

• L&T staff report Garrett Love (R-Montezuma) won a seat in the 115th District Kansas House in August, yet he'll never sit in that seat. During the nominating convention Monday evening in Dodge City to replace senator Tim Huelskamp, who is moving to the U. S. House of Representatives, Love was overwhelmingly selected to take that Kansas Senate opening.

"Love recieved 101 votes, while (Rep.) Melvin Neufeld earned 38, and Charles Sellens finished with three votes. Seward County had 43 total precinct members who were eligible to vote, with all but one vote being cast," according to a statement released by Seward County GOP Chairman Reid Petty. Love defeated former state Rep. