



"Connecting Elected Officials throughout the state."

Connection

Vote No Shawnee County Campaign a Huge Success

By Steve Kearney, KCOA Executive Vice President

Congratulations KCOA for a major victory not only in Shawnee County, but in counties all across the state! As you are well aware the Shawnee County Commissioners placed a question on the ballot asking Shawnee County voters to decide if the office of County Treasurer should be appointed. **Overwhelmingly the answer was No!**

The campaign began a month before elections with the momentum building each week. All forms of communication were used throughout this campaign to make it a huge success. Facebook and YouTube proved to be very effective in terms of spreading our message and giving a central location for the public to gather information following presentations in the community. Several community presentations were given to

educate groups on the ballot question and what it would mean for Shawnee County. All of these efforts earned an endorsement in the conservative voter guide issued to conservative Republicans in the county. In the end because of radio, local news coverage, newspaper editorials, Facebook, YouTube, and public presentations, the KCOA won with more than 70 percent of the vote.

Thank you to all of you for your hard work and support of this campaign. This would not have been possible without the support of the membership of the KCOA. A powerful message was sent out across the state when KCOA stood up together for our mission.

For information on the general election results and what this means for KCOA, see page 4.

Inside this Issue

Vote No Campaign
Page 1

President's Message
Page 1-2

Affiliate News
Page 2-3

Conference Dates
Page 3

KCOA Board of Directors
Page 3

Other News
Page 4

Kansas County Officials Association

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The Kansas County Officials Association is committed to upholding democratic principles which allow Kansans to determine their constitutional right of self-governance including the election of all local officials.

President's Message

By Marilyn Nichols, KCOA President

Fellow County Officials,

We have hit the ground running as they say, at KCOA! Right off the top of primary concern was the issue of retaining an elected Shawnee County Treasurer. Our Outreach Committee did an excellent job getting the word out to our members and beyond. Good job Missie and Pat! Not only that, but the contributions to the Defense Fund really made a difference in what we could do in

the media to get the voters to see it our way and vote "NO!" Our name is out there my friends, and it is a viable force to be reckoned with in Shawnee County and beyond. That is what the defense fund is really all about: helping wherever we need to be in Kansas.

How can I tell you how proud I am to be serving as the KCOA President? Cheryl left

continued on page 2

President's Message

continued from page 1

a hefty goal of superiority in service when she left. I can only strive to do as well as she did. I promise you that I will serve to the best of my ability. Being the Shawnee County Register of Deeds, the President of the Kansas Register of Deeds Association, and KCOA President for 2011, makes it imperative that I know and recognize our requirement to work together for the good of us all in Kansas, alongside my fellow Registers, Clerks, Treasurers, Sheriffs and yes, Commissioners, who are all government representatives at the local level, all elected, and all serving our counties the best we can. I will work hard to preserve the democratic principles which allow Kansans their rights of self governance including the election of ALL local officials. As long as I am serving as an elected official, those in Shawnee County, and all of Kansas, will know where I stand on these kinds of issues.

If you have a concern, a complaint, or even a praise for KCOA, please contact me, and I will be glad to carry your message to the organization and to Kearney and Associates. I look forward to an active year with a spirit of cooperation among us all, and a tremendous convention in 2011!

If you are contacted to serve on a committee, please say yes. We need you all involved to make a continued success of KCOA. That means all of us, my friends, and all of us together!

Respectfully,

Marilyn L. Nichols, KCOA President

Shawnee County Register of Deeds

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Affiliate News

Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Assn.

{digs out from under a pile of election and tax stuff and waves} Hello fellow Clerks and Election Officials!

So....what'cha been doin'?

As you're all aware, we've just completed one of the most stressful and time-consuming periods in the year—General Election, mill levies, and taxes. Oh, my.

It was another successful election season throughout Kansas with ballots chock full of everything from National, State, County, and Township offices, to judicial retention/election and consideration of two amendments to the Kansas Constitution. Also, many counties had local questions ranging from sales tax proposals for various needs, questions on how many members a local city council should have, and, of course, the question from Shawnee County to eliminate the elected office of County Treasurer, just to name a few.

It was such a full ballot that several counties faced the dilemma of fitting everything onto one page. Some counties went to a longer ballot to keep it all on one front and back sheet, while others considered going to a two-page ballot.

