



Other Viewpoints

Candidate filings should be upheld

If Kansans thought the 2012 election process would roll smoothly along once the state redistricting puzzle was finally pieced together, they were mistaken.

We'd hoped it would all be sorted out when the state Objections Board finished its work Tuesday. But, that was not to be. And thus, this has been a year like no other.

The latest brouhaha involves candidates for the Legislature and the secretary of state's office.

Democrats contend the filing paperwork of former Lake Quivira Mayor Larry Meeker was lost by the secretary of state's office during the rush to get candidates filed for office before the noon June 11 deadline.

The secretary of state's office subsequently searched for the paperwork, couldn't find it and ruled Meeker's candidacy invalid. Meeker intended to seek the state's 17th District House seat, which now has no Democratic Party candidate.

To the credit of Meeker and Democratic Party leaders, they aren't claiming the incident is a politically motivated ploy to assist Republican candidates. Rather, they are contending the incident is an accident that occurred in the rush to get candidates filed in the time available after a panel of federal court judges did the redistricting job legislators were unable to accomplish during the 2012 session.

Meeker's candidacy is one of the issues the State Objections Board had to contend with Tuesday.

Also on that agenda was a claim by Topeka City Councilman John Alcalá, a Democrat who filed for the state's 57th District House seat after the judges' redistricting maps were released. As it stands now, he faces a challenge in the November general election from Aimee Rosenow, a Republican who had initially – before redistricting was completed – filed for a different seat.

Rosenow is one of more than 80 candidates the secretary of state's office reassigned to their new districts as identified by the federal court's redistricting maps.

Alcalá doesn't think it's fair that Rosenow's candidacy was reassigned and asserts she should have been required to file for the 57th District seat after redistricting was completed. Local attorney Scott Hesse agrees. One of his opponents in the Republican primary also is among those the secretary of state's office reassigned.

Hesse and Alcalá contend Secretary of State Kris Kobach didn't have authority to reassign candidates to races they hadn't entered themselves.

We don't know if Kobach had the authority or not, but we're sure he and some of the other lawyers on his staff researched the subject.

Obviously, in any other year the secretary of state should let candidates handle their own work. But, as we've said, this isn't any other year and we really don't have a problem with Kobach putting declared candidates in the race in which they belong according to the redistricting process.

Clearly, those candidates intended to seek election to the Legislature and it's logical to assume they still wanted to run after the maps were drawn. If not, they could withdraw.

Trying to streamline the process doesn't seem to be a monumental sin.

– *The Topeka Capital-Journal, via the Associated Press*

For a story on the Objections Board meeting, see Page 1.

