



ELECTION REFLECTION

Johnson County Election Office

Winter 2006 - 2007

Issue No. 7

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Telephone: 913-782-3441
 Fax: 913-791-1753
 Web site:
www.jocoelection.org
 Email:
election@jocoelection.org
 Address:
 2101 E Kansas City Rd
 Olathe, KS 66061

Commissioner

Brian D. Newby

Election Office Staff

Jackie Boos
 Karen Browning
 Diane Burnett
 Tom Freeman
 Sarah Horn
 Karen Jackson
 Jennifer Landoll
 Marilyn Murphy
 Jeanie Nichols
 Tom Ray
 Sheryl Roederer
 Kathy Spann
 Debbie Tyrrel
 Peggy Werth

Please Mark Your
2007 - 2008 Calendars now!

Election Dates

February 27, 2007 -
Spring Primary Election

April 3, 2007 -
Spring General Election

February 26, 2008 -
Spring Primary Election
(if needed)

April 1, 2008 -
Spring General Election

August 5, 2008 -
Fall Primary Election

November 4, 2008 -
Fall General Election

FROM THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER



One of my favorite strategic imperatives throughout my career has been to create Pinnacles of Success.

These pinnacles are the things we want to hold out as our best characteristics, the things we do better than anyone else, and the cornerstones of our success.....the crown jewels, so to speak.

In the book *Good to Great*, author Jim Collins talks of a high school track team that has enjoyed sustained success winning relay races, year after year. The teams were successful because they focused on a specific success factor—they were the best at the fourth and final leg of the relay.

"We run best at the end," they said.

That fourth and final leg of the relays was a Pinnacle of Success for the track teams, and they leveraged that characteristic for overall success.

At the Johnson County Election Office, our election operations have received national recognition, including last year's award of the 2006 Best Practice by Election Center for our election notification systems.

But our true Pinnacle of Success, our defining characteristic, is the strength of our election workers.

We have high expectations of our election workers, and we are blessed to have a group of election workers who can be held up as Best in Class against any group of election workers anywhere.

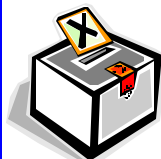
Our workers are diverse. Many are retirees who have built and led successful businesses. Others spent devoted years raising families and contributing service to our community. We have former teachers and academics working our polls.

Hundreds of election workers step out of their day job to work for us on election day. And, last November, our election-day workforce included 173 high-school students, themselves high achievers and the future leaders of our community.

To say it takes a village to run an election is an understatement. And, in Johnson County, our election workers could build a village.

We rely on your strengths, your devotion to our voters, and your commitment to be Best in Class. A lot of things come together to bring a perfect election, but on election day it all comes down to you.

You are the final leg in the relay race, and in Johnson County, like the high school track team in *Good to Great*, thanks to you we run best at the end.



February 27, 2007 - Primary
April 3, 2007 - General

Both Spring Elections are Full County

See page 2 for Training Information and Dates



If an Election Worker Availability Form for 2007
is enclosed, we have not heard from you!

Please Complete and Return - ASAP

3 Ways to Vote In Johnson County

Option 1 - Advance Voting in Person

You can save time and taxpayer money by voting in person in advance. Choose from the Election Office or a Satellite site for your convenience:

Advance voting begins 1 week prior to Election Day for Spring Elections and 2 weeks prior to Election Day for Fall Elections.

Johnson County Election Office

2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe

Spring Elections -

Monday - Friday -

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturdays -

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Advance Voting in Person ends 12:00 noon Monday prior to Election Day

Satellite Offices

- to be announced

Option 2 - Advance Voting by Mail

To vote in advance by mail, you must complete an application for an advance voting ballot and mail or fax it to the Election Office. You must submit a separate application for each election.

Applications are available at the Election Office, city halls, public libraries, and on our Web site. Your completed application must be received at the Election Office before 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to Election Day. Submit your application early to avoid delays.

Option 3 - Vote on Election Day at your Polling Site

The polling places in Johnson County are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Every four years (for Presidential elections) polling places open earlier - at 6 a.m. To find your polling place or your sample ballot visit us at www.jocoelection.org.

Election Day Polling Places can change with every election.

Share the 3 Ways to Vote!

Election Workers

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is April 15-21, 2007. Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, National Volunteer Week is about thanking one of America's most valuable assets - our volunteers - and calling the public's attention to all that they do to improve our communities.

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Since then, every U.S. President has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week. Additionally, governors, mayors and other elected officials make public statements and sign proclamations in support of National Volunteer Week.



