be sure there are no hurdles in the way of voting."

So how much will advance voting be utilized in the primary?

Ms. Schmidt makes no bones about it: She has no idea. But her office is preparing for worst-case scenarios — that is, all advance votes and all polling-place votes.

Once advance voting began, on July 17, the election commissioner's office extended its hours to handle ballots, requests for ballots and drop-in voting. Ballots can be processed by machine prior to Aug. 6 but will not be tallied before then. As of mid-July, Ms. Schmidt's office had received just 4,061 requests for mail-in ballots.

Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh is a strong proponent of advance voting and is confident it will create a greater voter turnout. In fact, that's the reason the legislation was proposed last year, he said.

"We've made voting as convenient as it possibly can be," Mr. Thornburgh said. "Ultimately, as many as 50 percent of the total votes cast will be by

advance ballot."

When the advance-voting bill was debated by the Legislature, Mr. Thornburgh said, it was scrutinized by politicians who were concerned about how it would affect their next campaigns. It was not lost on them that a change in voting practices could potentially help them or hurt them.

Sen. Dick Bond, R-Overland Park, said that in the past, it was the more organized campaigns that had an advantage because they were able to get their supporters to the polls. But advance voting will help level the playing field for less organized campaigns, he said.

However, at this point, what candidates will benefit in the upcoming primary is pure speculation.

"I have heard people speculate that it's greatest for moderates because they tend to not vote," said retiring Sen. Mark Parkinson, R-Olathe. "Others say, 'No, it is greatest for conservatives because they can pass out ballots at churches.' It's tough to say."

One thing's for sure: Advance voting will affect the way campaigns are run.

In the days before advance voting, savvy media buys were made in the final hours of major campaigns, virtually flooding voters with the issues and a candidate's stance on them. Such eleventh-hour politicking serves two purposes: The first, obviously, is to get the voter thinking about the candidate. The second, Mr. Parkinson said, is to stall until the real funds are raised, typically toward the end of the campaign.

But with advance voting, it will be more risky to rely on a fast-minute advertising blitz. Rather than doing one impact piece in the final hours before the election, candidates may have to spread out their pitches.

"Campaigns are swimming now," Mr. Thornburgh said, "trying to figure out when to do their impact pieces."

The campaigns of candidates in lower-profile races also will be affected. Being forced to send out direct-mail pieces earlier and more often could put them in tough financial straits. By early July, Mr. Bond had already sent out 20,000 direct-mail pieces, making sure to tuck in a ballot request. What could be better campaigning than making it easier for voters to support you?

The prospect of longer, more costly advertising campaigns is likely to discourage ordinary people from running for office, Mr. Parkinson said. And mudslinging will not only continue, he said, but will probably go on even longer.

Conversely, Mr. Thornburgh said he believes there may be a decline in negative advertising. The purpose of such attacks, he said, is to catch an opponent with accusations when it's too late to respond. Such campaigning would lose its impact when many of the voters have already locked in their support.

"Eventually the impact will be enormous," Mr. Parkinson said. "Within two to four years, easily over 35 percent of the public will advance vote."

Of course, anytime you make it easier to vote, there's always the potential for fraud. The question must be raised: How easy will it be for citizens to get their hands on an extra ballot or two? Mr. Parkinson doesn't think it will be an issue.

"The bottom line is, there's not many people willing to commit a felony to vote for a particular person," he said.

Perhaps no one cares enough about the county clerk race to take such a risk, but might there be more temptation to cheat on, say, a controversial

gambling issue?

"That's one of the things we're going to have to be careful about and learn from," Mr. Bond said. "But the secretary of state and the election commissioner believe they have safeguards on people voting more than once. I hope they're right."

At any rate, fraudulent votes will likely be of little concern in the Aug. 6 primary. The primary goal at this point is getting the word out and getting more voters to participate. After all, old habits don't die easily. Pulling the lever in a polling place is as American as apple pie, as inherently democratic as DiMaggio.

"There are a lot of people who are attracted to the idea of going to polls on election day," said Kevin Yowell, campaign manager for Vince Snowbarger, a state representative who's running for Jan Meyers' seat in Congress. "It's such an American thing to do."