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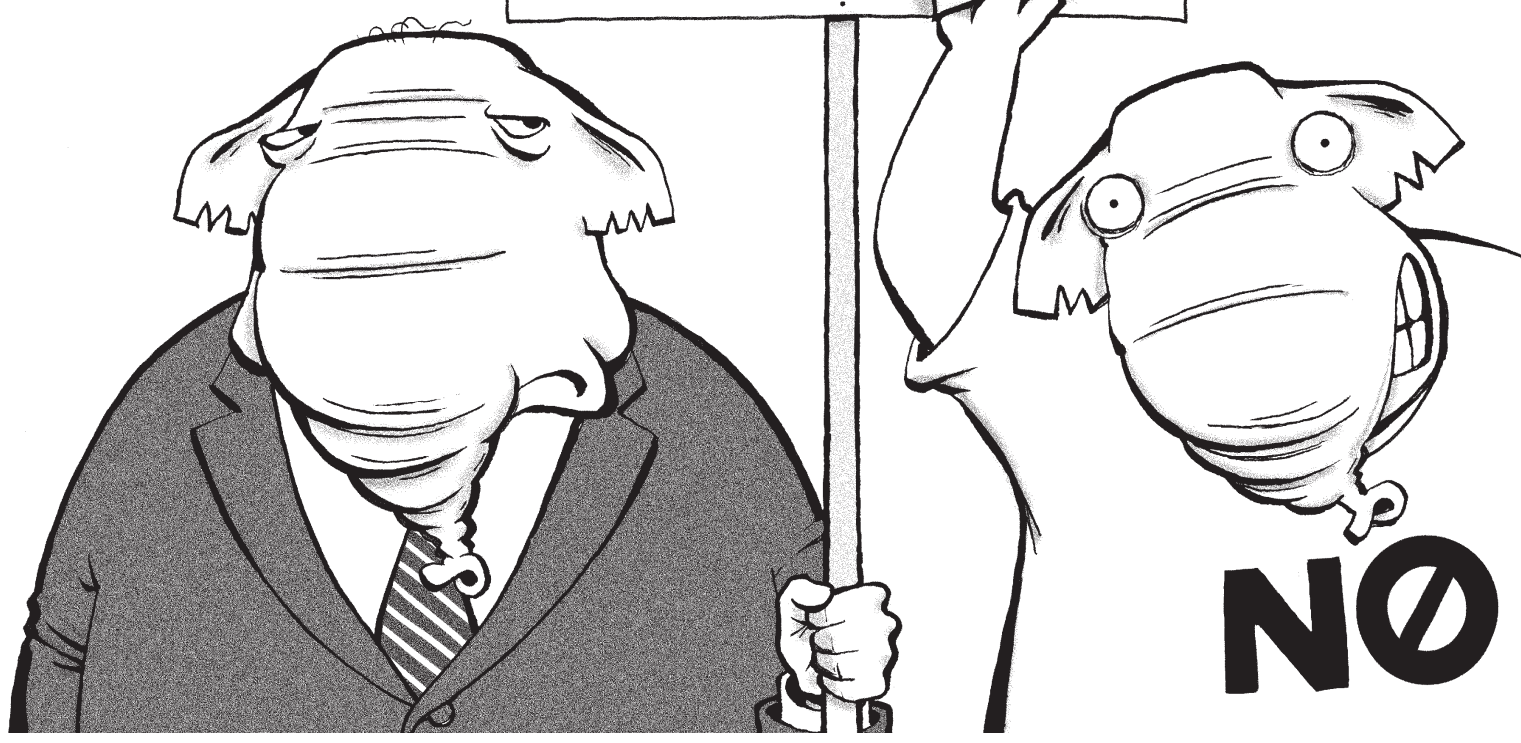
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Friday the 13th came on a Wednesday

As the old comic strip Pogo would have said, "Friday the 13th done come on Wednesday."

My mother died on June 13, 2011. I will always remember the date, not because I'm especially good at that sort of thing, but because it was the day before her 65th wedding anniversary.

So last Wednesday started out sadly and then things really started to go wrong.

When I got to my office in Oberlin, my writing program wouldn't work and I started getting calls from our Colby and Goodland offices that they couldn't use their fax machines.

A simple restart and update fixed my problems. The fax problems were more complicated. The machines would receive faxes and could fax documents in town but couldn't send things out of town. A quick check showed that St. Francis was also suffering from the out-of-town fax bug.

I made a few phone calls and basically shoved the problem onto Evan's shoulders. And he got it fixed. God bless him.

That was before lunch. After lunch, I saw friends coming out of the courthouse. They had just been to hear our U.S. Rep. Tim Huelkamp speak.

We had completely missed the e-mails, which go to three of us, that he was even going to be in Oberlin. We didn't have his visit in the



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

paper nor did we attend the meeting.

We all felt like fools and, worse, we hadn't alerted other people who might have been interested in going to his visit.

Then I called my sister.

My sister had visited our mother every day for the eight years she was in the nursing home. In the last year before Mom's death, she went two and three times a day.

I was the daughter who showed up every month to six weeks. It took me a full day to drive to Concordia to see Mom for a couple of hours.

Sis was her rock. The one who was always there making sure she had the best care possible, fixing her fingernails, bringing her treats, running her errands.

Wednesday was tough for her.

Then I got the news of another death.

April Alice had been hit by a car. She was dead in the alley behind the house. We called

her a sand cat, because her fur was the color of sand. Apparently, she'd been a little too well camouflaged that day.

Her death came just a couple of months after her son died of unknown causes on our bathroom floor.

She came to us in April of 2002, when we were looking for a cat for our son.

She was living in a shed and jumped in my arms and started to purr the minute she saw me. Steve noted that she was pregnant, but our son said he'd take one of the kittens.

