

Election Commissioner

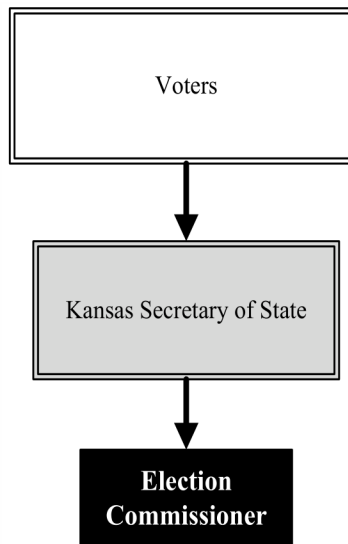
Mission: To conduct elections and enfranchise all eligible Sedgwick County citizens, giving them the opportunity to register to vote and participate in accessible, transparent, and secure elections.

Laura Rainwater
Sedgwick County Election Commissioner
 3639 N Comotara St.
 Wichita, KS 67226
 316.660.7100
laura.rainwater@sedgwick.gov

Overview

The Election Commissioner, who is appointed by the Kansas Secretary of State, oversees all voter registration and elections within Sedgwick County. Many Kansas statutes relate to the conduct of elections, but the primary statutes governing elections are found in Chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes. Statutes specifically outlining the main duties and responsibilities of the Election Commissioner are in Kansas Statutes 19-3419 through 19-3439.

To make the election process flow as smoothly as possible and to accomplish the goals and the mission of the Election Commissioner, the Election Office receives valuable support from the County. This financial, logistical, personnel, and technical support is received from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the County Manager, and other County departments.



Strategic Goals:

- Enhance public trust through continued responsiveness, professionalism, increased transparency, and purposeful communication
- Strengthen logistical resources to ensure the continuation of efficient, secure, and accessible elections
- Provide for continuity of internal operations

Highlights

- The Election Office administered six elections in 2025, including the first Presidential Preference Primary since 1992
- The Election Office conducted the annual "I Voted" sticker contest with 215 entries received from students in grades six through 12
- Over 1,000 board workers were hired for advance and election day voting in 2025 to ensure that all eligible Sedgwick County Citizens had the opportunity to cast their vote in an election



Accomplishments and Strategic Results

Accomplishments

The Election Office currently serves over 345,000 registered voters in Sedgwick County and had the following accomplishments in 2025:

- Introduced a “Future Voter” sticker contest to be held in 2026;
- Hired over 1,000 board workers to effectively manage increased voter turnout and extended early voting duration;
- Processed over 36,000 voter registrations, including more than 10,000 new registrations and 26,000 updates to existing registrations; and
- Processed over 200 candidate filings by the filing deadline.

Strategic Results

The Election Commissioner had the follow strategic goals and results for 2025:

- The Election Office aimed to have a 100.0 percent match between audited ballot results and machine tabulated results. In 2025, all of the Election Office’s required 2025 post-election audits were conducted with 100.0 percent accuracy.
- The Election Office aimed to have 99.0 percent of polling places opened on time (no more than one delayed polling place). One hundred percent of polling locations opened on time for all elections conducted in 2025.

