

AG Derek Schmidt: Kansas Successfully Defends Against Last-Minute Election Rule Changes

TOPEKA - As the November 3 election approaches, Kansas has backed successful efforts to prevent plaintiffs and courts from making last-minute changes to election rules through litigation, Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

“As the courts long have recognized, there comes a point where the election is so near that judicial injunctions or other actions that change the rules are fundamentally unfair and improperly disrupt an orderly election process,” Schmidt said. “This year has seen an unusual amount of litigation seeking changes in election rules in states around the country, and we will remain vigilant in efforts to ensure the integrity of the election process is not called into question by these last-minute lawsuits.”

To date, Kansas has joined in filing briefs in five cases seeking to prevent courts from ordering election changes that could disrupt the orderly conduct of the election. In four of those cases, appellate courts have agreed with Kansas and blocked lower-court orders that would have changed election rules. Those four cases are:

- In Indiana, a federal district court enjoined Indiana’s election-day receipt deadline for absentee ballots and imposed a postmark deadline for all absentee ballots received by November 13, 10 days after the election. Earlier this week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit reversed the lower court’s order, keeping the election-day receipt deadline in place. The case is Common Cause Indiana and Indiana State Conference of the NAACP v. Lawson.

- In Alabama, a federal district court struck down the secretary of state’s prohibition on curbside voting, as well as witness and photo ID requirements for absentee ballots. Earlier this week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit stayed the lower-court ruling on absentee ballots, but let stand the ruling that would permit curbside voting. Alabama intends to appeal the curbside matter to the U.S. Supreme Court, saying the practice breaks the chain of custody of ballots and threatens election security. The case is People First of Alabama v. Merrill.

- In Arizona, a federal district court enjoined the state’s law requiring absentee ballots to be signed and received by 7 p.m. on election day. The court also ordered Arizona to create and institute a new procedure that would grant voters who failed to sign their ballots up to five days after the election to correct the error. Finding Arizona was likely to prevail in the litigation on appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit last week issued a stay of the district court’s order. The case is Arizona Democratic Party v. Hobbs.

- In Georgia, a federal district court had ordered the state to count absentee ballots that were postmarked and received within three days of the election, despite a state law requiring ballots to be received by 7 p.m. election day to be counted. Finding Georgia was likely to prevail in the litigation on appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit last week stayed the lower-court decision. The case is The New Georgia Project v. Raffensperger.

One other case remains pending. In that case, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a ruling requiring the secretary of state to accept absentee ballots up to three days after the election provided, they were not postmarked after November 3. That case, Scarnati v. Brookvar, has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition, Schmidt’s office on October 7 successfully defended against a lawsuit seeking to strike down the longstanding Kansas law that prohibits electioneering near polling places. In that case, Clark et al v. Schmidt et al, the federal district court in Topeka entered summary judgement in favor of Kansas.

Election Is a Season, Not a Day

By Dr. Jim Haas

In July 1945, with war still raging in the Pacific, the United Kingdom held a general election. Most voting was July 5-8, but counting was postponed three weeks giving time for military and other overseas ballots to arrive. During the delay, Prime Minister Winston Churchill met, in a defeated Germany, with President Truman and Premier Stalin to discuss the postwar world. It was an anxious time for Churchill, not knowing if he would continue as Prime Minister. In the end, he won his Parliament seat, but his party lost its majority, so he was no longer PM. The U.S. Presidency wasn’t decided in 2000 until December 9, more than a month after the last votes were cast on November 7.

An election spanning several weeks is not unusual. In the U.S., from 1792 to 1845, states had a 34-day period to conduct elections. Early absentee voting began during the Civil War to accommodate soldiers and became so popular that by 1924, 45 of the 48 states offered absentee voting, usually requiring an excuse such as illness or travel. No-excuse early voting by mail or in person began in 1978. Today, 47 states require no excuse to vote early either way, two require an excuse only by mail, and only Mississippi has no early voting.

The pandemic has expanded Election Season with many states beginning advance voting sooner to avoid in-person crowding and to ease the burden on the Postal Service. Some offer drive-up voting. Also, many states expect vote counts to take longer than usual because of the volume of mail-in votes. Most states will have a head start processing ballots before the November 3 voting deadline but four will not, and final results in some states will take days or even weeks.

All this makes voting more convenient in every election and safer during a pandemic, but it calls for patience while awaiting results. November 3 is this year’s last day to vote. That’s all it is.

