

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:35 a.m. on February 9, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jean Schodorf, Kansas Senator
Carol Jacobson, Co-Chair for Voter Services, League of Women Voters of Kansas
Carol Williams, Executive Director, Governmental Ethics Commission
Ron Estes, Kansas State Treasurer

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and opened the hearing on **SB 31 - Campaign finance; electioneering communications; reporting**. Staff explained the history behind this bill and how it relates to electioneering communication; establishing certain reporting requirements.

Carol Williams, Executive Director, Governmental Ethics Commission, spoke in favor of the bill. She felt that State has a compelling interest in providing voters information about issue ads so voters can be fully informed as to the source of support or opposition to candidates for state or local office and to identify those persons attempting to influence the outcome of elections in Kansas. ([Attachment 1](#))

Senator Jean Schodorf testified in favor of the bill. She believed that this bill would provide increased transparency for voters when they are barraged by unknown groups who spend thousands of dollars in Kansas elections. ([Attachment 2](#))

Carol Jacobson, Co-Chair for Voter Services, League of Women Voters of Kansas, spoke in favor of the bill and expressed concern over special interest groups' dollars influencing elections. This would be a step towards greater transparency in campaign electioneering. ([Attachment 3](#))

Written testimony in support of **SB 31** was submitted by David W. Peterson, Lenexa, Kansas ([Attachment 4](#))

Written testimony in opposition of **SB 31** was submitted by Jordan Austin, Kansas State Lobbyist, Nation Rifle Association of America ([Attachment 5](#)); Derrick Sontag, Kansas State Director, Americans for Prosperity ([Attachment 6](#)); Jeff Glendening, Vice President of Political Affairs, The Kansas Chamber ([Attachment 7](#))

There being no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 67 - Gubernatorial inauguration donations; disposition of residual monies**. Staff explained that SB 67 would allow gubernatorial inaugural funds not obligated to pay expenses to be donated to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Governor Sam Brownback submitted written testimony in support of the bill. There was no other testimony. ([Attachment 8](#))

There being no further testimony, the Chairman closed the hearing.

The Chairman opened the hearing for **SB 66 - Elections; campaign finance; public service advertisements near elections; civil fine**. Senator Schmidt requested that the Committee not act upon **SB 66** and proceed to **SB 126**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:35 a.m. on February 9, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

There being no discussion, the Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 126 - Elections; campaign finance; public service ads by candidates restricted**. Staff explained that SB 126 would prohibit a candidate from appearing in a public service announcement (PSA) or advertisement or use of the candidate's name in a PSA or advertisement during the 60 days before any election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot.

Kansas State Treasurer Ron Estes testified in support of **SB 66**. He believed that public service announcements are intended to educate Kansans on available state programs to help serve their interests, not to serve as a free campaign commercial for a candidate before an election. (Attachment 9)

There being no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for appearing before the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2011

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.