

2026 ELECTION KIT



SEDGWICK COUNTY
Election Office



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This guide covers the **Aug. 4 and Nov. 3 Statewide Primary and General Elections** and includes general information relevant to the 2026 election cycle.



ON THE BALLOT IN THE 2026 STATEWIDE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

Federal

U.S. Senate

U.S. House of Representatives Kansas, 4th District

State

Special Question: Kansas Elections for Supreme Court Justices Amendment (Aug. Primary)

Governor/Lieutenant Governor

Secretary of State

Attorney General

State Treasurer

Commissioner of Insurance

State Senate, 25th District (Unexpired Term)

State Representatives (all)

State Board of Education, 7th District

District Judges: Divisions 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 (Unexpired Term), 15, 17, 18, 19, 29, 30

District Magistrate Judge, 18th District (Unexpired Term)

County

County Commissioner: Districts 1, 4, 5

Township

Clerk

City

Andale: Mayor & 2 Council Positions

Colwich: Mayor & 2 Council Positions

Garden Plain: 3 Council Positions

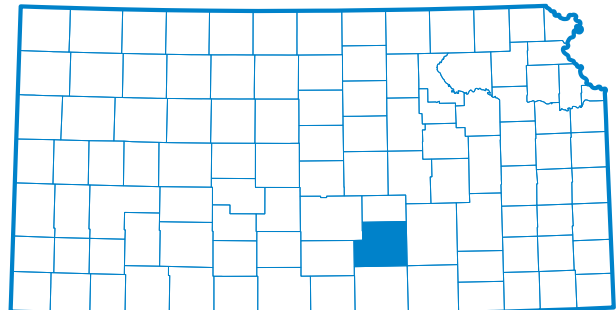
August Primary Election Only

Precinct Committee Men & Women (all)

In Kansas, primary elections are partisan elections conducted separately by each political party to select that party's nominees for the General Election. Under Kansas law and party rules, voters affiliated with a political party – and unaffiliated voters who choose to affiliate with a party on Election Day – may vote that party's primary ballot.

Because a constitutional amendment question will appear on the primary ballot, a third ballot style will also be available for registered voters who do not wish to affiliate with a political party or for those who are affiliated with a minor party that does not participate in the primary election. This ballot style will contain only the constitutional amendment question and no partisan candidate races.

Independent candidates don't participate in primary elections. Instead, they qualify for the general election ballot through the petition process. As a result, voters selecting the constitutional amendment-only ballot won't vote in any party primary contests, but they will still have the opportunity to vote on the statewide constitutional amendment question.





QUICK FACTS

Each of the 105 counties in Kansas has a county election officer responsible for conducting all official elections. Sedgwick County is one of four counties (along with Johnson, Shawnee and Wyandotte) with an election commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State. The county clerk is responsible for elections in the other 101 counties.

Voters can cast a ballot by mail, early in-person or on Election Day.

"I Voted" and "Future Voter" stickers were designed by Sedgwick County students and judged by a panel. It was the third year of the "I Voted" sticker contest for kids grades 6-12 and the first year of the "Future Voter" sticker contest for kids grades K-5.

Voters must vote in the party primary of their registration unless registered as unaffiliated. Only unaffiliated voters may declare a party when they vote.

Government-issued Photo ID is required to vote. For full details, visit the [Kansas Voter View website](#).

[Sample ballots are available to view online](#) starting 45 days prior to the election.

2026 'I VOTED' AND 'FUTURE VOTER' STICKER WINNERS

On April 1, 2026, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner Laura Rainwater announced winners of the student design contest for the 2026 "I Voted" and "Future Voter" stickers. This marked the first year for the "Future Voter" sticker contest, which was open to children in grades K-5.

Rylin Dehncke, a sophomore at Maize South High School, won the contest for the "I Voted" sticker, which was open to students in grades 6-12. Dehncke's colorful design showcases multiple elements from the Kansas, including the state bird of Kansas – the Western Meadowlark, a barn, grain bin, airplane, wheat stalk, sunflower, the state motto – "Ad Astra Per Aspera," and a road leading through a prairie to the Kansas State Capitol building.