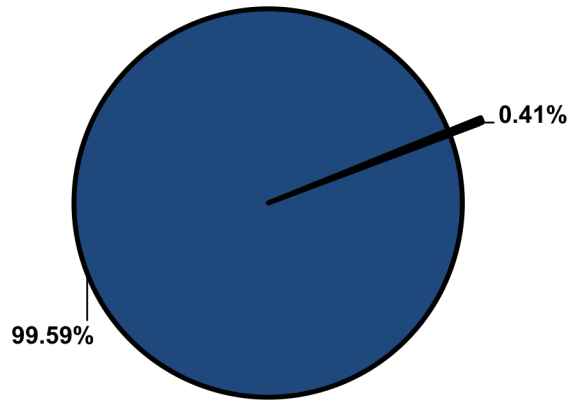


Significant Budget Adjustments

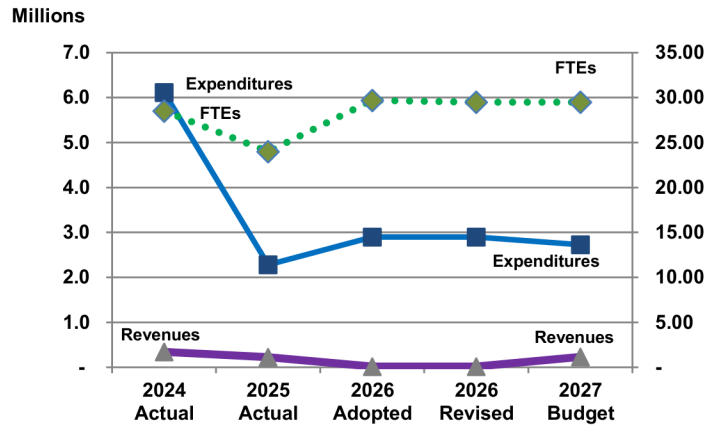
Significant adjustments to the Election Commissioner’s 2027 Recommended Budget include a decrease in personnel costs (\$275,521) due to the 2026 gubernatorial election and an increase in all other revenue (\$220,484) to bring in-line with anticipated actuals.

Departmental Graphical Summary

Election Commissioner
Percent of Total County Operating Budget



Expenditures, Program Revenue & FTEs
All Operating Funds



Budget Summary by Category

	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amount Chg '26 Rev.-'27	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27
Expenditures							
Personnel	2,093,641	1,600,668	2,034,683	2,034,683	1,849,886	(184,797)	-9.08%
Contractual Services	947,658	588,136	748,168	748,168	757,579	9,411	1.26%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	170,845	92,090	115,000	115,000	118,000	3,000	2.61%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	16,920	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers	2,888,557	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	6,117,622	2,280,894	2,897,851	2,897,851	2,725,465	(172,386)	-5.95%
Revenues							
Tax Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses and Permits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	37,163	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charges for Services	12,431	6,394	12,552	12,552	6,546	(6,006)	-47.85%
All Other Revenue	292,974	216,431	4,691	4,691	225,175	220,484	4700.07%
Total Revenues	342,568	222,825	17,243	17,243	231,721	214,478	1243.87%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)							
Property Tax Funded	28.51	24.00	29.70	29.50	29.50	-	0.00%
Non-Property Tax Funded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total FTEs	28.51	24.00	29.70	29.50	29.50	-	0.00%

Budget Summary by Fund

Fund	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amount Chg '26 Rev.-'27	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27
General Fund	6,076,330	2,280,894	2,897,851	2,897,851	2,725,465	(172,386)	-5.95%
Miscellaneous Grants	41,292	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	6,117,622	2,280,894	2,897,851	2,897,851	2,725,465	(172,386)	-5.95%

Significant Budget Adjustments from Prior Year Revised Budget

	Expenditures	Revenues	FTEs
Decrease in personnel costs for 2026 gubernatorial election	(275,521)		
Increase in all other revenue to bring in-line with anticipated actuals		220,484	

Total (275,521) 220,484 -

Budget Summary by Program

Program	Fund	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27	26'-27' FTEs
Administration	110	4,222,132	1,298,511	1,361,299	1,361,299	1,452,434	6.69%	14.00
Election Operations	110	1,854,198	982,383	1,536,552	1,536,552	1,273,031	0.00%	15.50
Physical Security Grant	279	41,292	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Total		6,117,622	2,280,894	2,897,851	2,897,851	2,725,465	-5.95%	29.50