Thanks to HAVA funding, quite a few counties rolled out electronic poll books for the first time this year. We used them in Bourbon County, and despite some initial reluctance from some of my older board workers, they were a hit. It also made the end of day a lot easier to balance out the number of voters to the number of ballots in the can. Not to mention the trees I saved!

Another popular HAVA purchase was for Counties to program their own elections and style their own ballots. Several counties have taken advantage of this money-saving item, and I think it's quite a hit! Not only does it mean you have local control of your election, but it also eliminates the worry of when you'll receive your data cards from a vendor. If you have the opportunity, you should really consider it.

Voter turnout was pretty decent for a mid-term election, with about 48.5% statewide. Local races certainly upped those numbers in different areas. Advance voting still continues to be on the rise.

The other thing that has taken up our time in October/November is setting levies and preparing taxes. There's not really a whole lot to say about that. Same stuff, different year.

Once we get our November Abstracts completed and released, I say we beat street to a warmer climate for a well-deserved vacation!

Best of luck to you all for the remainder of 2010, and I'll see you in Salina for the Spring 2011 KCC&EOA Conference.
Joanne Long, *KCCEOA Secretary & KCOA Vice President*

Kansas Register of Deeds Assn.

The Kansas Register of Deeds Association is busy getting our committees organized and working on legislative issues for the 2011 session. We are always busy with new kinds of documents to talk over and decide how to be consistent in our responses across the state no matter what county office the customer may be dealing with. Our communication system gets better and better with every year that passes, and that is a good thing!

While we have personal issues with family, friends, and deputies, we can always count on each other for support and prayers. Since we are becoming more cohesive with KCOA, our base of support is even broader. We look forward to working together for the upcoming events that concern us all!

Marilyn L. Nichols, *KSRODS President*

Affiliate News

Kansas County Treasurers Assn.

The Kansas County Treasurers Association elected officers for 2011 at the KCOA Conference held September 15-17, in Wichita. New officers include:

- President - Joe Grisolano, Crawford County
- Vice President - Pat Sharp, Lane County
- Treasurer - Linda Weber, Marshall County
- Secretary - Gloria Auchard, Morris County

District Representatives on the KCTA Board are (SE) Gayla Shields, Miami County; (SW) Lark Speer, Scott County; and (NC) Brenda Becker, McPherson County. Nancy Weeks, Haskell County was again elected KCTA Legislative Committee Chairperson and Cindy Linner, Norton County will serve the Committee as Secretary.

The past year has been a very busy one for KCTA. Our Legislative Conference and Reception was held last February in Topeka. The Legislative Committee was successful in getting new legislation passed during the Kansas Legislative Session. Our June Conference was held in Junction City where Marshall County Treasurer Linda Weber received the "Betty

McBride Outstanding County Treasurer Award." Several Treasurers were also involved in KCOA's efforts with the Shawnee County ballot question.

2011 is shaping up to be a busy year. With limited funding, Treasurers across the state will face many challenges to maintain the high level of customer service and professionalism the citizens of Kansas deserve and expect. The Legislative Committee has at least two important bills that we will introduce in the upcoming Legislative Session. The Certification Committee has signed a new contract with the Docking Institute at Fort Hays to provide exciting new educational opportunities for all Treasurers and their employees, including our first online class offerings. Finally, all Treasurers are anticipating the implementation of the new DMVS "Motor Vehicle Software Program" that is scheduled to be implemented statewide July 5, 2011. All Motor Vehicle personnel will need to be trained to operate the new system by that date.

All Kansas County Treasurers look forward to a busy and productive year serving our citizens.

Joe Grisolano, *KCTA President*

Annual KCOA Conferences

September 14-16, 2011
Wichita Hilton

September 12-14, 2012
Hyatt Regency Wichita

Watch for more information at:
www.kscountyofficials.org

KCOA Board of Directors

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| <i>Joanne Long, Vice-President</i> Bourbon County countyclerk@bourboncountysks.org | <i>Diane Gentry, Secretary-Treasurer</i> Greeley County gl_county_treasurer@wan.kdor.state.ks.us |
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Board Members

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Joe Grisolano Crawford County | Janet Rumpel Sherman County |
| Delia Heston Jefferson County | Mark Schemm Smith County |
| Susan Hubbell Kingman County | Nancy Weeks Haskell County |
| Don Merriman Saline County | Donna Zimmerman Barton County |
| Brenda Pogue Ford County | Cheryl Remington, <i>Past President</i> Gove County |