Penelope Gaeddert, a third-grade student at Colwich Elementary, is the winner of the first "Future Voter" sticker contest. Her design features an American Buffalo – the Kansas state animal, in a field of sunflowers and a blue sky under the words "Future Voter."

A panel of judges from the community picked the winning artwork from 305 "I Voted" sticker entries and 163 "Future Voter" designs that came from 38 schools, as well as many homeschool students.

The artwork of all students who placed in the contest is displayed at the Sedgwick County Election Office.

1st Place

"I Voted" Sticker Contest



Rylin Dehncke

10th Grade, Maize South High School

1st Place

"Future Voter" Sticker Contest



Penelope Gaeddert

3rd Grade, Colwich Elementary



COUNTY VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS

Voters by Age

Total Registered Voters = 345,904
as of May 18, 2026

Age	Registered	% of Registered Voters
18-24	33,938	9.8%
25-44	125,816	36.4%
45-65	105,741	30.6%
66+	80,410	23.2%

Voters by Gender

Gender	Registered	% of Registered Voters
Female	180,817	52.3%
Male	162,012	46.8%
Undesignated	3,075	0.9%

Voters by Party

Party	Registered	% of Registered Voters
Democratic	84,794	24.5%
Libertarian	4,823	1.4%
Republican	137,804	39.8%
United Kansas	277	0.1%
Unaffiliated	118,207	34.2%



HOW TO VOTE IN SEDGWICK COUNTY

Registered voters in Sedgwick County who cast ballots in the 2026 Statewide Primary and General Elections have the option to vote either by mail, in-person at any early polling site or in-person at their assigned Election Day polling place.

Advance-By-Mail Voting

Mail ballots are available to any registered voter in Sedgwick County who prefers to vote by mail or who will not be present during the election. The option is also offered to military and overseas voters.

To vote by mail, registered voters must submit a ballot application, which can be found on the Sedgwick County Election Office website, and return it to the Sedgwick County Election Office by email, fax or mail. The end of the application period for advance ballots is the Tuesday (one week) before Election Day, although in many situations the applications need to be submitted earlier to allow sufficient time for the ballot to be mailed, voted and returned. **Mail ballots must be received by the Sedgwick County Election Office in-person, by mail or by community drop box by 7 p.m. on Election Day.**

Advance mail ballots in the completed enveloped can also be returned to any Election Day polling place. Advance ballots will begin distribution **July 15, 2026**, for the Primary Election and **Oct. 14, 2026**, for the General Election.

Early Voting

Early voting will take place beginning **July 20, 2026**, for the Primary Election and **Oct. 19, 2026**, for the General Election. Once early voting begins, voters may cast their ballot at any open early voting site.

For the 2026 Primary and General Elections, three sites will be available prior to the opening of satellite locations:

- **Sedgwick County Election Office, 3639 N. Comotara St.**
- **K-State Research and Extension – Sedgwick County, 7001 W. 21st St. N.**
- **Advance Learning Library, 711 W. 2nd St. N.**

For information on satellite locations and available dates and times, visit the '[Voting Options](#)' page on the [Election Office website](#).

Election Day Voting

Sedgwick County will conduct voting in the Primary Election on **Aug. 4, 2026**. Voting in the General Election will take place **Nov. 3, 2026**. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Voters must vote at their assigned polling place on Election Day. Voters are encouraged to use the [Kansas Voter View](#) tool to find their correct location.



PHOTO I.D. REQUIREMENTS

State law requires Kansas voters to show photographic identification when casting a vote in person. The ID must not have expired at the time of voting. An acceptable photo ID does not have to have an expiration date on the document to be valid.

Acceptable Forms of Photo ID

- A driver's license or nondriver's identification card issued by Kansas or by another state or district of the United States
- A concealed carry of handgun license issued by Kansas or a concealed carry of handgun or weapon license issued by another state or district of the United States
- A United States passport
- An employee badge or identification document issued by a municipal, county, state, or federal government office
- A military identification document issued by the United States
- A student identification card issued by an accredited postsecondary institution of education in the state of Kansas
- A public assistance identification card issued by a municipal, county, state or federal government office
- An identification card issued by a Native American tribe

Exemptions exist for individuals 65 years of age or older who may use expired photo IDs or individuals whose religious beliefs prohibit photographic identification. Voters with religious objections may sign an affidavit before the election or at the poll on Election Day to be exempt.

