

One of those Moments...  
...common complaints

In an attempt to reduce the amount of Ibuprofen consumed by Election Office staff on Election Days, we are listing the most common complaints we receive from voters regarding their experience at their neighborhood voting location:

- Poor signage...could not find the entrance to the voting location.
- Disorganized set up in the voting area...chaos.
- Confused election workers...didn't know how to do their job...poorly trained.
- Polls not ready to open by 7 a.m.
- Election workers discussing politics or making inappropriate comments about candidates or issues.
- Election workers expressing their own personal opinion or preferences about candidates or issues.
  - Too noisy...loud conversations among the election workers...could not concentrate.
- Election workers talking on cell phones having personal conversations.
- Not enough privacy.
- Went to my voting location and was sent away to the wrong location.
- Campaign signage too close to voting location.
- Rudeness...speaking down to voters.
- Issued the wrong ballot.
- Election workers beginning the closing process before 7 p.m., disrupting the voters attempting to vote.
- Treated gruffly when issued a provisional ballot as if the voter had done something wrong.

Please understand our intent is to educate you, the front line election worker, of voter dissatisfactions so you may improve your performance and better serve the voters of Johnson County.

A huge THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS to all the election workers who can honestly say they have never had any of the above situations at their voting location...and we know there are many! Let's all strive to reduce these types of complaints to zero. Thank you for your efforts.

You are our best Election Worker Recruiters

Seeking—Team 2012

Do you know someone who would be an excellent Election Worker? call - 913-715-6836

Please Return Your 2012  
Election Worker  
Availability Form  
By December 31, 2011



Election Worker  
Assignment Process

Every year the Election Office mails out the Election Worker Availability Questionnaire (one is enclosed with this newsletter). On this questionnaire we ask

which elections you are available to work for the year. We ask if you are available or willing to work at any location throughout Johnson County. We ask if you have special requests or requirements regarding the location of your assignment. This is VERY important information to us as we assign you to work at a polling location.

The assignment process is performed in this manner:

- 1) Special requests or requirements; If not available then -
- 2) Assigned to your home precinct polling place; If not available -
- 3) Assigned to a neighboring polling place; If not available -
- 4) Assigned to a polling place elsewhere in your city; If not available -
- 5) Assigned to a polling place in a neighboring city; If not available -
- 6) Assigned to a polling place in a city within reasonable driving distance (15 miles); Or...
- 7) Assigned to a polling place in need of workers.

Please remember that a request is only a request and is never guaranteed. We make every attempt to accommodate special requests and requirements IF it is available. However, it is not always possible.

Being flexible is the key to everyone's satisfaction.

Thank you for your understanding.



2012 JoCoPolo!!!  
Know before you go!



We are set to begin the educational process of the importance of verifying your Polling Place before heading out the door. Help us spread the word to be informed. Do it.... The JoCo Polo!

[www.JoCoPolo.com](http://www.JoCoPolo.com)  
Save Time. Save Gas.

Johnson County  
Voter Lanes Ahead



Johnson County Election Office  
Serving the public by administering the election process and promoting voter participation.

2101 E. Kansas City Road Olathe, KS 66061  
Internet Address: [www.jocoelection.org](http://www.jocoelection.org) Email Address: [election@jocoelection.org](mailto:election@jocoelection.org)  
Fax: 913.791.1753 Phone: 913.782.3441

ELECTION REFLECTION

Johnson County, Kansas Election Office

Winter 2011 - 2012

Issue No. 12

Serving the public by administering the election process and promoting voter participation.

