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SEDGWICK COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

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Comments on Preliminary Draft Proposed Rules – Dated December 15, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Sedgwick County January 22, 2016

Sedgwick County is in favor of all rule changes and we do appreciate the efforts made to improve the election process. The following mentions are rules that I did not agree with:

1. 6.1.1 This rule is conflicting with statute that states that an election judge shall serve for a two year period as opposed to receiving a list each year. My recommendation would be to strike this rule.
2. 6.1.3 In my county, the Democratic Party doesn't ever meet or have a caucus and even if the SOS is notified, nothing will be changed and no list will be provided. My recommendation would be to strike this rule.
3. 6.1.4 I am curious as to what this rule is trying to accomplish. This list changes due to conflicts with commitments, etc. My recommendation would be to strike this rule or change the wording to MAY PROVIDE.
4. 6.2.1 I truly feel that it is not the job of the party to designate any position for the judges as they do not work in this field and do not know what is required. The statute states that judge assignments are at the discretion of the County Clerk without consent from the political parties. My recommendation would be to strike this rule.
5. 6.3 In a small county, the Clerk is very hands on out of necessity. We are also elected by the voters who believe and trust in us to do our jobs. We also have had many hours of training. With that being said, we are verifying that a signature on the envelope is the same signature in record, we are not even able to imagine what would possibly be inside of that envelope as to who an individual is voting for. Even if we are running for office that year, deciding whether or not a signature matches has no impact on whether we are trying to throw a race or be fraudulent in any manner. I am unable to comprehend what this could possibly be about and my recommendation would be to modify this rule to allow the clerk and/or staff to verify a signature.
6. 6.4.2 My objection to this rule is the part that asks for each parties written consent. Again, myself and my staff are the ones with their necks on the line and the ones who have taken many hours of training and we have done all of that without the parties consent. I recommend that this rule be modified to strike the phrase "that has obtained written consent by each major party county chair"
7. 7.2.6 I am afraid that this will cause confusion for the voter as there has never been a legal requirement for voters to tell us that someone else is dropping off their ballot. My recommendation would be to strike this rule.
8. 7.2.8 The electors name is always on the return envelope and having the county print this name under or near the self-affirmation signature line is not practical in any way. My recommendation would be to strike this rule.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and I appreciate you taking this into consideration.