State photo ID requirements do not apply to military and overseas citizens who vote under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA); for mail ballot elections; or voters who qualify, apply and are accepted to the permanent advance voting list, as long as they remain on the permanent advance voting list.

To qualify for a nondriver identification card, individuals must:

- Not possess any valid photo identification documents under Kansas law
- Lack any documents necessary to prove their identity
- Sign an affidavit attesting they do not have a valid photo ID or documents to prove their identity
- Be registered to vote in Kansas
- Have been born in Kansas

Individuals born outside of Kansas, who do not have proof of identity and who do not wish to pay to obtain such a document from their home state may apply for a State Voter Identification Document. This document can only be used to vote in Kansas.



Scan this QR code to visit the Sedgwick County
Election Office Dashboard page.



WHAT TO EXPECT AT A POLLING PLACE

Upon arrival, voters will be asked by an election worker to state their name and address and show proof of ID. The election worker will help get the voter checked in. They will be asked if they would like to use a touch screen ballot marking device or fill out a paper ballot. The voter will then be taken to a private area to complete their ballot.

A voter may request assistance in voting for any reason, including but not limited to:

- **Physical disability**
- **Visual handicap**
- **Lack of proficiency in reading the English language**

All voting machines in Sedgwick County are equipped with an audio ballot feature for accessibility. If a voter requires an audio ballot, they may ask an election worker.

Voters who are unable to mark or transmit an advance ballot due to illness, disability or lack of proficiency in the English language may receive assistance from another person. The person rendering assistance must sign a statement and return both the statement and the advance ballot to the Sedgwick County Election Office by the time the polls close on Election Day.

If a voter who is elderly or disabled goes to the voting place, but finds it inaccessible, such voter may request that his or her ballot be brought to the entrance of the voting place.

Voters are entitled to up to two replacement ballots if there are mis-marked or spoiled ballots.

ELECTION RESULTS

The number of mail ballots and early in-person voters is available for viewing beginning with mail ballot distribution by viewing the Election Office's ['Dashboard & Visualizations'](#) page. The visual shows mail ballots sent and returned, early in-person votes cast, demographics and breakdowns by precinct. Frequent updates are made as they become available.

On Election Day, unofficial voter turnout is updated on the dashboard throughout the day to help track voter turnout. Unofficial results will begin being reported shortly after precincts are closed at 7 p.m. Batches of results will be uploaded throughout the night and will include early in-person voting, mail ballots and Election Day voting.

Check the 'Election Results' page for updates on election night beginning at approximately 7:15 p.m. Unofficial results will also be sent to the Strategic Communications' distribution list following the final upload election night. Results will not be official until the final canvass is held the week after the election.

Results of past elections are available for viewing at the Election Office's ['Election results'](#) page.



POST-ELECTION AUDIT

Per **K.S.A. 25-3009**, the post-election audit shall take place after the election. The races to be audited are randomly selected by the Secretary of State's office and county elections office. The precincts to be audited are randomly selected by each county elections office. The audit shall be performed manually by the counties and shall review all paper ballots selected to ensure the hand vote count is identical to the vote count from the tabulators. The audit shall be conducted by a sworn election board consisting of bipartisan trained board members. The county election officer will determine the members of the sworn election board who will conduct the audit.

CANVASS

The canvassing process includes counting ballots, tabulating votes by election district and certifying the results of all official primary and general elections and question submitted elections held pursuant to federal or state law. It is the process which produces official election results, whether it is the official number of valid votes cast for each candidate for each elected office or the official number of valid Yes and No votes cast on an issue in a question submitted election.

For local elections, there are always two canvasses: the **original canvass** and the **final canvass**. For national and state elections, there are always three canvasses: the **original**, **intermediate** and **final canvass**.