Not everyone celebrates making voting easier, and many Republican politicians are actively making it harder. Why would they do that, you ask? Because they don’t believe in democracy. Here’s GOP Senator Mike Lee of Utah: “Democracy isn’t the objective: liberty, peace, and prosperity [*sic*] are... We want the human condition to flourish. Rank democracy can thwart that.” This attitude has become Republican gospel in recent decades. They don’t trust We the People, so we shouldn’t trust them. The GOP is morally and democratically bankrupt.

Election season, like the holiday season, is a time to celebrate. Do it by voting for democracy.

Be Safe, Save Time. Vote in Advance

If voting by mail, *do it now* (request a ballot at ksvotes.org). In JoCo, save a stamp by using a drop box at the Blue Valley, DeSoto, Gardner, Shawnee, Spring Hill, and Central (9875 W 87th St.) libraries or Election Offices at 2101 E Kansas City Rd in Olathe or at 6000 Lamar in Mission. You can vote in advance in person at these locations:

Johnson County, M-F 10 am-7 pm, Sat 9 am-3 pm, through October 31: Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf; Hilltop Conference Center, 7700 W 143rd St.; JoCo Election Office, 2101 E Kansas City Rd, Olathe; JoCo Northeast Offices, 6000 Lamar Ave; JoCo Sunset Building, 11811 S Sunset Dr, Olathe; New Century Fieldhouse, 551 New Century Pkwy, Gardner; Oak Park Mall, north side lower level; Okun Fieldhouse, 20200 Johnson Dr, Shawnee; Olathe Indian Creek Library, 16100 W 135th St.

Wyandotte County, M-F 8 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm, through October 31: Election Office, 850 State Ave.; Eisenhower Recreation Center, 2901 N 72nd St.; Argentine Community Center, 2810 Metropolitan, Oct 24-31, 10 am-4 pm.

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Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Today was so beautiful and I was so glad we got our "gang" together down at the Community garden in Turner. There was John, Jim, Deborah, myself, Phyllis, David, Darlene, Mr. Ed, Halloween goodies, fruit, cheese, salties, bottled water, most of all, the wonderful, wonderful, people that I have known so many years. Man, it was so good to get together again. This isn't just for us domino dottes, it is for anyone who wants to join us senior citizens, for some "mingling." We didn't get to hug or anything but just to see people and actually talk to them face to face. Hated to leave when we did. Of course, we spoke of our aches and pains, operations, home life, our furbabies, our fears, politics, the virus, and all the garbage that is going on around the world. Good to see all of you. We decided that if the weather is too bad, we can go into the newly purchased building that used to be Dr. G.'s. Those fellas are something else to put things together down there for the community. People have really chipped in to keep that garden and that new business building going. We have all gone thru our trials and tribulations to get it started and to keep it going.

Well, Mr. Ed and I have quit looking for a house. What a tough decision to make to call our search off. Decided to stay here and fair it out. Sure hated to call the agent that went to so much trouble to help us. I think it put a lot of people in a bind. Just going to have to make do here where we have been for 21 years. Going to do some rearranging and get rid of a lot of stuff but at least I won't feel rushed like I have to hurry, hurry, hurry, right? I was really under a lot of stress.

Mr. Ed and I got our annual flu shots a week ago and I really got sicker than a dog. Trying

to take care of Mr. Ed and me being very sick, was really hard on me. I really don't think it was the shot itself but a combination of the stress of my life that finally got the best of me. Too much outside stuff going on too that wasn't anyone's business. Anyway, hopefully that part is over with and the outside agitation is over. I have lost 35 lbs this year over all this. These past two years have really been "doozies". Have you had things like that happen that seem to knock your life out of control? You think, when is this all going to stop? No matter how hard you try, it gets worse. But this Covid19 has a lot to do with it. Man, it just gets plain boring. Our golden years should not be like this. But it is, all we can do is make the best of it.

Hope everyone votes \voted, we did, right or wrong. Go do your duty, vote and pray. Hey, everyone, please be kind, mind your p's and q's, K? From your little ol gal from Argentine, Sue. Ivya all! From: Old Jokes for Old Folks "Retirement Center Prayer: Grant me the senility to forget the people here, I don't like, the good fortune to run into the one that I do and the eyesight to notice the difference."

Kelsey's Army

By: Sue Reich

I texted Greg Smith the other night about doing some more articles for *The Record* and you will never guess what? That very night on tv, there was a two-hour show about his daughter that was murdered in 2007. She was only 17 years old. To make a long story short, I texted him again and told him it was kind of ironic that I had communicated with him and then there she was. I realized he IS a very busy man and appreciate that he shared his time with our readers but told me at the end of November, he will be part of our paper again. That man has done so much for the communities because of the death of his daughter. So, readers, look forward the end of this year. I met him personally several years ago and gave him a cross for his lapel that looked like miniature nails. He has really spread himself thin for Wyandotte and Johnson county. Kelsey's Army will live on forever.



