

Voting

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added. “There wouldn’t be early voting. Mail-in ballots would only be for military or severely disabled. But I got to bring 84 people with me, so I’m trying to chip away at it.”

This year’s proposal, which was introduced by Sen. Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee) would end the three-day grace period for mail-in ballots without making any other changes. The Senate passed the bill on a 29-10 vote, with Topeka Republican Sen. Brenda Dietrich joining Democrats in opposition.

A statement from Loud Light said Proctor’s comments from a year ago show he is being disingenuous now with his public

explanation for eliminating the three-day grace period.

According to testimony the Kansas Secretary of State’s Office provided to Proctor’s committee, 2,110 ballots were received after Election Day last November and counted. There were 603 ballots received after the grace period, and 104 ballots arrived after Election Day with no postmark.

“Proctor’s secret meeting shows how some politicians would rather disenfranchise voters than try to win their vote,” said Davis Hammet, president of Loud Light. “Politicians love to play games, but our ability to vote and have our vote counted, our democracy, cannot be treated like a game.

Rep. Proctor’s comments are disturbing.”

Mike Fonkert, deputy director of Kansas Appleseed, said the organization supports policies that both make voting easy and secure elections.

The state and nation have a long history of allowing individuals to vote by mail, Fonkert said.

“It is reasonable to allow extra time for ballots to arrive, especially as Kansans continue to encounter more frequent issues with mail delivery interruption across this state,” Fonkert said. “Casting us as ‘bomb throwers’ is dismissive of the important work that we do to protect the rights of Kansans to participate in elections.”

Chases

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the wrong way into an opposing lane of traffic and forcing a motorist to take evasive action or colliding with a vehicle, the sanction would move from a level 9 felony to a level 4 felony.

Not So Fast

Rep. Tobias Schlingensiepen (D-Topeka) asked for evidence demonstrating that modifying the sentencing grid so more people went to prison compelled anyone to avoid entering into chases with law enforcement.

Emily Brandt, who represents the legislative committee of the Kansas Board of Indigents’ Defense, said the bill was unnecessary because fleeing-and-eluding recidivists were punished when judges who factored criminal history into sentencing decisions.

She said elevating the third offense to a level 4 or level 5 felony would punish someone as seriously as if the crime in question was aggravated battery, involuntary manslaughter or sexual exploitation of a child.

Individuals with a third such person felony could be sentenced to more than decade in prison, she said.

“This bill would punish people who committed no harm to another as severely as people who committed a murder or caused great bodily harm,” Brandt said. “If passed, this bill would have a significant fiscal impact on the

state of Kansas, mostly because of much longer prison stays for committing these crimes, but also because of increased defense costs for higher severity level crimes.”

Police Academy: Age 20

A House majority also advanced to final action a bill that lowered the minimum age for persons applying for certification as a law enforcement officer to 20 years of age from the current standard of 21.

While law enforcement training could take place, supporters of House Bill 2164 indicated individuals would need to be 21 to be assigned duties as a part-time or full-time officer.

“This bill would help with recruitment and retention for Kansas law enforcement departments to help address shortages,” said Rep. Kevin Schwertfeger (R-Turon).

Wichita Police Chief Joseph Sullivan, who made officer recruiting a top priority since selected chief in 2022, said one barrier to attracting candidates for careers in law enforcement was the state mandate they had to be 21 years of age prior to applying for a state law enforcement certification.

He said the department implemented an “early onboarding process” to streamline recruitment. The House bill would allow the department to formally bring 20-year-olds into the process

while they awaited a law enforcement academy start date.

The objective would be for applicants to complete a six-month training program before turning 21, he said.

Overland Park Police Chief Doreen Jokerst, who entered a Colorado police academy at age 20, said the reform would reflect her belief that “responsible and capable individuals exist” within the lower age group.