Election Night Tabulation

Election night tabulation refers to the unofficial counting of ballots and reporting of election results. This is done by county election officials and the Secretary of State's office as a public service. There is no statutory requirement for election night reporting; it is customarily done in response to the intense interest in knowing the results of the election. Results tabulated and reported on election night are unofficial.

Original Canvass

At the original canvass, the canvass board counts the votes for each candidate in each race and for each question on the ballot and produces precinct totals for inclusion in the countywide totals. The canvass board at the original canvass reviews all special cases such as write-in votes and voided and mismatched ballots to determine voter intent in each case.

Final Canvass

In local elections for which the county board of canvassers conducts the final canvass, the certified results are official and final. They may not be changed except: (1) by court order as the result of an election contest in a general election, or (2) as the result of an objection to a primary nomination. In national and state elections, the county abstracts are sent to the Secretary of State within two weeks after Election Day.

Sedgwick County will provide a live stream on the government's official Facebook page. Canvassing is open for public attendance.



ELECTION SECURITY

The Sedgwick County Election Office has extensive security protocols and procedures in place. From physical and process security to limited access, chain of custody and user role security, comprehensive systems are in place to conduct secure the entirety of the election process.

All voting equipment utilized has been certified by the Election Assistance Commission and the Kansas Secretary of State. Equipment is exhaustively tested, with a public test of equipment conducted prior to and after each election.

All ballots in Sedgwick County are voter verifiable paper ballots. Voters can verify selections prior to placing in the optical scanner. The ballot marking devices and optical scanners are not networked or connected to the internet. Opening and closing reports printed by each optical scanner verify no ballots have been scanned prior to polls opening and provide the number of ballots scanned throughout the day at closing.

Election results from each polling place are hand-carried on encrypted data sticks, secured in a numbered and sealed pouch and delivered to the Election Office for tabulation and inclusion in results totals.

Advance ballot applications require a valid, government-issued ID. Applications are reviewed and signatures verified prior to acceptance and processing. Advance by mail ballot drop boxes are opened only during active elections. Ballots are collected daily by a bipartisan team of election workers, accounted for on chain of custody logs and returned to the Election Office for processing. Ballot drop boxes in Sedgwick County are subject to video surveillance and are visible by video camera.

ELECTION WORKERS

The Sedgwick County Election Office recruits paid election workers for all elections.

Requirements

- Must be a registered voter in Sedgwick County or a 16- or 17-year-old who is otherwise eligible to register to vote, except for not yet being of legal age.
- Must be available to work on Election Day between 5:45 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. or until all closing procedures have been completed.
- Must be available to attend mandatory election worker training each year.

Available Shifts

Full Day - 5:45 a.m.-8:30 p.m. (or until all closing duties are completed)

Supervising Judges - 5:45 a.m.-9 p.m. (or until all closing duties are completed and supplies are returned to the Election Office)

Election workers play a critical role in election security. Polling places are run by sworn election workers of all political affiliations. These election workers are directed by a supervising judge who maintains authority over the activities at the polling site. All election workers review and sign precinct reports, which are kept with official election documents.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I vote if I'm in line when the polls close?

Any voters in line when the polls close are advised to stay in line. All voters who are in line when polling locations close at 7 p.m. are allowed to vote.

How do I register to vote or update my registration?

Eligible voters must be a citizen of the United States and 18 years old by the upcoming General Election. Online registration is available by visiting the Kansas Online Voter Registration page through the Kansas Secretary of State. Voter registration outposts are available throughout Sedgwick County. Applications can also be sent by mail to the Sedgwick County Election Office. For more information, visit the 'Registration' page for the Sedgwick County Election Office. Registration closes 21 days before Election Day.

Registered voters can update their information by visiting the Kansas Voter View website.

I moved to a new address in the county I'm currently registered in, can I vote?

