FROM THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Often, we've either heard a friend or relative say, "Everything happens for a reason." Maybe you have said it. I have. Spiritually, such thoughts help us cope with difficult times and appreciate our good fortune.

I have also come to realize that the most blessed moments are when the "reason" is evident immediately.

It didn't take me long to see that being Election Commissioner is a true gift. I am energized by the terrific and talented staff members we have at the Election Office and am honored to be entrusted to protect the election process, which is truly the foundation of our democratic society.

Mostly, I am fortunate to be able to lock arms with you and 1,500 other election workers to team up and provide the greatest voting experience imaginable.

Johnson Countians have high expectations regarding their community, and their expectations regarding their voting experience are no different. Thanks to you, a recent countywide survey reports that the majority of Johnson Countians are satisfied with the service they receive from the Election Office. In fact, we finished in the top five among all government services in the County!

There are two main reasons for this success: good people and good processes. Thanks to Connie Schmidt, who retired as Election Commissioner in December, we have a foundation of election processes that have given the Johnson County Election Office a national reputation of excellence.

You and your colleagues continue to deliver against that reputation. The world of elections is changing rapidly—new technology, new legislation, and new procedures. That change is so profound that each election barely resembles the one before it.

For instance, this coming August and November will be just the third August—November cycle where we've had touch-screen voting machines. We've only been using the machines for three years, but it's hard to imagine how we could handle elections without them. The machines are just one symbol of how swiftly change is wending through elections.

Johnson Countians are fortunate to have the stability, expertise, and reliability that you bring on election day. We're equally fortunate that so many young people and local organizations want to be involved to help us work the polls on election day.

Clearly, I'm fortunate to be here at this exciting time. With your help, we will continue to build a world-class voting experience for Johnson County....an experience that will be even better in 2025 than it was today in 2005.

Many of you have helped us steer through the changes of the past several years. YOU ARE THE REASON Johnson Countians are satisfied with their election experience. I look forward to sharing the coming elections with you.

Remember To Complete and Return
Election Worker Availability Form for 2006 ASAP
3 Ways to Vote In Johnson County

Advance voting begins 1 week prior to Election Day for Spring Elections and 20 days prior to Election Day for Fall Elections.

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 for your convenience:

Johnson County Election Office
2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe
- Spring Elections — Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Fall Elections — Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Spring and Fall — Saturdays 8 a.m. to 5 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.

The New Commissioner

Brian Newby was appointed Johnson County Election Commissioner by Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh and sworn in Jan. 11, 2005.

Previously, he was a member of the Shawnee City Council from 2002-2005 and served as the chairperson of the Public Works and Safety Committee. He also was a prior chairperson of the city’s Finance and Administration Committee, as well as the city’s representative with the Shawnee Economic Development Council and the Johnson County Stormwater Management Advisory Committee. Nationally, he was a member of several National League of Cities committees, including FAIR (Finance, Administration, and Inter-governmental Relations), CED (Community and Economic Development), First-Tier Suburbs, and the Municipalities in Transition panel on family and communities.

He also has 20 years’ experience in the telecommunications industry. He was vice president—operations for Finity Technologies, a company focused on direct marketing through addressable cable television after working for 19 years at Sprint in operations, sales, public relations, marketing, business development, and strategic planning. His last position at Sprint was director—strategic planning and industry analysis while working as the business division’s planning point person for Sprint’s restructuring as it transformed from separate wireless and wire line divisions to business and consumer divisions.

A Kansas City native, Brian holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, with an emphasis in policy and planning, and a bachelor’s degree in communications studies, with an emphasis in public relations, from the same school. He is a former board member of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. He moved to Johnson County in 1985 and lives in Shawnee with his wife and two children.

In March 2005, Brian was recognized by the National League of Cities Training Institute for the completion of the Bronze Certificate - Leadership Fellow in the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership Program. The presentation was made in Washington, DC at the annual Congressional City Conference.

Senate Bill 479 2004 Legislation

Senate Bill 479 passed last year 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.

Special Election
September 27, 2005

For the first time in 17 years, the Johnson County Election Office was confronted with the challenge of preparing a county wide special election. The challenge was to do this within 9 weeks.

No one had this on the calendar…not us, not the polling places, not the election workers and not the voters.

Only 260 polling places out of 280 were available; 39 precincts had to be changed and voters notified of polling place changes; 992 election workers were found to staff the polling places; 11 election worker training classes were held; 1000 machines were tested and loaded; the moving company was scheduled for delivery and retrieval of equipment; supplies purchased and 520+ supply suitcases filled; ballots printed and proofed; maps were calculated, designed and printed; scheduled 30+ temporary staff; opened the Election Office for ‘Advance Voting’ and in the midst of all of this the staff was taking training classes for the state wide systems conversion.

Thank you…thank you to all who helped in this undertaking. You are the best!
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 also 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...
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.

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 by 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.

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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.

Polling Place Selection

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. Below is a county map showing all polling places.

**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”

Polling Places are subject to change in every election.
Training Dates — 2006

If you plan to work the elections in 2006, please take note of the tentative training schedule for each of the elections.

For the February 28, 2006 City Primary Election: (if needed)
- Election worker training will take place during the first two weeks of February.
- Sessions for ALL Supervising Judges will be on Saturday and Sunday, February 25th—26th.
- ‘Practice Makes Perfect’ sessions will be available the week of February 20th.

For the April 4, 2006 City General Election:
- Election worker training will take place the weeks of March 6th thru March 24th.
- Sessions for ALL Supervising Judges will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 1st—2nd.
- ‘Practice Makes Perfect’ sessions will be available the week of March 27th.

For the August 1, 2006 County Primary Election:
- Election worker training will be conducted from June 26th thru July 21st.
- Sessions for ALL Supervising Judges will be on Saturday and Sunday, July 29th—30th.
- ‘Practice Makes Perfect’ sessions will be available the week of July 24th.

For the November 7, 2006 Gubernatorial General Election:
- Election worker training will be announced by the primary date.
- Sessions for ALL Supervising Judges will be on Saturday and Sunday, October 28th—29th.
- ‘Practice Makes Perfect’ sessions will be available the week of October 30th.

All scheduled election workers will be notified of exact dates, times and locations as they become final.

Live to Vote

Our newest Voter Outreach! The new LIVE TO VOTE bracelets were at Election Worker Training for the 9-27-05 Election. The monies that were collected from Election Workers and Election Office Staff were matched by KCP&L bringing the total donated to the Red Cross - Katrina victims to $2886.30!...Thank you all very much. You will be seeing this little bracelet again at the next training in 2006. Monies donated at that time for a bracelet will be used to further programs to reach eligible voters and to encourage them to VOTE!

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.

Torch Club and Star Catchers — Ground Rules:

1) You refer a new person to us by submitting a name, address and phone number.
   - Torch Club is for referral of family members only
   - Star Catcher Club is for friend referrals
2) We contact the individual, and the individual completes an election worker questionnaire.
3) The individual successfully completes training for the elections.
4) The individual successfully completes an assignment on Election Day.

The next General Election you as the recruiter will receive your Club pin to proudly wear. Our team "Thanks YOU!"

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.