So, Mr. Thornburgh's toughest task may be to get couch potatoes to exercise their right to vote and to get the naysayers to stand up and be counted. This year, he expects to spend just a couple thousand dollars toward that end, promoting advance voting through poster contests and public service announcements.

Said Mr. Parkinson, "It will take a while for people to learn about, but it's hard for me to believe that if they're aware they can get a ballot in the mail that they wouldn't do that."

—By Susyn Schweers, staff writer



Dick Bond



"We've made voting as convenient as it can possibly be. Ultimately, as many as 50 percent of total votes cast will be by advance ballot."

—Ron Thornburgh
Kansas Secretary of State

**Johnson County Election Office
2101 E. Kansas City Road
Olathe, Kansas 66061**

ELECTION TIPS

BE SURE THAT YOUR VOTE CAN BE COUNTED

- **Remember: To vote - you must be registered! Registration closes fourteen (14) days prior to each election. You may register at any city hall, public library, or at the Johnson County Election Office. To register, you must be a United States citizen, Kansas resident, and at least 18 years of age by the next statewide general election.**
- **When voting in advance, you (registered voter) must sign the outside of the ballot envelope. If you forget to sign the envelope, your vote cannot be counted.**
- **The signature on the outside of the advance ballot envelope must match the name on the mailing label. If it does not match, your vote cannot be counted.**
- **If you mail your advance ballot, it must be received at the Election Office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. (Ballots may also be hand delivered to the Election Office.) Voted ballots received in the mail or in person after Election Day cannot be counted.**
- **If you forget to mail your advance ballot, you can turn in your advance ballot at your polling place on Election Day and cast your vote on the electronic voting machine.**
- **If you are currently a registered voter in Johnson County, and you move within Johnson County, you may go to your new polling place or the Election Office, complete a voter registration card, and vote a paper ballot. Your vote will be counted.**
- **If you are currently a registered voter in Johnson County, and you have changed your name since the last election, you may go to your polling place on Election Day, complete a voter registration card, and vote a paper ballot. Your vote will be counted.**
- **In a primary election, Kansas law does not allow a registered voter to change his party affiliation on Election Day. You have until the registration books close, 14 days prior to an election, to re-register and change your affiliation.**
- **In a primary election, if you are not affiliated with a political party, you can complete a voter registration card, declare either the Republican or Democratic party, and cast your vote on the electronic voting machine.**
- **When voting on the electronic voting machine, be sure to review your selections prior to pushing the "Cast Vote" button. If you push the button before you are finished voting, you cannot be given another opportunity to vote.**

Please follow these guidelines to assure that your vote is counted. If you have any questions, please call the Johnson County Election Office at 782-3441.



BE A PARTNER IN THE ELECTION PROCESS!

The Johnson County Election Office extends an invitation to the citizens of Johnson County, school groups, organizations, and businesses to volunteer in an effort to promote voter participation in the election process.

SPONSOR A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Provide an opportunity for citizens to register to vote. Schedule a voter registration drive at a site of your choice. Instructions and supplies provided by Election Office.

DISTRIBUTE ADVANCE VOTING INFORMATION

Inform the public about the three Voting Options in Johnson County. Any registered voter has an option to vote in advance by mail, or vote in advance in person at the Johnson County Election Office during the 20 day voting period prior to election day, or vote at the polls on election day. Distribute the Applications for an Advance Voting Ballot in your neighborhood, attendance area, organization, or business. Applications may be copied and reproduced for newsletters and correspondence.

ADOPT A POLLING PLACE

This innovative program provides an opportunity for businesses, corporations, civic organizations, or neighborhoods to assist the Election Office by providing workers on Election Day. Show your voting spirit, volunteer to "adopt a polling place". Training is provided on-site by the Election Office.

WORK AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

Apply to become an Election Worker. Number of workers vary depending on the election. Over 1,800 people were needed to serve as election workers at the polls for the 1996 Presidential Election.

BE A FIELD ASSISTANT ON ELECTION DAY

Volunteer as a Field Assistant to provide assistance to election workers at an assigned polling site on election day. Hours are approximately 4:00 p.m. until the last citizen has voted.

For information, call the Johnson County Election Office at 782-3441.