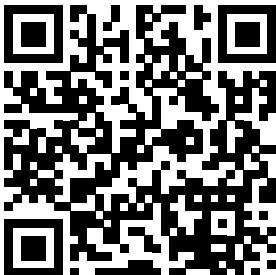
Individuals who move to a new address within the same county should update their information as soon as possible. If you move after the registration deadline, you may vote at the precinct assigned to your old address, but you will be required to complete a new voter registration application.

How can I find out the status of my advance-by-mail ballot application and/or ballot?

Voters can call their local election office to check on the status of their advance-by-mail ballot application and/or ballot. Voters can track the status of their advance-by-mail ballot application and election ballot online at kansassvoterinfo.gov.

I returned my mail ballot to the Post Office on Election Day. Will it be counted?

Advance mail ballots must be **received** by the Election Office on Election Day at 7 p.m. Any ballots received after will not be counted per **K.S.A. 25-1132**, which went into effect Jan. 1, 2026, eliminating the three-day grace period following Election Day. Advance mail ballots in the completed enveloped can be returned via mail, placed in any secure Community Drop Box or returned to any Election Day polling place.



Scan this QR code for a full list of frequently asked questions from the Kansas Secretary of State.



SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE

The Sedgwick County Election Office moved to its new location at **3639 N. Comotara St.** in mid-May 2026. Election staff moved from Historic Courthouse to the new facility immediately without disruption. Phase II of the Election Office remodel will be complete by late Nov. 2026 and will relocate the voting equipment to the same facility, bringing all staff and equipment under one roof.

The building will house Election Office staff, meeting and training rooms, equipment staging and warehouse storage, creating more efficiency and centralizing operations. Election security and transparency were priorities of the remodel, including increased badge access control, internal and external cameras and public-facing windows to allow for viewing of ballot tabulation and sorting.

The new Election Office location will continue to serve as an early in-person voting site with more than 100 parking spaces. There are also nearby bus stops available by Wichita Transit.

Commissioners approved the purchase of the building in Feb. 2024 for a price of \$4.5 million with a project budget of \$5,884,428. The project costs included security upgrades, fencing, signage and minor remodeling costs. Ribbon cutting for the facility will take place in early December.

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Laura Rainwater serves as the Sedgwick County Election Commissioner. She was initially appointed in March 2023 and reappointed to a four-year term on July 31, 2025, by Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab.

Prior to her appointment, Laura served as Executive Director of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), the Sedgwick County Association of Cities (SCAC) and the K-254 Corridor Development Association. She also held the role of Director of Administrative Services for the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas.

From 2020-2023, she served as a supervising election judge. She has more than 18 years of experience in government and community relations.



A lifelong resident of Sedgwick County, Laura is a graduate of Southeast High School. She continued her education at the University of Kansas and Wichita State University, where she earned a degree in Business Management. She is also a graduate of the MiniMPA program through the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs and holds the Certified Public Manager designation through the University of Kansas.



MEDIA GUIDELINES

During early in-person voting and Election Day, media seeking video or photographs at polling locations must contact Sedgwick County Strategic Communications and receive approval from the on-site Supervising Judge. Media are encouraged to seek permission before videotaping or photographing voters. Please avoid closeups of ballots and machines being filled out, as well as voters' personal information.

Interview Requests

Please contact Sedgwick County Strategic Communications for all media inquiries and interview requests:

- **Community Relations Specialist, Brandon Zenner** – brandon.zenner@sedgwick.gov
- **Director, Nicole Gibbs** – nicole.gibbs@sedgwick.gov
- **Strategic Communications Staff** – communications@sedgwick.gov

Strategic Communications will distribute media advisories in advance of elections to offer interview opportunities with the Election Commissioner, as well as relevant election information. News personnel seeking one-on-one interviews are required to do so in a timely fashion in advance of the interview date.

Election Night Coverage

An election night media room will be established at the **Sedgwick County Election Office, 3639 N. Comotara St.**, as deemed necessary. Media are invited to receive polling updates and interview the Election Commissioner following the night's ballot tabulation. Media interested in photographs and/or b-roll will be permitted with proper notification of Sedgwick County Strategic Communications. Results will be made available through the Sedgwick County Election Office website and email distribution to subscribed media.



SEDGWICK COUNTY Election Office