CONTACT  
INFORMATION

Telephone: 913-782-3441  
Fax: 913-791-1753  
Website: [www.jocoelection.org](http://www.jocoelection.org)  
Email: [election@jocoelection.org](mailto:election@jocoelection.org)  
Address: 2101 E Kansas City Rd Olathe, KS 66061

Election  
Commissioner

Brian D. Newby

Deputy Commissioner  
Debbie Tyrrel

Assistant Commissioners  
Jeanie Nichols  
Tom Ray

Election Office Staff

Jackie Boos  
Alison Collins  
Tom Freeman  
Sarah Horn  
Karen Jackson  
Zach McIntosh  
Sheryl Roederer  
Janette Scobey  
Melanie Shelton  
Gina Shortino  
Kathy Spann  
Jessica White

*Star Wars* fans remember the memorable scene with Luke Skywalker honing in while piloting his X-Wing Fighter to fire a shot into a breadboxed vulnerability, destroying a massive space station.

Young Skywalker hit this target while being on a high-speed space chase, assailed by Darth Vader and other fighter ships. Some of Skywalker's friends and members of the Revolution were hit by enemy fire, and yet he stayed focused.

"Stay on target," he's reminded from another ship. "Stay on target!"

Ultimately, his concentration paid off, Skywalker scored an improbable strike, and the universe was saved—well, at least for about two years before the first *Star Wars* sequel was released.

Eyeing a specific target, the mantra of, "Stay on Target," helped him avoid the distractions of enemy fire and fulfill his mission.

Similarly, we have a mission and a need for focus.

We are entering a presidential election year and, of course, we won't face obstacles as dramatic as Skywalker did. But, we are eyeing our own specific target: a flawless 2012 election cycle.

To that end, the constant cry of, "Stay on Target," will be central to our success in administering elections in 2012.

During election worker training, you will see changes in the procedures for processing voters. Most of these changes will be as a result of the Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act passed in 2011 by the Kansas legislature.

A tremendous amount of thought, time, and planning have gone into the procedural changes we will follow in 2012. In the grand scheme of things, the operational changes really won't be that significant, but they will be new.

I know you may have apprehensions about how any changes will impact your role at the polls. We'll cover that in training and, I believe, get you to a comfort level pretty quickly.

It starts, though, with a simple approach—Stay on Target!

That's the key to building upon the outstanding reputation you and your coworkers in Johnson County have earned over several years. When 2012 concludes, I expect that reputation to be even greater.

Between now and then, look for national media stories that debate not just the candidates but the election process as well. There will be articles questioning voting machines. There will be opinions written regarding identification at the polls. And, likely, you will have voters come in and share these and other opinions—for and against—on election day.

Stay on Target!

Our mission will be successful if we focus as we always do: on administering the election according to the processes in the training manual. Unfazed by distractions, that's what you have done over the last several years since I arrived on the scene and, for some of you long-timers, for many, many years before that.

The job of our staff is to help you stay on target. We're getting ready to do that. Training classes will be upon us before you know it.

And, like Luke Skywalker, your ability to stay on target will result in the universe being saved.

Okay, maybe that's a stretch. But we do know we will have conquered November elections again until our next sequel comes in two years. In the meantime, the universe of Johnson County voters will again have experienced the outstanding election service provided by the best election workers in the country.

If this were *Star Wars*, voters would be feeling, "The Force." In reality, **you** are the Force behind our elections, and for that we are thankful.

Until we meet again, please accept my heartfelt wishes for a terrific New Year and appreciation for all of your service to our county and to our voters. We look forward to seeing you soon to lock in on the target of a successful 2012.



2012 Elections

February 28, 2012  
Primary Election  
(if needed)

April 3, 2012  
General Election  
(Leawood, Mission, Prairie Village,  
Shawnee, Westwood)

August 7, 2012  
Primary Election

November 6, 2012  
General Election  
Presidential

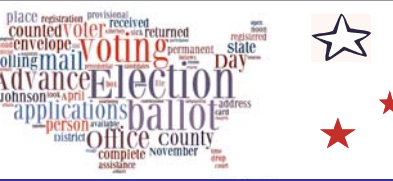
★ What's New? ★

★ Kansas Voter ID Law

Beginning in 2012 every voter must show PHOTO ID when voting at the polls on Election Day.

