

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS

SUSAN E. WALKER)
Bourbon County Clerk,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Case No. BB-2026-)
)
JAMES CRUX)
Bourbon County Attorney,)
and)
KYLE R. PARKS,)
KEVIN WAGNER, &)
LYLE K. OWENBY)
Recall Committee)
)
Defendants.)
_____)

CERTIFIED APPLICATION FOR *EX PARTE* TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-903

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, by and through counsel Jonathan L. Ehrlich, of KN Law Group, and respectfully asks the Court for a temporary restraining order instructing the Defendants, all sponsors or named circulators, and any other person, from circulating a Petition for Recall of Plaintiff from her office as Bourbon County Clerk. In support thereof, the Plaintiff offers the following:

- (1) That K.S.A. 60-903 authorizes the Court to issue temporary restraining orders *ex parte* when:
- a. Specific facts in an affidavit or a verified complaint clearly show that immediate and irreparable injury, loss or damage will result to the movant before the adverse party can be heard in opposition; and
 - b. the movant's attorney certifies in writing any efforts made to give notice and the

reasons why it should not be required.

(2) That on May 22, 2026, Plaintiff filed a Verified Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief, which clearly alleges through statements of fact and supporting documents that:

- a. A recall petition is being circulated seeking signatures to recall Bourbon County Clerk Susan E. Walker;
- b. The recall petition was not determined sufficient by the Bourbon County Attorney as required by K.S.A. 25-4322(b); and
- c. The recall petition being circulated is invalid.

(3) That as a result of the invalid recall petition being circulated, the press and public are engaged in substantial and frequent discourse about a possible recall election that will not occur if this Court grants Plaintiff's Petition. TRO Exhibit A.

(4) That the public's discourse spurred by the invalid recall petition being circulated undermines confidence in Plaintiff and all elected officials.

(5) That Plaintiff is being personally and professionally targeted as a result of the invalid recall petition being circulated. TRO Exhibit B.

(6) That the circulation of the invalid recall petition causes irreparable harm to the Plaintiff's personal and professional reputation. See TRO Exhibit A & B.

(7) That if the invalid recall petition acquires sufficient signatures, it may be presented for certification and election causing Plaintiff to wrongfully lose her position as Bourbon County Clerk.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully asks this Court to issue a temporary restraining order ordering the Defendants, the named petition circulators, and any other person, to cease

circulating the Petition to Recall Plaintiff.

Respectfully Submitted,

KN LAW GROUP

By:

/s/ Jonathan L. Ehrlich

Jonathan L. Ehrlich, KS Bar No. 28085

KN Law Group

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Olathe, KS 66063

(913) 303-0639

jonathan@knlawgroup.com

ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF

VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that the factual allegations within the foregoing verified application are true.

/s/ Jonathan L. Ehrlich

Jonathan L. Ehrlich

Attorney for Plaintiff



Keeping Media and Government Accountable.

Featured, News

Bourbon County Clerk facing recall after ballot mistakes, possible intimidation attempts

Author: Patrick Richardson - May 21, 2026

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Some Bourbon County residents say they are concerned by what they perceive as intimidation efforts by Bourbon County Clerk Susan Walker, a Republican, related to an attempt to force a recall election

In a recent press release in response to the ["vote of no confidence"](#) by the Bourbon County GOP, and the certification of a recall petition against Walker by Bourbon County Attorney James Crux, Walker listed the names of three people who are sponsors of the petition, when and if they voted in the November 2025 election, and of five people carrying the petition who did not vote at all in the election.

Walker is both the chief election officer and chief records custodian of Bourbon County. She claimed in her [release](#) to have filed a request under the Kansas Open Records Act for the information.

"I completed a KORA request on the Sponsors and Circulators of Voting History to see if they voted during the General Election in 2025," Walker said in the release.

However, she declined to answer how those names and voting records were relevant to the petition. Walker, as chief election officer, would presumably have access to those records without a KORA request. As chief records custodian, she is the person to whom a similar request would normally be addressed.

The Sentinel asked why she felt it necessary to file a KORA request for data she should have access to and to whom it was addressed. Walker declined to answer those questions as well.

