



BIO - SHELLEY MCTHOMAS

Kansas City Board of Elections
Kansas City, Missouri

Shelley McThomas is the Democratic Director for the Kansas City (MO) Board of Elections (KCEB). She joined the organization in November 2007 and very quickly became immersed in the 2008 election cycle.

Shelley has been instrumental in developing new practices and processes to enhance voter participation, as well as to improve communication and cooperation among election workers, voters and KCEB staff. Her successful "VOTE KC!" campaign during the 2008 presidential election year resulted in City Hall forming an *Election Day Preparedness Task Force* with the KC Election Board. That task force, comprised of the City's public works, police, fire, emergency preparedness and city manager's staff met regularly to develop a plan that would ensure a crisis-free election day.

Shelley is an active member of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT). She serves on the Legislative Committee of the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities (MACCEA), and the Benchmarking Task Force for The Election Center. She also holds memberships in the League of Women Voters of Kansas City and the Missouri Urban Election Boards.

Prior to joining the Kansas City Election Board, Shelley was Senior Managing Partner at The Beatrice Group, a public affairs and marketing firm. She spent 25 years in Washington, D.C. in positions at NBC/WRC-TV, The Creative Connection, Inc., and Kentucky Fried Chicken's Baltimore/Washington regional office. She has also held positions with the Kansas City Missouri School District, Fleishman- Hillard, Inc., and Aerial (T-Mobile) Communications.

Shelley earned a Bachelor of Science degree, and completed postgraduate work in Urban Studies at Howard University. Divorced, she is the proud mother of a 29-year-old son, and is "chief advisor" to nine nieces---ages 7 and up. She resides in Kansas City's Hyde Park neighborhood and is a member of St. Monica Catholic Church.

Shelley is a strong believer in making elections and election administration practices more open and transparent in order to strengthen voter trust and participation in our democracy. She has made promoting high ethical standards, increased transparency, and greater efficiency in management practices the hallmark of her tenure as an election administrator.

###