

Election Procedures and Voting; HB 2016

HB 2016 amends various provisions of election law concerning the maintenance of voter registration rolls, qualifications for poll workers and election board judges or clerks, and the solicitation of advance voting ballot applications.

Voter Registration Rolls

The bill requires a county election officer to remove the name of a registered voter from the registration books and party affiliation lists when an obituary for the voter is published online by a funeral home located in the county.

[*Note:* Continuing law requires a county election officer to remove a registered voter from the registration books and party affiliation lists when an obituary notice reporting the death of such voter appears in a newspaper having general circulation in the county.]

Poll Workers and Election Board Judges or Clerks

The bill prohibits county election officers from disqualifying active military members and the members' spouses and other dependents from service as poll workers on the basis of residency or registered voter status. The bill also adds U.S. citizenship and Kansas residency as requirements for service as an election board judge or clerk.

[*Note:* Continuing law requires all election judges and election clerks to be residents of the area served by the voting place in which they are a judge or clerk.]

The bill defines "active military member" for poll worker purposes as any person with full-time duty status in the U.S. Armed Forces, including members of the National Guard and reserve.

Soliciting Advance Voting Ballot Applications

Current law provides the requirements for any person who solicits by mail a registered voter to file an application for an advance voting ballot and includes an application for an advance voting ballot in such mailing. The bill makes the following amendments to these requirements:

- Removes the requirement that the name of the president, chief executive officer, or executive director be included in the mailing, if an organization caused the solicitation to be mailed;
- Requires the name and address of the individual or organization that caused the solicitation to be mailed and the required disclosure statement—"Disclosure: This is not a government mailing. It is from a private individual or organization"—to be included on one page within the mailing instead of both on the exterior of the mailing and on each page contained within the mailing;

- Changes the required font size for such information from 14-point or larger to 10-point or larger;
- Clarifies the requirement that the advance voting ballot application must be the official application provided by the Secretary of State or the appropriate county election office [*Note: Prior law stated the advance voting ballot application must be provided by the Secretary of State.*];
- Modifies the requirement prohibiting any portion of an advance voting ballot application from being completed prior to mailing to allow the date of the election to be printed on the application prior to being mailed to registered voters; and
- Replaces the requirement that the advance voting ballot application include an envelope addressed to the appropriate county election office with a requirement that the advance voting ballot application include information on how to mail such application to the appropriate county election office.