Further, Walker admitted in a recent email that she had an attorney send a "cease-and-desist" letter to a Bourbon County resident, accusing them of defaming her.

"This is a legal matter and does not concern this particular situation regarding the election," Walker wrote, while asking for more time to answer an initial series of questions about her conduct posed by *The Sentinel*. The cease-and-desist letter was written as a result of the individual falsely accusing me of a crime in an effort to defame me."

Mr. Richardson,
The first thing I would like to address is your last question on this email. This is a legal matter and does not concern this particular situation regarding the election. The cease-and-desist letter was written as a result of the individual falsely accusing me of a crime in an effort to defame me.
I am not sure I will be able to meet your noon deadline today as I have training and a meeting and I want to be sure to represent all of the facts.
Susan

The Sentinel then asked Walker to provide evidence of defamatory conduct by the resident or provide the letter in question. Walker promised to send the resident's Facebook statement, which prompted the letter, but never did so.

The Sentinel pressed further about any evidence of defamatory conduct toward Walker. She declined to comment.

Mistakes in Uniontown school board race prompt Bourbon County recall

Walker is facing a potential recall less than two years after she was elected — running unopposed — following [ballot errors](#) in the November general election.

The action stems from the Uniontown USD 235 school board race, when Walker's office — by her own admission — printed ballots which omitted the names of the school board candidates during early voting. Correct ballots were eventually printed — the night before the election — and delivered to polling places.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation by Walker, said some of the ballots weren't delivered to some polling places until 8 a.m. — an hour after voting began and far less than the 12 hours required by law.

In a [release](#), Walker blamed the district, stating that districts are, by law, required to run their elections by selecting a "voting plan."

"Voting plan C was used to build the ballots for early voting, which only listed precinct nominations," the release said. "Voting plan B should have been used, which would include all USD 235 seats for residents to cast their vote."

Walker, in two separate releases, has blamed the district for the error in the ballot that disenfranchised 52 early voters. While it is possible the district did, indeed, make the mistake, as the chief election officer, it is Walker's duty to ensure the ballots are correct. *The Sentinel* asked Walker to cite the statute that would require the district — rather than the county election officer — to [ensure the ballots are correct](#). She declined to comment.

The voting errors — among other issues — caused the Bourbon County Republican Party to [issue a vote of no-confidence](#) against Walker.

The letter sent to Walker by the local party placed the blame for the errors on Walker.

"Your office attributed the error to the school district for allegedly filing the wrong plan, rather than accepting responsibility for the inaccurate preparation, proofreading, and verification of ballots as required by Kansas election statutes," the letter reads. "The County Clerk, as the chief election officer, bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that ballots accurately reflect all properly filed candidacies in accordance with state law and the Kansas Election Standards."

The Bourbon County GOP also castigated Walker for interfering with other elected officials.

"Furthermore, the precinct committeemen and committeewomen believe that your actions regarding attempts to influence other elected offices and positions lack integrity, further eroding public confidence in the impartial administration of county government," the GOP wrote. "This incident, along with the broader concerns noted above, undermined public trust in the integrity and accuracy of the electoral process and county operations in Bourbon County."

County attorney certifies petition

According to the [Bourbon County Monitor](#), Crux certified the petition as correct in form on April 27, triggering a 90-day window to collect the needed signatures to force an election.

Under K.S.A. 25-4325, petition organizers need signatures equal to 40% of the total votes cast for all candidates for that office in the last general election. They have until July 26.

According to the *Monitor*, Crux told Bourbon County Commissioners that it would be 2,374.

A source tells *The Sentinel* more than 2,200 signatures have already been collected.

By statute, because Walker is the subject of the recall, Crux — also a Republican — will certify the signatures to avoid conflicts of interest.

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Jackie Carson Brown · 2d · Top contributor

We're all playing the clerk's game. It's time to go all in and end it. The taxpayers can't afford this anymore.

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Cecelia Killion Key Kramer · 2d · Rising contributor

I hope Sam Tran will always put his family before the back biters who wants him out. The click that they have up there now is going to try to get everyone to March to their tune. If we can't understand a commissioner going out of town to see his son leaving for overseas duty, then I would say it is pretty sad that he is held accountable for not being here to sign. Where was the clerk or other commissioners? This is retaliation at its finest.

