

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 536

6 By: Howard of the Senate

7 and

8 Kendrix of the House

9 An Act relating to county election boards; amending
10 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-117, which relates to
11 secretary's duties and assistant secretary; requiring
12 certain notice from county election board to
13 Secretary of the State Election Board; providing for
14 execution of duties under certain circumstances;
15 authorizing certain actions by assistant secretary
16 under specified circumstances; and providing an
17 effective date.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-117, is

20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 2-117. A. The secretary of the county election board
22 shall be the administrative officer of the county election board and
23 shall have general supervisory authority over all precinct officials
24 and absentee voting board members within the county.

25 B. The secretary shall employ an assistant secretary and such
26 other employees as are necessary to perform the duties of the county

1 election board. In the event a vacancy exists in the office of the
2 secretary of the county election board, the Secretary of the State
3 Election Board shall have the authority to stand in the place of the
4 secretary of the county election board for the purpose of employing
5 necessary county election board personnel.

6 C. The secretary of the county election board shall be charged
7 with the operational responsibilities of the board, including, but
8 not limited to:

9 1. The supervision, defining job positions and
10 responsibilities, and discharge of the employees of the county
11 election board;

12 2. The preparation of the annual budget;

13 3. The preparation and filing of all reports; and

14 4. The implementation of policy, findings, and actions required
15 by law or lawfully prescribed or determined by the county election
16 board.

17 D. The minimum salary of the assistant secretary shall be equal
18 to ninety percent (90%) of the scheduled salary of the secretary in
19 the same county, but shall not exceed the salary of the highest
20 salaried first or chief deputy or assistant to any county officer,
21 excluding the under sheriff, in the same county. Provided, the
22 minimum salary may be prorated if a county election board office is
23 open to the public for fewer hours per day than the average of the
24 regular public office hours of other county offices. The salary

1 limitation contained in this section shall not operate to reduce the
2 salary of any person employed as an assistant secretary or chief
3 clerk on October 31, 2019.

4 E. Salaries of additional personnel, including personnel
5 employed temporarily, shall not exceed the salary of the assistant
6 secretary and shall be comparable to salaries paid for the same
7 positions in other offices within the county.

8 F. The salaries of the assistant secretary and other personnel
9 shall be paid from county funds on a monthly basis. In the event
10 that the secretary, assistant secretary or any other essential
11 county election board employee must be away from work for a period
12 of time due to personal illness, family illness, or family
13 emergency, the county shall be required to fund compensation of
14 appropriate temporary personnel during the employee's absence.

15 G. 1. The secretary of the county election board shall notify
16 the Secretary of the State Election Board of the person employed
17 pursuant to subsection B of this section as the assistant secretary
18 of the county election board. The assistant secretary shall be
19 subject to the direction of the secretary of the county election
20 board.

21 2. The assistant secretary shall execute the duties of the
22 secretary during the absence of the secretary due to illness,
23 disqualification, recusal, or any other reason approved in writing
24 by the Secretary of the State Election Board.

1 3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the secretary of
2 the county election board due to the death, removal, or resignation
3 of the secretary, the assistant secretary shall execute the duties
4 of the secretary until a successor is appointed as prescribed by
5 law.

6 4. In the event of an absence or vacancy described in this
7 subsection, the assistant secretary may stand in the place of the
8 secretary of the county election board as a voting member of the
9 county election board at public meetings of the board with the
10 written authority of the Secretary of the State Election Board.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT, dated
14 04/15/2025 - DO PASS.
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