

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-8

*A resolution petitioning the Kansas Association of Counties for an amendment to its Bylaws, creating a Legislative Policy Committee and establishing the purpose and membership thereof.*

*Whereas, THOMAS County is a member in good standing of the Kansas Association of Counties; and*

*Whereas, the Board of THOMAS County Commissioners is a member in good standing of the Kansas County Commissioners Association; and*

*Whereas, the Board of THOMAS County Commissioners is the policymaking board for THOMAS County Government; and*

*Whereas, in a time when county government is being asked to do more with less, and to assume responsibilities assigned by the federal and state governments, it is altogether appropriate for the Kansas Association of Counties to be as strategic, dynamic, and effective as possible in its advocacy on behalf of county governments and their constituents in Kansas.*

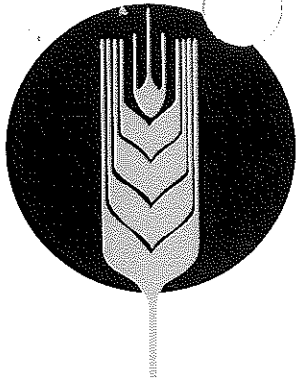
*Therefore, be it resolved* by the Board of THOMAS County Commissioners that the Board, acting through its voting delegate to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, RON EVANS, petitions the membership of the Kansas Association of Counties to consider and act favorably on the proposed amendment to the KAC Bylaws as attached.

*Be it further resolved* that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Counties, so that this matter can be considered by the full membership at the annual business meeting of the Association, to be held on Monday afternoon, November 22, 2004.

*Approved* this 31ST day of AUGUST, 2004.

Ron Evans  
Glen H. Kersonbrock  
Quane Danner  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Attest: Theresa Patel  
Thomas, County Clerk



# Kansas County Commissioners Association

6206 S.W. 9th Terrace  
Topeka, KS 66615  
785/272-2585 Fax 785/272-3585

August 9, 2004

Dear County Commission:

At the KCCA meeting on May 7, 2004, the membership created a KCCA Visioning Committee and charged the committee with formulating recommendations on how to strengthen the role of county commissioners in decision making in the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) organization. Eleven commissioners who broadly represent Kansas counties serve on the committee, and I am privileged to serve as its chairman.

Our committee carefully considered a number of options for enhancing county commissioners' decision making authority in the KAC. We ultimately decided that an essential first step is to strengthen commissioners' role in the development of the KAC Legislative Policy Statement. Our committee is recommending an amendment to the KAC Bylaws that we believe will accomplish this objective. A copy of the proposed amendment is enclosed.

Presently, KAC legislative policy is developed by a committee comprised of county elected officials and appointed staff. Size and composition of the committee is somewhat indeterminate and varies from year to year. In the recent past only a small number of Legislative Policy Committee members have been county commissioners. Thus, while county commissions have responsibility for approval of their county's legislative positions, at our state association level, county commissions have only a modest role in legislative policy development.

Moreover, at present, when a legislative matter arises that falls outside of the approved Legislative Policy Statement, there is no mechanism for the KAC to take a position on the issue. Such was the case with the bill introduced in the 2004 legislative session authorizing Lincoln and Cloud counties to submit the question of law enforcement consolidation to their voters. The KAC was unable to take a position on this bill which led to confusion and frustration among lawmakers.

Our Committee's amendment, offered to address the issues identified above, would:

- authorize in the KAC Bylaws creation of a standing 12-person Legislative Policy Committee (current KAC Bylaws are silent concerning any legislative policy committee)
- specify size and composition of the Legislative Policy Committee so that county commissioners hold a majority of the seats on the committee as follows:
  - six commissioners on the KAC Governing Board, or their designees, representing the Northwest, North Central, Northeast, Southwest, South Central, and Southeast districts

- the president and vice-president of the Kansas County Commissioners Association, or their designees
- one county clerk, one county treasurer, one register of deeds, and one sheriff, each selected by his or her respective affiliate association.
- invite each of the KAC's other associate and affiliate members not otherwise on the Legislative Policy Committee, to designate one ex-officio committee member
- develop and recommend an annual Legislative Policy Statement for presentation to the KAC membership for its consideration and adoption at the KAC annual meeting.
- adopt legislative position statements on topics not addressed in the Legislative Policy Statement and which arise during the legislative session. Such positions shall have the same full force and effect as if they had been adopted by the membership.

The Visioning Committee believes that taken together, these changes will lead to KAC legislative policy that more closely reflects the needs and interests of citizens served by Kansas counties.

During the next month, a member of the Visioning Committee will contact your county commission, seeking to answer your questions, receive your comments and garner your support for this amendment. **In order to advance our proposed amendment to the KAC membership at the annual meeting on November 22, 2004, at least 21 counties will need to pass a resolution supporting the amendment no later than October 29, 2004.** We have prepared a model resolution toward this end and invite your county commission to enact its passage. A copy of the resolution is enclosed.

Enclosed is a list of members of the KCCA Visioning Committee. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Thank you for your service to Kansas county government.

Sincerely,



Jerry Carson  
KCCA Vice-President

Enclosures (2)