The following documents may be used as valid photographic identification for purposes of voting in Kansas:

- Driver's license or ID card issued by Kansas or by another state
- United States Passport
- Student ID card from an accredited post-secondary education institution in Kansas
- United States military ID
- Employee badge or identification document issued by a government office
- Concealed carry of handgun license issued by Kansas or by another state
- Public assistance identification card issued by a government office



Supervising Judge Buddy Program

We are always appreciative of the individuals who take on the added responsibilities of Supervising Judge. As we approach the elections of 2012, we are in definite need of additional Supervising Judges. We are blessed with many capable election workers who qualify to supervise a polling location. We need you to step up and offer to serve in this capacity.

In the April election, we will reinstate the training concept of "Supervising Judge Buddy" Program. We will assign a Supervising Judge Trainee to most Supervising Judges in April. For the Fall Elections, the Supervising Judge Trainees will be assigned to supervise their own voting location.

Please seriously consider participating in this well received program... WE NEED YOU!!!!

Simply indicate your desire to 'step up' by circling YES on the 'Election Worker Availability Questionnaire' and become a member of the elite Supervising Judge category of dedicated election workers for Johnson County, Kansas.

Coming in 2013...

Join with Brian as he heads the Johnson County United Way Campaign. We want to be the department that leads the county in 2013 for the best ever campaign in the county, state, country, the WORLD...!

★ Election Workers ★

Refresher Training

The Overland Park Church of Christ (OPCC) at 119th and Pflumm is a wonderful location for our mass Election Worker Refresher classes. It is centrally located in the county.

We ask:

- Please, arrive in plenty of time to park, enter, check-in and find your seat
- Please note, the parking lot fills quickly; carpool when you can
- Please, do not bring food or drink into the auditorium
- Please, block off the full 3 hours and be pleasantly surprised if it takes less time
- Please, do not leave until the Training Session has been completed
- Please, read the Training Manual

High School Student Election Workers

The Johnson County Election Office is very proud to have been involved in the Student Election Worker Program since its inception in the year 2000. Kansas state law allows one student election worker to be assigned to each voting location, allowing them the opportunity to experience the electoral process while assisting election offices across the state to fill vacant positions at polling places.

Twenty-one Johnson County high schools participate on a regular basis; plus we have home-schooled students taking part as well.

As of this last Spring election, we have enlisted a total of 1,507 students participating throughout the county. The number of students varies with every election.

If you have a child or grandchild 16-18 years of age in high school who would be interested in participating, please contact us. Students train and are paid the same as all Election Workers.

High school students in need of time for Community Service, please feel free to call to see what might be available, 715-6836.

**Presidential Election**

**Johnson County Voter - Turnout**

2000 - 69.85%

2004 - 75%

2008 - 78.32%

2012 - ?????

Training Dates – 2012

2012 Spring Elections: Election of City Officials

Leawood, Mission, Prairie Village, Shawnee, Westwood

Primary Election – February 28, 2012 (if needed)

Refresher Training: February 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, OPCC – 9-Noon  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, OPCC – 9-Noon

SJ Meetings: February 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, EO- as needed

General Election – April 3, 2012

Newbie Trainings: March 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday – 9-Noon  
March 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday – 1-4pm

Refresher dates: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday, EO – as needed  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, OPCC- 9-Noon  
\*Exempt\* – February workers

SJ Meetings: March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 1<sup>st</sup>, EO-as needed  
SJ Buddy Mentor program available

2012 Fall Elections: Election of Federal, State and County Officials

Primary Election - August 7, 2012

Newbie Trainings: July 16<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 1-4pm  
July 17<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 9-Noon  
July 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 9-Noon  
July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Monday, 1-4pm

Refresher dates: July 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday, OPCC – 9-Noon, 1-4pm  
July 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, OPCC – 9-Noon, 1-4pm

SJ Meetings: August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunset Building, 9-11am & 1-3pm

General Presidential - November 6, 2012

Newbie Trainings: October 15<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 1-4pm  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 9-Noon  
October 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 9-Noon  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Monday, 1-4pm

Refresher dates: October 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, OPCC- 9-Noon, 1-4pm  
October 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, OPCC- 9-Noon, 1-4pm

SJ Meetings: November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, Sunset Building, 9-11am & 1-3pm

All Dates and Times are subject to change... stay turned!