KCOA Staff

| |
|--|
| Steve Kearney <i>Executive Vice President</i> |
| Patrick Vogelsberg <i>Associate</i> |
| Kellie Kearney <i>Chief Financial Officer</i> |
| Kari Presley <i>Director of Membership</i> |
| Leisa Shepherd <i>Executive Assistant</i> |

Other News

2010 General Election Results

By Steve Kearney, KCOA Executive Vice President

Statewide and Congressional Races

Kansas for the first time in decades (1964) had a Republican clean sweep of all statewide and congressional offices. The Governor Elect is United States Senator Sam Brownback and Attorney General Elect is Kansas Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt. The Governor's seat was an open race with Brownback winning by a two to one margin. The Attorney General's office was held by an appointed incumbent Democrat that was defeated by Senator Schmidt with more than 100,000 votes. Also appointed to fill unexpired terms, both the incumbent State Treasurer and Secretary of State were defeated handily by Ron Estes and Kris Kobach respectively.

All four U.S. Congressional seats and the U.S. Senate seats are now Republican with State Senator Tim Huelskamp winning the big 1st district, former State Senator and now second term Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins retaining her seat in the 2nd District, State Representative Kevin Yoder winning the 3rd District seat returning it to Republican hands, and newcomer Mike Pompeo winning the 4th District seat vacated by Congressman Todd Tiahrt in his unsuccessful primary bid against Jerry Moran for the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. Senate election saw ever popular candidate Congressman, now Senator elect Jerry Moran prevail in a landslide victory in a race that was called by a national news organization with the polls having barely closed.

The Kansas Statehouse

The Kansas House went even more Republican Tuesday night with Democrat incumbents losing 14 seats and Democrats failing to maintain Democratic representation in two others. The winnowing of the Democrat minority in the House, which was at 49 the past two years now shrinks to 33 votes. That means a 92 – 33 Republican to Democrat margin in the 125 member House. Not since 1953 has the House been this Republican.

While the Kansas Senate was not up for election this cycle, there were two Senators appointed midterm that were standing for election. Both prevailed and did not change the make up of the Senate balance of power which remains at 31 Republicans and 9 Democrats.

Worthy of note, three vacant seats will occur in the Kansas Senate in January as State Senator Derek Schmidt moves to Attorney General, State Senator Jeff Colyer to Lt. Governor and State Senator Tim Huelskamp takes his seat in the US Congress. Speculation is all three of those seats will be filled with current or former House members.

The one key office in the Senate that will open up is that of

Majority Leader, once again as a result of Senator Schmidt vacating for the Attorney General's office. Conventional wisdom has current Ways and Means Chair, Senator Jay Emler, being elected to fill that role.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

Personnel

First, in terms of personnel, a new Administration typically will go as wide and deep as possible into the prior Administration's ranks to remove those individuals who are not like minded in the direction they want state government to go and how that needs to be accomplished. Agency heads, their deputies, and their legal counsel who have been instrumental in carrying forward a prior Administration's policies are likely candidates for replacement. Such positions may take a few months to fill as the new Administration finds its bearings.

Office of the Repealer

The Governor Elect intends to establish an "Office of the Repealer." The intention, however ominous sounding the title, is that team will review all statutes and particularly the regulations implementing them and repeal anything that gets in the way of the efficient delivery of government or doing business in Kansas.

I would recommend that once the office is established, organizations be prepared to present to the team a list of regulations, that should be repealed or changed that are unduly burdensome and do not have legitimate public health, safety, or welfare concerns. This may be the opportunity of the decade to help government progress in Kansas.

Reorganization

The possibility exists that the incoming Administration will by Executive Order split, abolish, combine, or more closely align agencies and departments in like areas of responsibility into other entities. More to follow on that topic as it matures, but this possibility should be weighed in terms of what impact it might have.

Budget

The new Administration will have to present a budget to the Legislature shortly after assuming office in the most difficult budget times Kansas has experienced in decades. The transition team will likely be working to prepare a budget to address the almost half a billion dollar shortfall and loss of ARRA dollars from the Feds to meet that deadline.

Continue to check our website www.kscountyofficials.org for more legislative news after the session starts in 2011. It should be an interesting year.