Reply

12



T.J. Hill-Martin · 2d

[Cecelia Killion Key Kramer](#) it absolutely is.

Reply

3



Mark Shead · 2d · Admin

[Cecelia Killion Key Kramer](#) - Not being here to sign? Are you talking about Tran's refusal to sign checks that was making people get paid late? It looked to me like he was sitting right at the



Comment publicly as Susan...





Anne's post



Reply



Katie Evans Casper · 1d

Today a precinct person walked in to refile and was accosted by the County Election Official. Went in to put their name down for office and was met with retaliation and discouragement. I know this because I went in to put my name down right after she did, and I immediately felt anxiety. By starting small. Stepping forward is hard in this environment.

Reply



Mark Shead · 1d · Admin

[Katie Evans Casper](#) Can you be any more specific than "retaliation and discouragement"? What are you saying actually happened?

Reply



Sonnia Weikel · 2d

He was sitting there at the meeting and could have signed his name then but refused to do it as recorded.

Reply



Shelly Dunn · 2d

[Sonnia Weikel](#) from my understanding, he requested receipts before signing, so he knew what the money was being spent for. Which is exactly what he's suppose to do. Only, he didn't get those receipts.

So are you suggesting he just start



Comment publicly as Susan...





Anne's post



Reply 8



Katie Evans Casper · 1d

Steve Mason are you speaking of what happened to Kendall? Or maybe Patty, or maybe Ashley?... the possibilities are endless.

Reply 3



Steve Mason · 1d

All of the above. If you go back and look the pattern is the same but has escalated. Nothing has changed in my opinion. Different day, different targets.

Reply 3



Sarah Jo McKay · 2d

[Jackie Carson Brown](#) I wish I could love this more!!!!Perfectly said Jackie!!! Pot stirrers please step up!!!

Reply 10



Cecelia Killion Key Kramer · 2d · Rising contributor

[Jackie Carson Brown](#) I will never forget her running up to the clerk during one meeting and whispering something to her and all thunder broke loose in the meeting. If that is not instigating problems I don't know what is. Birds of a feather flock together, and you can plainly see who the click is.

Reply 13



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Comment publicly as Susan...





Jackie's post



Reply 4



Jeff Bronson · 5d

Trying to out people for their political beliefs or seek retribution or something.

Reply 3



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[Jeff Bronson](#) very fair question.

Reply



Mathew Yocham · 5d · by Author

[Jeff Bronson](#) no worse than the county clerk did. Publicly outing people who hold petitions against her and using the voting records to notify people of their voting statuses and then lying about some of those in order to try to minimize damage seeing as some of the people she said didn't vote had indeed voted and their ballots weren't usable because of her failure to provide the correct ones.

Reply 9



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Jackie Carson Brown · 5d · Author

[Jeff Bronson](#) I just feel if you're going to report on one you should report the other as well.

Reply 7



Comment publicly as Susan...





Jackie's post



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Reply 3



Tom Metcalf Jr. · 5d · Top contributor

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Reply 9



Jackie Carson Brown · 5d · Author

[Mathew Yocham](#) I won't be asking for their voting records or their addresses and posting them because I think that was a dick move. But I am calling out the hypocrisy of all of it.

Reply 6



Jackie Carson Brown · 5d · Author

[Jeff Bronson](#) I just feel if you're going to report on one you should report the other as well.



Comment publicly as Susan...





Katie Evans Casper



3d ·

A little food for thought on a Monday....
Several folks have expressed hesitancy to sign the recall petition for the clerk in fear of possible retaliation.

If you don't want to sign because you believe the petition is wrong, by all means don't sign, but I BEG you, do not let fear of retaliation keep you from participating in the democratic process.

Good men have fought and died, over the centuries, for your right to do this.

78 22 12



Larry Bailey

I just moved!!! Fulton needs more residents!!!

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4



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Katie Evans Casper · 3d · 



Barbara Ritter
Fear retaliation from who?

3d Like Reply



Katie Evans Casper [Author](#)
Barbara Ritter the clerk. And I must say I'm just restating what I've heard.

3d Like Reply

3 



Barbara Ritter
What an awful person.