Personnel Summary by Fund

Position Titles	Fund	Grade	Budgeted Compensation Comparison			FTE Comparison		
			2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget
Election Commissioner	110	APPOINT	109,801	114,194	114,194	1.00	1.00	1.00
Chief Deputy Election Comm.	110	GRADE 63	84,726	88,115	88,115	1.00	1.00	1.00
Deputy Election Commissioner	110	GRADE 60	78,158	81,284	81,284	1.00	1.00	1.00
Warehouse Supervisor	110	GRADE 59	57,325	59,613	59,613	1.00	1.00	1.00
Technology Supervisor	110	GRADE 59	57,304	59,592	59,592	1.00	1.00	1.00
Senior Administrative Officer	110	GRADE 59	56,368	58,614	58,614	1.00	1.00	1.00
Management Analyst I	110	GRADE 59	52,354	54,454	54,454	1.00	1.00	1.00
Administrative Support VI	110	GRADE 57	94,557	98,342	98,342	2.00	2.00	2.00
Election Specialist	110	GRADE 55	144,721	138,549	146,862	3.00	3.00	3.00
Senior Election Specialist	110	GRADE 56	92,195	95,430	95,430	2.00	2.00	2.00
PT Admin Support IV	110	GRADE 55	51,413	62,774	62,774	2.00	1.50	1.50
PT Election Specialist	110	GRADE 55	20,904	20,519	20,519	0.50	0.50	0.50
Warehouse Specialist	110	GRADE 53	37,918	39,437	39,437	1.00	1.00	1.00
PT Admin Support I	110	GRADE 51	60,609	74,703	74,703	2.00	2.00	2.00
Poll Worker	110	ELECT	4,680	273,761	273,761	6.80	7.50	7.50
Temp Office-Administrative	110	EXCEPT	269,081	-	-	0.40	-	-
HELD PT Administrative Support	110	EXCEPT	-	-	-	3.00	3.00	3.00
Subtotal					1,327,695			
Add:								
Budgeted Personnel Savings					-			
Compensation Adjustments					62,413			
Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay					1,375			
Benefits					458,403			
Total Personnel Budget					1,849,886	29.70	29.50	29.50

• Administration

The Election Commissioner is appointed by the Kansas Secretary of State for a four-year term. The Office is responsible for registering citizens to vote, negotiating with other entities for polling location arrangements, organizing and scheduling employees and volunteers to staff polling places for elections, providing advance ballots, and tabulating the results of voting. Indirect costs for the election process are funded from this program.

Fund(s): County General Fund 110

Expenditures	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amnt. Chg. '26 - '27	% Chg. '26 - '27
Personnel	1,238,744	1,196,402	1,223,075	1,223,075	1,313,799	90,724	7.4%
Contractual Services	90,508	92,521	128,224	128,224	125,635	(2,589)	-2.0%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Commodities	8,452	9,588	10,000	10,000	13,000	3,000	30.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Interfund Transfers	2,884,428	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	4,222,132	1,298,511	1,361,299	1,361,299	1,452,434	91,135	6.7%
Revenues							
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Charges For Service	105	693	111	111	735	624	559.9%
All Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Revenues	105	693	111	111	735	624	559.9%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	-	0.0%

• Election Operations

This program is established to capture the direct costs associated with conducting annual elections. The largest expense is for Election Day board worker salaries and mileage. These employees are hired on a temporary basis prior to, during, and after the election. Also included is printing of ballots, payment to polling places, set up and delivery of voting machines, administrative costs, voter registration, and voter outreach. This program also captures the revenue generated by fees candidates pay to file for election and reimbursements received for special elections.

Fund(s): County General Fund 110

Expenditures	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amnt. Chg. '26 - '27	% Chg. '26 - '27
Personnel	854,897	404,266	811,608	811,608	536,087	(275,521)	-33.9%
Contractual Services	857,151	495,615	619,944	619,944	631,944	12,000	1.9%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Commodities	121,101	82,502	105,000	105,000	105,000	-	0.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Capital Equipment	16,920	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Interfund Transfers	4,129	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	1,854,198	982,383	1,536,552	1,536,552	1,273,031	(263,521)	-17.2%
Revenues							
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Charges For Service	12,326	5,701	12,440	12,440	5,811	(6,629)	-53.3%
All Other Revenue	288,844	216,431	4,691	4,691	225,175	220,484	4700.1%
Total Revenues	301,170	222,132	17,131	17,131	230,986	213,855	1248.3%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	14.51	10.00	15.70	15.50	15.50	-	0.0%

• Physical Security Grant

In 2023, the Kansas Secretary of State's Office announced the Physical Security Grant Program for the express purpose of facilitating upgrades and improvements to each of the 105 county election offices. The upgrades and improvements were in areas of physical security of election equipment, ballots, election offices, and staff. The Election Office was awarded grant funds to upgrade the physical security of Sedgwick County election equipment and election spaces in 2024.

Fund(s): Miscellaneous Grants 279

Expenditures	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amnt. Chg. '26 - '27	% Chg. '26 - '27
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Contractual Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Commodities	41,292	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	41,292	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Revenues							
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Intergovernmental	37,163	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
All Other Revenue	4,129	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Revenues	41,292	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%