

Based on our observations of the August Primary Election and comments made by numerous concerned voters, the Sedgwick County Voter Coalition makes the following formal recommendations for changes and improvements in the administration of elections for the November General Election:

1. Restore polling sites throughout the county based on a uniform standard of no more than 3,000 registered voters per poll site AND each polling location within 2 miles of any given voter's home. Schools and other public facilities should be given preference when designating (or re-designating) polling locations.
2. Sites designated for the civic act of selecting elected political officials should be public facilities¹. Voters fulfilling their civic duty must not feel intimidated or ill at ease about voting on account of the nature or normal purpose of the venue where voting is to occur. The coalition asks that existing and future polling sites be placed in public facilities, such as public schools. The great majority of the 92 K-12 facilities in USD 259 are formally ADA-compliant and are, in general, in locations as convenient as the designated polling sites. There are also 17 senior centers and six neighborhood community recreation centers in the county not presently designated as polling sites that could also be utilized.
3. Poll sites should be secure and dedicated exclusively to voting. In situations where polling sites are located in places of worship or religious-affiliated facilities, the Election Commissioner's office should direct poll staff to remove or cover all religious and political literature in the area designated for voting.
4. Assure that all existing and/or potential polling sites are both formally and practically accessible by all voters. Voters with disabilities must be assured convenient and practical access to the polling area at all polling sites. Polling sites should also be within short walking distance to bus stops for voters dependent on public transportation.
5. Ensure that polling areas within facilities are of sufficient physical size and climate controlled for the comfort of poll workers and voters².
6. Expand satellite advance voting sites in areas of high population density and include high foot-traffic locations such as large commercial facilities. Satellite advance voting should be available, at a minimum, from 8 AM to 8 PM on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday prior to the election. Advance voting should also be available at all satellite locations on the Monday prior to Election Day as other large Kansas counties have done successfully.
7. Guarantee voters' right to vote in private in accordance with KSA 25-2703, KSA 25-1310, KSA 25-1327, and KSA 25-1332³. The Election Commissioner's office must establish uniform guidelines mandating that voting machines be arranged at each polling site to eliminate unscreened paths behind machines and to prevent voters (and those waiting to vote) from being able to see the screen on any given machine in use. The Commissioner, working with elected and appointed County officials, should procure and make available to all supervising judges materials necessary to ensure voter privacy—e.g., power extension cords, materials and assembly instructions for privacy screens or booths.

¹ Sixty three (63) polling sites have been designated for the November General Election. Only thirty five (35) percent of polling sites are located in public and/or community facilities and only one is located in a school-related site. Fully 65% of polling sites are located in places of worship or religious-affiliated facilities. See Appendix 1.

² During the primary election, the polling area at the Evergreen Recreation Center was in a cramped room (about 18 ft by 20 ft) that was not air-conditioned. Instead the site was cooled by one industrial fan.

³ KSA 25-2703 requires that "County election officers shall arrange for voting places...to enable the voters to prepare their ballots, screened from observation....Each booth shall be designed so as to protect the privacy of the voter." KSA 25-1310 states that "[a] kind or make of voting machine approved by the secretary of state:... must provide for voting in absolute secrecy in voting, except as to persons entitled to assistance." KSA 25-1327 requires that "[a]ll voting machines used in any election shall be provided with a screen, hood or booth which shall conceal the voter and his action while voting." KSA 25-1332 requires that "[e]ach voting machine shall be placed at least three (3) feet from every wall and partition of the voting place and from any other voting machine, and at least four (4) feet from the table of the election board and other furniture."

8. Devise and implement an active marketing strategy of polling sites and the new machines. Working with elected and appointed County officials, the active marketing strategy devised by the Election Commissioner's office should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Mail large, brightly colored cards to all voters identifying their designated Election Day polling site as well as information on advance voting options—mail-in ballot and satellite voting—prior to start of advance voting
 - Produce additional PSAs as well as paid advertisements
 - Conduct demonstrations of new machines throughout the county with a special emphasis on educating individuals who have limited technological savvy
 - Produce a virtual interactive or streaming video voting machine tutorial on the county website
 - Produce a 5-10 minute video explaining how to use the new machines, as well as providing other relevant voting information, and place it in heavy rotation on Cox Channel 7
 - Contact and coordinate with school districts throughout the county to educate high school students of, or near, voting age
 - Aid the print media by providing detailed, accurate county precinct maps for publication on or about Election Day
9. Ensure the consistent and uniform administration of provisional ballots by poll workers at all polling sites. In addition to circumstances when a provisional ballot is mandatory, poll worker training should require that the option of completing a provisional ballot be extended to all voters whose names do not appear in the registration book at any given site⁴. Additionally, poll workers must be required to inform voters that not all provisional ballots cast will count and may not include contests specific to their home address.
10. Develop uniform procedures for and provide additional accurate, user-friendly county-wide poll site tools to poll workers on Election Day so they can accurately and efficiently assist confused voters identify their proper polling site. The procedures and tools developed to address confused or "lost" voters should be a point of emphasis in the training of poll workers.
11. Ensure voting accuracy and security by requiring supervisory judges at all polling sites to perform random periodic audits of touch-screen machine tallies against the paper trails of the machines being audited throughout Election Day.
12. The physical size of poll site-identifying signage, especially signs at street entrances, should exceed the standards established by election law.
13. Reduce the length of the work day for poll workers from 15 to 8 hours. Require supervisory judges to work the full Election Day, with the option of two shifts for other poll workers⁵. Creating a shorter work day and schedule flexibility would likely increase the available pool of poll workers and, more importantly, ensure less fatigued and error-prone workers. According the Secretary of State's office, the amount of time a poll worker must work on Election Day is not explicitly stated in statute.
14. County officials, both elected and appointed, should once again provide whatever assistance is necessary and practicable to aid the Election Commissioner with changes and improvements to the election process. Further, since low voter turnout for the primary did not achieve a real test of the capacity and limits of the new equipment and poll site consolidation, SCVC requests that the County Manager's program of deploying trained county staff to provide assistance at polling sites to poll workers and voters continue and expand for the November General Election.

