



Fred Sherman

Election Commissioner

COUNTY ELECTION OFFICIAL

Each of the 105 counties in Kansas has a county election officer responsible for conducting all official elections held in the county.

In the four largest counties – Johnson (JO), Sedgwick (SG), Shawnee (SN) and Wyandotte (WY) - the election officer is the election commissioner, appointed by the secretary of state.

For the other 101 counties the election officer is the county clerk, elected by the voters in the county.

K.S.A. 19-3419. Counties over 130,000; appointment, term, removal; vacancies; qualifications, oath. In counties of this state having a population exceeding 130,000, there shall be an office of commissioner of elections, which shall be administered by an election commissioner. The election commissioner shall be appointed by the secretary of state and shall hold office for a term of four years and until a successor is appointed and qualified. The secretary of state may remove the election commissioner for official misconduct. Upon occurrence of a vacancy in the office of county election commissioner, the secretary of state shall appoint a successor. If the vacancy occurs before the expiration of a term of office, the appointment shall be for the unexpired term. Such election commissioner shall have been a qualified elector and a resident of the county at least two years prior to appointment. Within 10 days after receiving official notice of the appointment and before entering upon the duties of the office, the election commissioner shall take, subscribe and cause to be filed in the office of the secretary of state an oath of office for the faithful discharge of official duties.

JO CO ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

- Evelyn L. Snyder 1954 - 1958
- Marvin E. Rainey 1958 - 1962
- C. Willard Cook, Sr. 1962 - 1974
- Milford Grassberger 1974 - 1982
- E. Lee Alt 1982 - 1986
- Elgia Stevenson 1986 - 1995
- Connie J. Schmidt 1995 - 2004
- Brian D. Newby 2005 - 2016
- Ronnie Metsker 2016 - 2019
- Connie J. Schmidt 2020 - 2021
- Frederick L. Sherman 2021 - current

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS IN KANSAS

- Operate under the general supervision of the secretary of state
- Following the county's personnel policies, purchasing policies, budgeting & auditing policies
- Shall submit to the board of county commissioners a requested budget

K.S.A. 19-3424. POWERS, AUTHORITY AND DUTIES; SECRETARY OF STATE, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AUTHORITY; WARD AND PRECINCT BOUNDARIES; NOTICES OF ELECTIONS; PRINTING BALLOTS; ELECTION CONTESTS; BUDGET.

(a) The election commissioner, in the conduct of elections, shall operate under the general supervision of the secretary of state and shall comply with the statutes, rules and regulations and standards and directives that relate to the registration of voters and the conduct of elections.

K.S.A. 19-3424. POWERS, AUTHORITY AND DUTIES; SECRETARY OF STATE, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AUTHORITY; WARD AND PRECINCT BOUNDARIES; NOTICES OF ELECTIONS; PRINTING BALLOTS; ELECTION CONTESTS; BUDGET.

(b) In the administration of the office of the election commissioner, any action taken by the election commissioner shall be subject to the following provisions established by the board of county commissioners applicable to all county departments, agencies and officials:

- (1) Personnel policies and procedures;
- (2) any pay plan, compensation plan and benefits for county employees;
- (3) purchasing policies and procedures;
- (4) budgeting policies and procedures;
- (5) financial policies and procedures; and
- (6) auditing policies and procedures.

K.S.A. 19-3424. POWERS, AUTHORITY AND DUTIES; SECRETARY OF STATE, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AUTHORITY; WARD AND PRECINCT BOUNDARIES; NOTICES OF ELECTIONS; PRINTING BALLOTS; ELECTION CONTESTS; BUDGET.

(c) Each year, consistent with the county's budgeting procedures, the election commissioner shall submit to the board of county commissioners a requested budget for the office of the election commissioner showing the amount of funding deemed necessary to pay the costs for salaries of the election commissioner, any deputy or assistant election commissioners, and other employees of the office, together with the projected costs and expenses of the office for the next ensuing budget year. The board of county commissioners shall consider the request in the same manner as other departments and agencies of the county and shall approve and adopt a budget for the office of election commissioner within the county budget in an amount determined by the board of county commissioners to be sufficient and adequate for the performance of the duties of the office and the conduct of elections as required by law.