April Alice loved to sleep with us in bed. When the kitten our son took came back to live with us, she wasn't any more pleased than any other mother whose adult offspring has come home to live. Especially because Frank liked that same spot on the bed.

For the last few months, however, she's ruled the bed. Now it feels sort of empty even when we're in it.

Do cats go to heaven? I don't know, but Mom always had a soft spot in her heart for April Alice.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor'West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Jobs for Americans can't wait

The Kansans I talk to every week want to know how Congress is going to address our country's economic challenges and help create jobs for Americans. But in Washington, conventional wisdom says Congress does little during an election year. With 40 consecutive months of unemployment above 8 percent, and half of all college graduates unable to find work, the time to act is now – not after the election, not next year.

The good news is there is a bipartisan plan in Congress, called Startup Act 2.0, which will help jump start the economy through the creation and growth of new businesses. Entrepreneurs and the businesses they create are vital to the strength and competitiveness of the U.S. economy. Research by the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City found that nearly all net new job creation in the United States between 1980 and 2005 came from companies less than five years old. In fact, new businesses create approximately 3 million jobs each year.

Yet recent data suggests the startup engine of our economy is slowing. Companies launched in 2009 are estimated to create one million fewer jobs in their first five to 10 years than historical averages. And America has slipped from fourth to 13th place since 2007 when ranked on "startup friendliness" because of government policies that stifle economic growth and drive innovators overseas.

In order to create more jobs for Americans, we need to create an environment where entrepreneurs are free to pursue their ideas in the United States, start more businesses and put more people to work. With those goals in mind, I introduced the Startup Act along with Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia in December 2011. Since then, we strengthened the bill and re-introduced it as Startup Act 2.0 in May, with the support of four more senators. And earlier this month, a bipartisan group of members introduced the bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

• Moran's Memo

Whether you are looking for a job, have the next "big idea," or already own a business and are looking to grow, Startup Act 2.0 can help. Given that attracting investors and gaining access to sufficient capital is a significant challenge for new businesses, Startup Act 2.0 makes commonsense changes to the tax code that will help facilitate investment in startups.

By eliminating capital gains taxes on investments in startups held for at least five years, Startup Act 2.0 will unlock \$7.5 billion in new investment. Our plan also creates a targeted research and development tax credit for startups less than five years old in order to free up resources to help them expand and create jobs.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, businesses with fewer than 20 employees currently spend 36 percent more per employee to comply with federal regulations than larger firms.

To help businesses use more of their resources on growing the company, Startup Act 2.0 requires all government agencies to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of proposed "major rules" with an economic impact of \$100 million or more. This will help determine the value of the rule and its potential impact on the formation and growth of new businesses.

And, because foreign-born entrepreneurs have a strong record of starting businesses and employing Americans, Startup Act 2.0 creates new opportunities for America-educated, entrepreneurial immigrants to remain in the United States where their talent and ideas can create jobs for Americans.

According to the Partnership for a New American Economy, more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies in the U.S. – including Apple, Google and eBay – were founded by immigrants or their children. These American companies employ more than 10 million people.

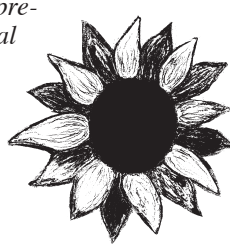
It makes no sense to send talented entrepreneurs back home where they become competitors and create more jobs overseas.

Other countries recognize the importance of entrepreneurs to their nation's economy, and while America falters, they are moving aggressively to attract the highly-skilled individuals needed to generate more companies and create jobs.

Over the last 18 months, seven countries have adopted new laws to attract entrepreneurs from around the world, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, Chile, Brazil, Australia and Singapore.

The United States cannot afford to use the November election as an excuse to delay action. Other countries are not taking this year off, and neither should we. I look forward to working with my colleagues to prove the critics wrong: Congress can get something done in an election year when we work together to strengthen the economy and create jobs for Americans.

Jerry Moran of Hays is the junior U.S. senator from Kansas. His committee appointments include Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Veterans' Affairs; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Special Committee on Aging. To sign up for his weekly newsletter, go to moran.senate.gov.



Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

