

**Shawnee County
2012 Legislative Policy Statement**

Amendment To Date Of Commencement County Treasurer's Term

K.S.A. 19-501 provides that County Treasurers be elected in each county for a term of four (4) years, *commencing on the second Tuesday in October following the election*. Consequently, under the current statutory scheme, a "lame duck" County Treasurer continues to serve in office for 11 months after his or her successor has been elected. At the time the statute was adopted, such a time lag was apparently deemed necessary to allow the outgoing treasurer time to prepare a "clean set" of books to the incoming treasurer. Shawnee County feels that, in modern times, there is no excuse or reason for a County Treasurer to need 11 months to prepare a "clean set" of books.

Today's modern county has a clean set of books months before the October deadline. The county financial statements are completed by a fully staffed audit-finance department and are turned over to the external auditors usually in April. The county treasurer has nothing to do with any of this.

As an elected official yourself, certainly you would understand the frustration of winning an election and then having to wait 11 months to take office.

Therefore, the Board of County Commissioners of Shawnee County supports amending K.S.A. 19-501 to require that a County Treasurer's term in office begin in January immediately following the November election. Such an amendment would bring the commencement of the County Treasurer's term of office into alignment with other elected county officials whose term of office commences in January. The Amendment will also insure that the individual serving in the office is accountable and responsive to the voters who elected them.

HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY HB 2438

Chair and Committee:

Please find attached the Shawnee County Commission's 2012 Legislative Policy Statement in regard to the term of office of County Treasurers. I am submitting this as my testimony in support of HB 2438.

Rich Eckert
Shawnee County Counselor