LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY

OBSERVER REPORTS SPECIAL EDITION

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November 16 | Paul Post

Thank you to Paul Post for submitting this special edition report.
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Report on Meeting of the Shawnee County Board of Canvassers

November 16, 2026

Observer: Paul Post

The board of county commissioners of each county is the board of canvassers for elections occurring within the county, per Kansas Statutes Annotated 25-3101. The Shawnee County Board of Canvassers met on Monday, November 16, 2026, at the Shawnee County Election Office, and reviewed more than 1,300 provisional ballots. The meeting was to confirm the results of the election, and to consider provisional ballots which had been cast by voters whose eligibility needed additional verification. According to information provided by the Kansas Secretary of State, provisional voting was introduced in Kansas in 1996 as a result of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). Provisional voting provides individuals with the opportunity to vote even though questions exist on their eligibility. Kansas law encourages individuals to participate in an election by allowing any individual with an eligibility issue to cast a provisional ballot.

There are a number of instances where an individual may be provided with a provisional ballot. The most common include:

- Failure to provide photographic identification;
- Address change;
- Name change;
- Already issued a ballot.

Due to several close races, on November 4, 2026, the Secretary of State randomly selected one federal, one legislative, one county, and the constitutional amendment race to be audited in each county. (This selection began at 9:00 a.m. and was open to the public.) The Secretary of State notified each county election office of the races to be audited. The county election office then randomly selected one percent of the precincts to be audited for each race. Ballots from the selected precincts were hand counted to ensure the hand count was identical to the vote count from the tabulators. The audit was performed by a sworn election board consisting of bipartisan trained board members. Per K.A.R. 7-47-1, ballot images cannot be used when conducting an audit. Audits had to be completed before the county canvass on November 16. Shawnee County Election Commissioner Andew Howell reported that the audit was completed and that no discrepancies were found.

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The Shawnee County Board of Canvassers convened at 9 am, on November 16. The election office had already divided provisional ballots with those that were recommended to be counted and those that were recommended not be counted. The results were as follows:

1. 501 ballots where voters that had moved or had names changes. These were recommended for counting. Approved.
2. 3 ballots had no ID provided at the election, but had provided the proper ID to the election office afterwards. Recommended for approval and approved.
3. 144 ballots were considered where the voter had requested an advance ballot, which was not returned, with the voter going to the polling place on election day. These were recommended for counting and approved.
4. 43 voters who went to the wrong polling place. Their ballots were partially counted for statewide races.
5. 4 provisional ballot envelopes were empty.
6. 391 voters were not registered, and their votes were recommended for not counting, which was approved.
7. 77 advance mail ballots were recommended to not be approved, for failure to follow the statute, such as signing the return envelope. Recommendation for not county was approved.
8. 23 voters failed to have proper ID at the polling place, and failed to go to the election office to show proper ID after the election. Recommendation for not counting was approved.
9. 8 mail-in ballots were received after the three-day period following the election, and were not counted, 2 were not postmarked and not counted, and 23 were returned as undeliverable.
10. **Final results: Election Day Precincts Reporting**

- 247 of 247Precincts Complete
- Registered Voters - Total 118,048
- 71,255 Ballots Cast
- 3 Ballots Cast - Blank
- Voter Turnout - Total 60.36%