

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:30 a.m. on January 26, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Principal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Principal Analyst, Legislative Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education
Senator Steve Abrams

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 17 - Increasing campaign contribution limits for candidates for the state board of education.** This bill would increase the campaign contribution limit for State Board of Education candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 for each primary or general election. This limit would apply to certain types of contributions. This bill has been introduced at least four times in the past.

Senator Steve Abrams spoke in favor of the bill. He stated that each State School Board district is four times the size of a senate district and it would seem logical that the maximum contribution would be at least double the maximum contribution for a Senate election or even more. (Attachment 1)

Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education, spoke in favor of the bill. In her experience, the cost of one mailing for the State Board race was equivalent to at least seven mailings in her prior campaigns for the House of Representatives. (Attachment 2)

There being no further discussion, the hearing was closed.

The Chairman asked for new bill introductions. Senator Schmidt asked for a bill regarding public service announcements not being on the air sixty days prior to a general election.

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Motion carried.

Senator Schmidt introduced a bill that would allow the public to distinguish between ads that are from a candidate and which ads are issue ads.

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Motion carried.

Senator Kultala asked the Chairman if the Committee could work **SB 17 - Increasing campaign contribution limits for candidates for the state board of education** immediately. There were no objections.

Senator Kelsey moved, seconded by Senator Faust-Goudeau. Motion carried.

The Chairman thanked everyone for appearing before the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

Date: January 26, 2011

[illegible]

STATE OF KANSAS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

Senator Huntington,

I, along with every one of you have had the opportunity to stand before individuals and also to stand before crowds to put forward our ideas and concepts. Over a period of time this could turn out to be quite a large number of people.

We do this for a variety of reasons: perhaps to explain something that was previously said, perhaps to explain why some policy is wrong or perhaps why some new policy is absolutely, positively required.

Whatever the message, there are those individuals that listen, and are absolutely in your camp. They want you to be successful in doing what you are suggesting. To that end, many of these people will give money to help in your campaign for election; they may give \$10, or \$100 or perhaps they have enough that they max out in the amount of money they can contribute.

As much as every one of us appreciates and values the \$10 and \$20 contributions, those individuals that max out are the ones who allow us to gather the funds rapidly enough to be able to mount an effective political campaign.

In light of the fact that each State Board district is four times the size of a senate district, it would seem logical that the maximum contribution would be at least double the maximum contribution for a Senate election, or perhaps even more.

However, the reality is that while a Senate campaign max contribution is \$1,000, a State Board campaign max contribution is \$500.

As every one of you knows, it is difficult to gather the funds for a Senate campaign, I can vouch that it is doubly hard to gather funds for a State Board campaign.

Madam Chair, I would urge this committee to pass out favorably the bill to raise the maximum campaign contribution for a State Board of Education election to \$1,000.

Thank you.

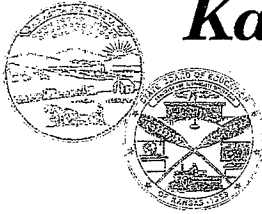
Sincerely,

Steve E. Abrams

Ethics and Elections Committee

Attachment 1

Date 1-26-11



Kansas State Board of Education

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District 9

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District 10

January 26, 2011

TO: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

FROM: State Board of Education

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 17

My name is Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

The State Board of Education supports Senate Bill 17. Currently, members of the State Board are limited to contributions of \$500 per political committee or person for each primary and general election (same as state representatives). This bill, if enacted, would allow candidates for the State Board to be treated like state senators and allow them to receive campaign contributions of \$1,000 per political committee or person for each primary and general election.

Each State Board district is equivalent to four senatorial districts. Due to the size of the State Board districts, it seems more appropriate and more logical to follow senatorial guidelines, rather than representatives, in order to campaign adequately within their respective districts.

Obviously, a race for the State Board can be very expensive if the candidate intends to really communicate with the voters. Speaking from my personal experience, I found that the cost of one mailing for the State Board race was equivalent to at least seven mailings in my prior campaigns for the House of Representatives. I raised a fair amount of money in my Board campaign, but was still able to do only one very targeted mailing to the voters.

The State Board of Education asks you to pass SB 17 out of this committee.

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Ethics and Elections Committee
An Equal Employment/Education Opportunity Age Attachment 2
Date 1-26-11