3d Like Reply

4 



Katie Evans Casper [Author](#)
Barbara Ritter I won't make any statements about her character here, but what I do feel is important is election integrity, which is the premise for the recall. Faith in the integrity of the process is imperative.

3d Like Reply

4 

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Katie Evans Casper · 3d · 



Joel Mayfield
Katie Evans Casper What form would the retaliation take? I am curious what you are thinking people, regular citizens, are afraid she can do to them?

2d Like Reply



Katie Evans Casper  [Author](#)
Joel Mayfield a lot of people have mentioned a raise in property taxes.

2h Like Reply



Write a reply...



Write a reply...



Larry Bailey
I just moved!!! Fulton needs more residents!!!

3d Like Reply

4  



Katie Evans Casper  [Author](#)

Comment publicly as Anne D...



<  **Bourbon County Citizens** · **Join** ...

Katie Evans Casper · 3d · 



Write a reply...



Norma Williams Lawrence
Where can I sign?

2d Like Reply

2 



Katie Evans Casper  Author
Norma Williams Lawrence sent you a message

2d Like Reply

1 



Write a reply...



Kelly Eastwood
And the fact that this individual's perceived power has been so conflated that you were forced to state this, is the best reason for recall I can think of.

2d Like Reply

7 



Comment publicly as Anne D...





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Mathew Yocham

Seems to be a common trend with county clerks and missing money. Why aren't charges being filed? Ig feigning ignorance wins again.

6d Like Reply

3



Jackie Carson Brown Author

[Mathew Yocham](#) the county attorney here denied filing the charges brought to him.

6d Like Reply

2



Mathew Yocham

[Jackie Carson Brown](#) lk. Imo the county attorney needs investigated. Not just because of this one instance either.

6d Like Reply

5

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Pinned · May 12 ·

Statement from the Chair of the Bourbon County Republican Party:

As Chair of the Bourbon County Republican Party, I have a responsibility to protect citizens' rights to hold elected officials accountable through lawful processes.

In press releases issued on or around May 9, 2026, County Clerk Susan Walker publicly identified specific individuals who signed the recall petition against her as well as select petition carriers. She stated that these citizens had not voted in the November 2025 General Election related to the USD 235 Uniontown school board race. This information was drawn from voter registration and voting history records available to her as the county's chief election official.

Here are my key concerns:

- **Potentially Inaccurate and Selective Use of Voter Records:** While voter data is public under the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA), its selective and targeted release against political

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Here are my key concerns:

- **Potentially Inaccurate and Selective Use of Voter Records:** While voter data is public under the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA), its selective and targeted release against political critics—especially when some named individuals have stated they did vote—suggests retaliatory intent, raises questions about record accuracy, and crosses a line into intimidation. Publicly using potentially inaccurate data to shame opponents creates a chilling effect on citizens exercising their recall rights and undermines transparent, impartial government.
- **Retaliatory Pattern and Intimidating Effect:** This action appears to fit a broader pattern. Many of the affected individuals are Republican Precinct Committee persons who participated in appointing new county commissioners after two prior commissioners resigned amid rising conflicts within the courthouse. These same individuals also supported the Bourbon County Republican Party's Vote of No Confidence in her. Multiple residents and potential candidates have expressed hesitation to run for office or speak publicly due to fears of retaliation, including reported cease-and-desist letters sent over social media comments.
- **Undermining Public Trust in Elections:** As the official responsible for conducting fair and

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• **Undermining Public Trust in Elections:** As the official responsible for conducting fair and accurate elections, Clerk Walker has a duty to remain impartial. The recall effort was triggered in part by documented issues in the USD 235 school board election. Therefore, citizens utilizing their right to vote, or not vote, is not under scrutiny here.

Our residents deserve county government and elections administered with neutrality and respect for democratic participation—not used as tools against those seeking accountability and reform. Therefore, I strongly urge Clerk Walker to immediately retract the portion of her press release that names individual citizens. I felt compelled to urge this because those votes are theirs, and theirs alone.

Finally, the Bourbon County Republican Party strongly supports every resident’s fundamental right to participate in lawful civic processes—including petitioning for change and engaging in local government—without fear of intimidation or reprisal.

-Kaety Bowers

Kim Simons + 50 24 comments 15 shares

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