This is my Fall wreath. Darlene made the little guy in the middle. Used his to accent the wreath.



Omgosh, who could this be? Is that you Phyllis? Yeserree, it sure is. Phyllis is a Sweet Adeline & loves to dress up.



Our man, John. He loves to be with us and comes all the way over here from Johnson County. Spends a lot of time in Florida too.

Mr. Ed likes to get out in the fresh air and mingle too.

David came dressed as "Dr. NoWay". He is quite a character. Love them all.

Deb is one our Domino Dottes. We needed each other, so this is where we decided to meet. Good to see ya, Deb.



Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

I have written about strong women characters in many of the books I read. This week is no exception, the only difference: the main characters are teenage girls.

"The Orphan Collector" by Ellen Maire Wiseman takes place in Philadelphia during the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic which infected among-third of the world's population and killed an estimated 50 million people. Approximately 650,000 of those were in the United States with around 28% infected with the virus. Our heroine is thirteen year old Pia Lange. Pia's father is fighting in World War I and

her mother suddenly dies of the flu. She is left with three month old twin brothers to care for. An edict has mandated that people stay home but she runs out of food to feed the babies and must go out to find something to eat. While she is gone, a woman who has just lost a child sees her leave and takes the boys. Pia falls ill in the street and wakes up several days later in a hospital. Because of her age she is sent to an orphanage. Without giving much more detail, she continues to look for her brothers while surviving life in the orphanage. She even crosses paths with the woman who took the boys without knowing it. The novel also parallels the life of that woman and the fate of the twins. I really enjoyed this book and intend to read previous books by this author.

Abi Dare's debut novel "The Girl with the Louding Voice" tells the story of a fourteen year old girl in Nigeria. All Adunni wants is an education. She is pulled out of school when her mother becomes ill. Her mother was the main source of family income and paid for her tuition. Her family is extremely

poor and when her mother dies, her father tells her he can't pay the rent on their house. However, he has a solution, she will marry an older man who will pay the bride-price and secure his and her two brothers' future. She is the third wife of this man who is seeking a son that the other wives have not given him. Meanwhile she is treated badly by the older wife. The plight of all young girls in Nigeria is that most of them are married by the age of fifteen though child marriage was made illegal by the government in 2003. Due to circumstances which I will not reveal she becomes a victim of slave trafficking and ends up as a domestic servant in Lagos. Being told she is worthless all her life, all she wants is to be heard, to get an education and teach. Adunni is befriended by an educated Nigerian woman who helps her. This was another book dealing with social issues in the world. I recommend this book.

Until next time please be kind, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and wear a mask. VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

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Classes will cover:

- Plant Science
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- Landscape Design
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- Soils
- Pesticide Use & Safety
- Vegetables
- Plant Pathology (Diseases)
- Fruits
- Landscape Maintenance

Requirements:

- Complete and submit [application](#) and payment by August 26, 2020. Course can be paid via paypal on county website.
- Available for about 40 to 50 hours of daytime training classes on Thursday afternoons via zoom from September 3, through December 17, 2020. No Thanksgiving class.
- The Fall 2020 EMG training will be offered virtually through Zoom.
- Applicants must have access to the internet, a computer that has microphone and camera capabilities.
- An actively monitored email account.
- You must have at least a High School Diploma or the equivalent.
- Must be a Wyandotte County resident.



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Guest Editorial

People of High Moral Character are a True Measure of Integrity in the White House

By: Tom Valverde

Unfortunately, President Trump's selection of people to put in places of importance, is very telling of his own corrupt nature. President Trump brags about his knowing, "all the best people," has not been our experience. Trump loves to brag also about how he is #1, he's #1, in a recently released statistic of criminal indictments by presidential administration. These are the numbers: Trump - 215, So far... Obama -0, G.W. Bush - 1, Clinton - 2, Reagan - 26, Nixon - 76, Carter - 1, Ford - 1, H. W. Bush -1. Or, if taken by political party, then it would be: Republicans 335 indictments and Democrats 3.

The political party that calls itself the "Party of Law and Order," seems to be really, out of touch with what it means to have core moral values, ethics, and integrity! There is little or no truth in Trump's claim, and this is no surprise, as Trump is known to be a compulsive liar. Trump in addition, is lacking in the decorum and solemnity we have come to associate with the President of the United States.

