

## Office of the Ethics Administrator Ruth M. Benien

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## **PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

In light of the upcoming election and in response to recent complaints the Office of the UG Ethics Administrator on behalf of the UG Ethics Commission provides the following information with respect to the UG Ethics Code and its prohibitions with respect to political activities.

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas does not endorse any candidate for any campaign, primary or general. It does not matter if it is a state, federal or local election. For example, no candidate for judge, no candidate for state representative or senator or federal representative or senator is endorsed nor is any candidate for other office, such as governor, secretary of state, attorney general, etc. in any way endorsed in this upcoming election.

Similarly, no individual Unified Government representative, i.e. elected, appointed or an employee, can endorse any candidate in their official capacity whether by use of title, voice, wearing of uniform or statements made in his or her official capacity in support of a political campaign or candidate.

If any member of the public has received any campaign mailer or flier or seen any social media posts containing a picture of a Unified Government official or employee in uniform, using a UG title or a message in support or suggesting or stating by use of their name that they are endorsing or supporting a particular candidate or issue it should be ignored. It is not allowed and is not an official endorsement and was and is not authorized.

s/Ruth M. Benien UG Ethics Administrator