

SCOTT SCHWAB
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(785) 296-4564
sos.kansas.gov

STATE OF KANSAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Contact:
Katie Koupal, 785.581.3415

Secretary of State Confirms Lehman Departure

TOPEKA – The Kansas Secretary of State confirmed this evening that Sedgwick County Election Commissioner Tabitha Lehman will not be retained when her term expires in July 2021.

“The Secretary of State places the highest priority on maintaining the safety and security of Kansas elections. The security of our elections systems and the personal information of Kansans will not be put at risk, regardless of the circumstances,” said Secretary of State Scott Schwab.

The Office confirmed Secretary Schwab met with Mrs. Lehman on January 5 to notify her of the reasoning to not reappoint. At the time, Mrs. Lehman agreed with the course of action and admitted to ignoring statewide security protocols for accessing the Kansas voter registration database from home.

“This was not a hasty decision,” said Secretary Schwab. “We understand the difficult circumstances election officials encountered throughout the fall. Ultimately, we could not jeopardize the safety of Kansas elections systems to the benefit of one.”

The security of the statewide voter registration system is a top priority of the Secretary of State and is, in no way, under the purview of Sedgwick County IT officials. There is never a reason to compromise that system. Unfortunately, Mrs. Lehman thought there was.

“We had hoped the circumstances in announcing Mrs. Lehman’s departure would have been on a positive note. Unfortunately, today’s actions have made it necessary to correct the record. Nonetheless, we thank Commissioner Lehman for her service and wish her well on her future endeavors,” said Schwab.

###