Volunteer Center of Johnson County

Have you found yourself with a little more time on your hands? The Volunteer Center of Johnson County might have an answer for you.

The Volunteer Center partners with local non-profit, healthcare and government agencies to assist them in recruiting volunteers. The Volunteer Center can match you to an agency that could use your help. Volunteer opportunities are available throughout Johnson County.

Please share your expertise or even learn a new skill. To find the opportunity that is right for you, call the Volunteer Center at 913-341-1792. You'll be glad you did.

Training Dates – 2007

Due to the expected turnout in both the Spring Primary and General Elections fewer Polling Places will be needed as many precincts will be combined.

February 27, 2007 Primary Election:

Refresher Election worker training - OP Church of Christ, 13400 W 119th St:

- February 17th – 9 a.m. - Noon

Training at the Election Office will be:

- February 13th – 9 a.m. – Noon
- February 15th – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Mandatory Supervising Judge Meetings:

- February 24th or February 25th: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

April 3, 2007 General Election:

Election worker training:

- to be announced

Mandatory Supervising Judge Meetings:

- March 31st or April 1st – to be announced

Practice Makes Perfect sessions:

Lenexa Community Center, 13420 Oak St, Lenexa:

- March 29th – 31st – Noon – 4 p.m.

All scheduled election workers will be notified of exact dates, times and locations as they become final. Please watch the Web site, Election Worker News for any updates.

November 7, 2006 - Statistics

With almost 55% of voters participating, Johnson County had its best November gubernatorial turnout in 16 years. Some facts for you to ponder:

- Registered voters - 342,688
- Total Ballots counted - 187,379
- Polling Places - 266 serving 432 precincts
- Total number of machines used - 1,131
- Total number of staff for the election - 1,523
- Phone calls answered at Election Office Nov 6-7 - 7,668
- Busiest Polls on Election Day -

Central Church of the Nazarene	1,372	Westside Family Church	1,136
Old Shawnee Town Hall	1,186	Shawnee Civic Centre	1,052
Sacred Heart of Jesus	1,176	Cure of Ars Church	1,049
Knox United Presbyterian Church	1,137	Presbyterian Church of Stanley	1,024

Retirement



On January 26, 2007 we bid farewell to Gloria Barnhart, Assistant Election Commissioner. Gloria retired from the Johnson County Election Office after approximately 15 years of service.

“Johnson County’s voters truly benefited from all Gloria gave to them,” Election Commissioner Brian Newby said. “She approached every aspect of her job with voters’ best interests at heart, and that was why her contributions were so impactful.”

Her expertise, professionalism and pleasant personality will be missed by all. We are extremely grateful for her dedication and contributions to the election processes. Gloria plans to continue to give of herself to the community.

“My work here is done. I now choose to work in the community on various endeavors and will join colleagues in opportunities to utilize my skills, knowledge and experience for elections as I work to continue to serve the election process nationwide,” she said.

Gloria asked to have her home email address published for anyone wishing to contact her: gloriabarnhart@kc.rr.com or you may reach her via US Postal Service at 8913 Country Hill Court, Lenexa, KS 66215.

We thank Gloria for being a part of our lives and wish her the utmost of successes in all of her future aspirations.

Recruitment Clubs



Passing the Torch

We need our existing group of election workers to consider the future. Please ask your family members to become involved in the tradition of working the elections, to protect democracy in action. Sign up your adult children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Please join our “Torch Club” and “Pass the Torch” to the next generation. This does NOT mean you have to retire!!! It is simply a recruiting program to get more people involved. Keep the torch lit!

Star Catchers

This program is a referral recruitment tool to sign on new election workers from leads that you give us. We have had a great response. Thank you, keep up the good work and refer your friends and neighbors.

Please call our Election Worker Team at 913-782-3441.

Senate Bill 479 2004 Legislation

Senate Bill 479 passed in 2004 and states:

County Election Officers are required to provide instruction to election board judges and clerks before each election.

This means Poll Worker Training is required and is more uniform across the state than ever before.

In order for you to work as an Election Worker you must train before each election as instructed by law.



Al Karsten
50 years
of Service

When you join the Election Worker Team you get involved in your community.

Al Karsten started as an Election Worker in 1957. In the beginning Al and his wife Dottie worked at Prairie Village sites. In those days when the polls closed the election workers spent hours then hand tallying marks for each candidate.

He and Dottie have seen a lot of changes in the voting process. Now after moving to the Lenexa area he has given up being a Supervising Judge but still enjoys greeting the voters at the Registration Table.