Rep. John Carmichael, a Wichita Republican who served as chairman of the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training, said he wasn’t convinced lowering the age was sound public policy. He said there could be problems if 20-year-old trainees were given gun and badge before they were equipped to handle the job.

“I urge the House to move very slowly on this request because I think we’re going to make mistakes,” Carmichael said. “We’re going to have people without the maturity out there as police officers.”

Ottawa GOP Rep. Rebecca Schmoee, vice chair of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, said legislative heartburn on the bill didn’t make sense.

“I’m not understanding what the hang-up is here. We have police departments who need the help. We have young men and women who want to serve their communities,” she said.

Public Notice

(Published in The Scott County Record Thurs., Feb. 20, 2025)1t

SCOTT COUNTY COMMISSIONER’S PROCEEDINGS JANUARY 2025	
GENERAL FUND	
SALARIES .....	\$ 86,028.29
COMMODITIES .....	1,715.21
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES .....	189,985.93
CAPITAL OUTLAY.....	81.15
OTHER.....	-137.58
SHERIFF FUND	
SALARIES .....	60,459.90
COMMODITIES .....	828.20
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES .....	30,899.13
CAPITAL OUTLAY .....	0.00
OTHER.....	0.00
COUNTY HEALTH FUND	
SALARIES .....	18,812.88
COMMODITIES .....	1,294.41
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES .....	3,353.18
CAPITAL OUTLAY .....	400.88
OTHER.....	16,130.80
NOXIOUS WEED FUND	
SALARIES.....	5,167.42
COMMODITIES .....	1,557.33
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES.....	1,371.56
CAPITAL OUTLAY .....	0.00

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	
SALARIES.....	47,403.08
COMMODITIES .....	41,658.51
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES.....	27,445.09
CAPITAL OUTLAY .....	0.00

FIRE DISTRICT FUND	
SALARIES .....	1,250.00
COMMODITIES .....	532.09
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES.....	12,994.40
CAPITAL OUTLAY .....	3,558.74

TREASURER’S SPECIAL FUND	
SALARIES .....	4,782.69
COMMODITIES .....	0.00
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES .....	246.15
CAPITAL OUTLAY.....	0.00
OTHER .....	371.69

PERRY NOWAK Chairman	MARIE ALLEN Scott County Clerk
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Public Notice

(Published in The Scott County Record Thurs., February 20, 2025)1t

**TELECOMMUNICATION INSTALLATION**

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the FCC’s Nationwide Programmatic Agreement.

Branch Communications, Inc., intends to remove and install telecommunication antennas with associated equipment on an existing guyed tower at 1405 W. 5th St., Scott City, Scott County, KS 67871 (38.481722, -100.923722).


The antennas to be installed at 117 ft. of the existing 195 ft. (199 ft. overall height) tower with associated equipment.

Branch Communications, Inc., is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

We respectfully request that parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties or with questions on the proposed facility should contact GSS, Inc., 1054 Texan Trail, Suite 300, Grapevine, TX 76051; Ph. (682) 651-0034 within 30 days of the posting of this notice. (GSS #D25056-KS)

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Farm and Shop Equipment Auction

Wick Grain Co., Dan Wick - Owner

Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m.

Auction Location: From Dighton, on Highway 23, north 9 miles to Highway 4, east 1 1/2 miles (105 N. Elm, Dighton.)

Sale Conducted by  
Berning Auction, Inc.  
"Don't trust your auction to just anyone!"  
P.O. Box Q • Leoti • 620-375-4130  
Russell Berning, Leoti, Ks. • Ed Simon, Marienthal, Ks. • Sage Davis, Scott City, Ks.

Shad Mehl Farm

Rescheduled

NEW DATE!

NAA

**AUCTION**

Wednesday, February 26 • 10:00 a.m.

From Leoti, 5 miles north to CR K, 2 miles west.

Sale Conducted by Berning Auction, Inc.

For more information contact Berning Auction at 620-375-4130 or [www.berningauction.com](http://www.berningauction.com)

