



ELECTION REFLECTION

Johnson County Election Office

Winter 2008 - 2009

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From the Election Commissioner - Brian D. Newby

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Please Mark Your
 2009 Calendars now!

Election Dates

March 3, 2009 -
 Spring Primary Election
 (if needed)

April 7, 2009 -
 Spring General Election
 (Full County—Definite)

Spring Training
 Information and
 Dates, page 2

2008's presidential election will be remembered for many things, but in Johnson County, the election marked an incredible inflection point.

Election night totals showed a little more than half of those voting did so in advance.

That was significant, but by itself was not uncommon. Advance voters outnumbered voters at the polls in nearby Sedgwick County (Wichita) and in Memphis and Nashville, as well as some other communities.

But what made this a watershed moment for Johnson County was that we had a higher overall turnout than nearly every large community in the country. We had a record total number of voters and an overall turnout of greater than **78** percent.

Communities with high advance voting percentages generally had low turnout on election day. But not in Johnson County, where more than 285,000 voters were nearly evenly split between advance voting and election day.

All told, that's a record turnout, one of the nation's highest voter participation rates, AND half of the voters taking advantage of the convenience of advance voting.

So, what does that mean?

First, this validates a business approach we took to actively manage the election by the numbers. We set out a stretch objective of getting half of our voters to vote in advance, designed our outreach efforts around advance voting, and we monitored the effectiveness of the outreach daily.

But the second wave, where you and 2,000 other election workers swept in on election day, took this election from a promising start to a glorious finish.

Your commitment resulted in tremendous efficiency. Reports came in from throughout the county of short to relatively modest lines. Complaints from voters were noticeably down from previous large elections.

And, after all of the focus we placed on managing voters who came to the wrong polling place, the outreach and your fine work resulted in **less than one-half of one percent** of all voters casting a provisional ballot in a polling place other than their assigned location.

In an election where we measured turnout in the tens of thousands, less than eight hundred voters cast ballots at the wrong polling place.

That metric is why we focused on advance voting. I often said that advance voting helps ensure the best possible experience for those who vote on election day. And there is no doubt you delivered a terrific experience.

Such excellence leads to considerable pride.

I'm proud of our full-time staff members who essentially checked out of life for a few months to devote themselves to this election.

I'm proud to be part of a community that sees democracy as something to be celebrated, and am thankful for the efforts of so many part-time employees who were the unsung heroes of the election. The persons who staffed the advance voting locations and those who processed more than 50,000 advance mail ballots provided a great foundation to this election.

Of course, I'm proud of what you accomplished and for presenting an image of our office that we all aspire to maintain.

With more than 2,000 working this election, I can't thank each of you personally. But worse than not recognizing you for your work, I'm constantly concerned that I may simply not recognize you in passing at the mall, the airport, the movie theaters, or any other location where our busy paths may cross.

So, if you see me first, please give me a shout-out of "Democracy Possel!", the louder the better. It will ensure I say hello, embarrass anyone around us, and call attention to the great work you have done for our office and for our voters.

And, like all great posses, I hope you will be riding with us through the next few elections and on into the next big one in 2012.

With all my gratitude,

★ Three Ways to Vote in Johnson County

- Option 1 -**
Advance Vote in Person
- Option 2 -**
Advance Vote by Mail
- Option 3 -**
Vote on Election Day at your Polling Place
- Election Day Polling Places can change with every election.**

Volunteers Needed

If you like meeting people and supporting your community, the Downtown Overland Park Partnership could use your assistance. Help to build a sense of community and pride by signing up to volunteer at a downtown Overland Park event. It's a wonderful day in the neighborhood, and you can help make it better.

If general administrative office work is your cup of tea, there is a place for you too. Part-time volunteers to work in the office are always welcome.

Please contact their office at 913-642-2222 if you're interested in doing some community service. Their web site is www.downtownop.org.

Contact: Kate Maricle
Director of Events & Operations

★ New Election Workers

August 2008 — 562 ☆

November 2008 — 669 ☆

Thank you for all your recruits, you made a big difference!

Please check the back of your 2009 Availability Form for Part-Time Support Staff opportunities

Election Workers

Accurate and Effective Election Worker Training

Kansas Senate Bill 479, passed in 2004, states:

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

Election Worker Training is required and more uniform across Kansas than ever before.

Election Workers today have more duties and more complexity in those duties. Many of these changes were brought about by the Help America Vote Act passed by Congress.

Supervising Judges are also required to attend a mandatory meeting on the weekend before every election.

November 4, 2008 Milestones

- Registered Voters **364,441**
- Advance Voters by Mail **51,303**
- 4 Advance Voting Locations **86,020**
- Polling Place Voters **142,398**
- Provisional Voters **5,280**
- Voter Turnout - **78 percent**
- **284** Polling Locations
- **1979** Election Workers on 11/04/08
238 Students (included)
- **2045** Election Workers Trained
- **293** Election Worker cancellations throughout the assignment process
- **259** Temporary Election Staff
- **16** Full-Time Election Office Staff
- **JoCoPoLo**—introduced, big success

**Thank You...
For making the 2008
Presidential Election a
HUGE success in
Johnson County!**

Training Dates – 2009

March 3, 2009 Primary Election:

(if needed)

Election Worker Training:

Overland Park Church of Christ:

- February 21st, 9 a.m. - Noon - Refresher
- Mandatory Supervising Judge Meeting:
- Election Office:
- February 28th

April 7, 2009 General Election:

Election Worker Training:

Overland Park Church of Christ:

- March 14th, 9 a.m. - Noon - Refresher
- March 21st, 9 a.m. - Noon - Refresher

Mandatory Supervising Judge Meetings:

Election Office:

- April 3rd or 4th

All assigned election workers will be notified of exact dates, times and locations as finalized.

Community Service Time

If you are a high school student in need of work for Community Service Time, please feel free to call at any time to see what might be available, 715-6836.

**Please Complete
The 2009
Election Worker
Availability Form
And Return By
December 31, 2008**