All assigned Election Workers will be notified by mail or phone call.

NO "on-line training" will be offered due to Presidential year.

Election Workers - Make A Difference

About the Program - Feed the Need

Since 1987, Johnson County has been part of a regional effort coordinated by the Mid-America Regional Council, the Mid-America Assistance Coalition, and Harvesters International.

Since 1988, the employees of Johnson County Government have taken a leadership role in the annual Feed the Need campaign. All donations of food and money benefit ten area food pantries serving eligible Johnson County citizens.

Food Pantries - A food pantry is a non-profit organization which distributes non-perishable goods and perishable food items to non-profit agencies involved in local emergency food programs. Emergency food programs provide immediate hunger relief to individuals and families who are unable to afford food and receive inadequate government financial assistance.

The 10 food pantries include: Blue Valley Multi-Service Center in Overland Park, De Soto Multi-Service Center, Spring Hill Multi-Service Center, North Central Multi-Service Center in Lenexa, Gardner-Edgerton Coordinating Council, Shawnee Community Services, Catholic Community Services in Mission

and Olathe, and Salvation Army and First Christian Church both in Olathe.

Throughout the year, employees from the different county departments and agencies sponsor fund raising events ranging from food drives and chili cook-offs to golf tournaments. The monies raised are received by the Johnson County Charitable Foundation, Inc., a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and in turn, disbursed to the food pantries at the end of year's campaign, ending each July.

Unfortunately, an increased number of Johnson County residents are struggling with basic food requirement. There is a widespread notion that nearly everyone living in Johnson County is well-off, that simply is not the case.

We would like to tap into our Election Workers for help with Feed the Need donations. Make A Difference!

If you would like to give a can good/or item to the pantries, please bring it with you to your next training session.

Your help will be appreciated by many in Johnson County who need assistance.

Thank you!

The JoCo Election Staff

- Front Row: Tom Ray, Debbie Tyrrel, Brian Newby, Jeanie Nichols
- Middle Row: Gina Shortino, Jackie Boos, Kathy Spann, Janette Scobey, Jessica White, Sarah Horn
- Back Row: Karen Jackson, Zach McIntosh, Tom Freeman, Alison Collins, Melanie Shelton, Sheryl Roederer



The Communication question is:

- 1 short, 2 long rings?
- Party line or private?
- Rotary or push button?
- Short or long cord?
- Cordless?
- Beeper?
- Cellular?
- Cyber-space?
- Fax?
- Email?
- Text or Twitter?
- Facebook?
- What's next???



You are needed...



Staying in contact with you is important to us. Let us know the best way for us to contact you.

**The Time is NOW for Social Media!**

You can now use Facebook and Twitter to communicate with us. Become a fan of our Facebook page and tweet with us on Twitter!

facebook.com/jocoelection  
twitter.com/jocoelection

Election Worker Tax FAQ's

- Election Workers are exempt from FICA tax withholding (This includes Social Security and Medicare Taxes) until earnings exceed \$1,500 in a calendar year
- Election Workers are still subject to Federal and State tax withholding
- Every Election Worker has a default withholding status of single and zero dependents
- A W-4 must be filled out to change a withholding status or to request additional taxes withheld
- Anyone wishing to have an "exempt" status must fill out a new W-4 every year
- All other withholding statuses remain in effect until a new W-4 is completed
- W-4 forms are available at the Election Office and will be available at all training sessions
- W-2 forms are mailed at the end of January and will only be mailed to Election Workers who worked the previous year
- Please consult your tax preparer if you have any questions about your withholding status