After last week's Vice-presidential debates, Trump goes on FOX and refers to Senator Kamala Harris as a "monster" not once, but twice! This is beyond unseemly for a President! Trump perfectly illustrates the expression, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear!" Absolutely no class at all. If anyone is a monster, it is Trump, himself!

Trump's time in office has been characterized by his delivery of lies, false statements, misleading claims, misinformation all told on an unprecedented scale. Trump averages telling 23 lies per day! So that by the time this article is printed, President Trump will have told 22,210+++ lies to the American people! Nothing to be proud of, and a reflection of Trump's base character; and really, Trump is all show, with very little in the way of substance or of integrity. This is just one more strike against this inept, and unprincipled administration.

Plan to Vote this November! The Country is in desperate need of new and qualified leadership. Leaders that are in fact honest and trustworthy. New leaders that are not drunk with power, to the point of delusion! New leaders characterized by honor, service, and by their personal integrity to the United States, its people, and to the Constitution, and the rule of law.

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1t-The Record 10-22-20

Predictions Indicate More Conservative Legislature

By Murrel Bland

What will the makeup of the Kansas Legislature look like when it opens for its next session in early January next year?

That question was on the mind of members of the Legislative Committee as it met, via ZOOM, Friday morning, Oct. 9. The Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Committee.

Those who study the Legislature see a swing to a more conservative side after the recent Primary Elections as certain key moderate Republicans were defeated or chose not to run. However, there is a chance, as slim as it might be, that if enough Democrat challengers are elected, the overall temper of the Legislature could be somewhat moderate.

The Chamber's Legislative Committee is working on its annual Legislative Agenda which will determine the organization's position on key issues. One issue that is to come up is the expansion of Medicaid. Hospitals and medical professionals across the state have supported this issue; supporters point out that expansion could provide services to more than 120,000 uninsured persons.

Conservative legislators and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce opposing expanded Medicaid said it could end up costing the state an excessive amount of money on the long run.

Committee members learned that the State of Kansas is slightly ahead of estimates in tax revenue received, based on September receipts.

Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is the Executive Director of Business West.

Tom's Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

It's pumpkin time now, and this week's tasty treat makes use of canned pumpkin, in a most unusual way, it's one of the ingredients in a totally new (for me anyways) biscuit! Not difficult to make and filled with all the good tastes and flavors of this special time of the year. And especially good, because they're served with home-made honey butter! Hope you will try these flavorful and flakey:

Pumpkin Spice Biscuits With Pecans

Ingredients:

- 2 c Flour
- 1/4 c Sugar
- 2 1/2 t Baking Powder
- 1/2 t Baking Soda
- 1/2 t Salt
- 1 1/2 t Cinnamon
- 1/4 t Nutmeg
- 1/2 c cold Butter
- 3/4 c canned Pumpkin
- 1/2 c Buttermilk*
- 1/2 c chopped Pecans

* Use this as a substitute for buttermilk, in a 1 cup measure, place 1 1/2 t white vinegar, or lemon juice. Add milk up to the 1/2 c line and let set for 6 or 7 minutes. You have just made homemade buttermilk!

Honey Butter

- 1/2 c Butter, softened
- 1/2 c Honey
- 1/2 t Grated Orange Peel

Directions:

Set oven to 425°. Line and grease a cookie sheet.

In a medium bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Cut in the butter until it has the texture of coarse crumbs. Stir in the pumpkin and buttermilk, stirring just until moistened. Stir in the pecans.

Lightly flour counter, then knead the dough, giving it 8 or 10 turns, until it comes together. Then, roll dough out to 1/2" thickness, with a floured, 3" cutter cut out the biscuits.

Place the biscuits 1" apart. Sprinkle tops with sugar, if desired. Bake at 425° for 8 - 11 minutes, until lightly golden brown.

Prepare the honey butter as the biscuits bake. Place the ingredients into a small bowl and stir until well combined. Serve the biscuits warm with the honey butter. So very good, and an unusual pumpkin based treat and with spices and pecans too! All good things rolled into one. HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!! Enjoy!



Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Janie Serda, age 61. She was a graduate of Harmon high school class of 1977. She was a bilingual interpreter

Ann Jean Janesko, age 83, passed away October 10, 2020. Argentine High school graduate, class of 1956.

"I'm Gonna Take a Nap" The famous words of the snappy housekeeper, Berta, who was on the series of 2 1\2 Men. Berta, played by actress, Conchata Ferrell passed away on October 13, 2020 of various illnesses. She played the housekeeper, "adopted" family, wisecracker, butinsky woman that bossed her bosses around more than they did her. Gonna miss you Berta. She was 77 years old and made her transition through her career even to the new master of the domain on Malibu Beach.

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