⁴ "When there is any doubt about a voter's eligibility to vote at the precinct where the voter attempts to vote, a provisional ballot should be provided, even if the voter is apparently unqualified. The facts of the matter can be investigated after election day before the county canvass." [KSA 25-409] Source: http://www.kssos.org/forms/elections/election_standards/ChapII-ElecAdmin.pdf at p. 49.

⁵ SCVC's recommendation is supported by the findings and recommendations of a comprehensive empirical study of election administration processes completed by the League of Women Voters Kansas in 2003. Analysis of survey responses from election administrators in 101 or 105 Kansas counties led LWV-Kansas to adopt a consensus position that the option of split shifts for poll workers (excluding supervisory judges) on Election Day should be required. See <http://www.lwvk.org/files/ea.pdf>

APPENDIX 1: 2006 General Election Polling Places (as of August 16, 2006)

Polling Place Name	Address	Registered Voters Assigned
Andale City Building	326 N Main	743
Bel Aire City Building Community Room	7654 E Central Park	4,163
Bentley City Hall	150 S Wichita	565
Calvary Baptist Church, Derby	7600 E 63rd St S	4,174
Center for Health and Wellness	2707 E 21st St N	3,203
Central Christian Church	2900 N Rock Road	5,229
Cheney Fire Station	525 N Main	1,631
Christ the King Church-Charity Hall	4413 W Maple	3,704
Church of the Holy Spirit, Goddard	18218 W Highway 54	3,531
Colwich City Building	310 S 2nd St	1,106
Congregation Emanu-El	7011 E Central Ave	2,516
Country Acres Baptist Church	8810 W 10th St N	4,227
Countryside Christian Church	1919 S Rock Rd	4,368
Dawson United Methodist Church	2741 Laura	3,353
Eastborough City Hall	1 Douglas Ave	588
Eastminster Presbyterian Church	1958 N Webb Rd	3,939
Edgemoor Recreation Center	5815 E 9th St N	4,164
Evergreen Recreation Center	2700 Woodland	2,956
Faith Christian Church	2110 W 45th St S	4,501
First Baptist Church, Mulvane	1020 N 2nd Ave	3,163
First Baptist Church, Wichita	315 N Broadway	3,111
First Christian Church, Haysville	7465 S Meridian	3,574
First Mennonite Brethren Church	8000 W 21st St N	5,060
First United Pentecostal Church	1755 E MacArthur Rd	3,595
Glenn Park Christian Church	2757 S Glenn	4,154
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	1101 River Blvd	5,209
Grace Presbyterian Church	5002 E Douglas	4,663
Greenwich Road Church of Christ	1746 S Greenwich Rd	5,110
Haysville Activity Center	7106 S Broadway	2,501
Health Department Administrative Center	1900 E 9th St N	3,812
Holy Cross Lutheran Church	600 N Greenwich Rd	3,886
Independent Living Resource Center	3033 W 2nd St N	4,111
Kechi City Building	220 W Kechi Rd	2,067
Larsen Community Center, Mount Hope	105 S Ohio	585
Linwood Recreation Center	1901 S Kansas	4,899
Machinists Building	3830 S Meridian	3,562
Maize Community Building	401 Khedive	1,670
Maranatha Worship Center	888 S Webb Rd	4,904
Metro East Baptist Church	333 N 143rd St E	5,351
Midway Baptist Church	5135 S Broadway	4,660
Mount Saint Mary's Convent	3700 E Lincoln	3,785
Northside Church of Christ	4545 N Meridian	4,397
Olivet Baptist Church	3440 W 13th St N	4,618
Park City Senior Center	6100 N Hydraulic	3,917
Park Place Assembly of God	2139 S Maize Rd	4,397
Pilgrim Congregational Church	6000 E Harry	3,424
Pleasantview Baptist Church, Derby	1335 N Buckner	4,683
Public Safety Building, Valley Center	616 E 5th St	4,040
Reformation Lutheran Church Parish Hall	7601 E 13th St N	4,196
Sedgwick County Zoo Learning Center	5555 Zoo Blvd	5,037
Sharon Baptist Church	2221 S Oliver	4,401
St Andrew's Lutheran Church	2555 Hyacinth Ln	4,624

Polling Place Name	Address	Registered Voters Assigned
St Anthony's Parish Hall, Garden Plain	635 N Main	1,017
St Elizabeth Ann Seton School	645 N 119th St N	4,948
United Methodist Church, Clearwater	130 N 1st St	2,388
Viola Community Hall	Highway 49	306
West Evangelical Free Church	1161 N Maize Rd	4,525
West Side Church of God	1900 McCormick	4,469
Westlink Christian Church	2001 N Maize Rd	5,025
Westlink Church of Christ	10025 W Central	4,682
Westwood Presbyterian Church	8007 W Maple	4,083
Woodlawn United Methodist Church, Derby	431 S Woodlawn Blvd	4,577
WSU Metropolitan Complex	5015 E 29th St N	3,916

Source: Sedgwick County Election Office