Student Election Workers

On July 1, 2000 a law went into effect in Kansas with the hope that it would provide for a greater awareness of the election process, the rights and responsibilities of voters, and the importance of participating in the electoral process. This law was designed for students and to help election officials fill positions at the polling place on Election Day.

The Student Election Worker Program provides a student of at least 16 years of age at the time of the election the opportunity to participate in government, serve their community, and learn about the electoral process.

In Johnson County, all area high schools are invited to participate in this program. We were very fortunate to have 173 students working with us on November 7, 2006.

Our thanks go out to all of the students who worked the process. Your commitment was appreciated and welcomed.

Participating High Schools November 7, 2006

Home Schooled - 2	Olathe East - 5
Blue Valley - 5	Olathe North - 3
Blue Valley Northwest - 27	Olathe South - 19
De Soto - 8	Shawnee Mission East - 34
Gardner Edgerton - 4	Shawnee Mission North - 9
Maranatha Academy - 1	Shawnee Mission Northwest - 8
Mill Valley - 11	Shawnee Mission West - 37

Thank you

Polling Places are Subject to Change in Every Election

Johnson County does not own or operate the majority of the buildings utilized as polling places. We rely on community support to provide most of the locations we use.

How are Polling Places Selected?

The following criteria are always considered; however, not always obtainable:

Availability

Permission from property owner
Limited cost to the taxpayers

Capacity

Size of the room being used
Access to voting area
Parking

Proximity

Location within reason



How are Polling Places Assigned?

The number of registered voters in a precinct/voting area determines the assignment of an approved polling place that will accommodate the voters based on its capacity and proximity to the area.

Voter turnout fluctuates based on the type of election. Small elections require fewer polling places. Therefore, we consolidate voting areas to reduce the cost to taxpayers. Countywide elections require more polling places. Presidential elections require the most polling places in order to accommodate the increased number of voters.

How Do I Find My Current Polling Place?

Visit the Election Office web site at www.jocoelection.org and click on "Voter Look-Up"

Do You Have a Recommendation?

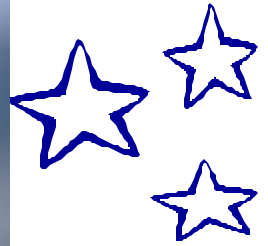
There are numerous polling locations that are no longer available to us. Many voters will be assigned to vote at new locations. Many Election Workers will be assigned to serve at new polling stations instead of their 'usual' location.

As we begin preparations for the Presidential Election of 2008, we are recruiting new facilities to serve as polling stations. If you are aware of a location that may be suitable, please do not hesitate to recommend it to us. We will gladly make contact to determine feasibility. Let your voice be heard...we need your help!

Cancellations

An extensive amount of time is dedicated to the assignment of election workers for every election. We must follow numerous guidelines in order to properly staff the polling stations. We utilize the information you provide us in the yearly 'Availability Questionnaire' in attempting to create the proper balance for each location.

Regardless, every election results in the cancellation of numerous election workers. Per election, we regularly experience an average of 100+ workers who are unable to fulfill their commitment to us and therefore must cancel for whatever reason. Every effort is made to replace those workers, which is not always possible, leaving some polling stations understaffed and overworked. We certainly understand and respect the fact that you may need to cancel for a very legitimate reason. Please be thoughtful of your fellow board workers and cancel **only** if absolutely necessary.



Adopt a Polling Place Fund Raiser

Are you a member of an organization that is looking for a great way to raise funds?

Our Adopt-A-Polling Place Program or Share a Day's Pay is an excellent solution! Members of the organization sign up to work the polls on election day. They then donate their earnings directly to their favorite charity or fund raising campaign.

This is a win-win situation as it brings us new Election Workers and makes good money for "the cause." This program can benefit ANY organization or group that wishes to strengthen its financial status for future events or wishing to raise funds to pay off existing debts:

Bridge Clubs, Scouts, School Groups, Church Groups, Sodalities, Fraternities/Sororities, Sports Clubs, Music Groups/Choirs, PTA's, and many more.

We will be happy to send you all the information you need to answer your questions and get your group started. Call today!! Our office phone number is 913-782-3441.



Priorities & Commitments

Life takes a lot of twists and turns on all of us. We need each of you on Election Day. Several hundred voters in your polling location depend on you to help them vote on that day.

We ask that if you make a commitment to work on an Election Day, it will take priority when other tempting opportunities arise. Please be considerate of your fellow workers.

We do need you....
and we thank each one of you
for your dedication and reliability.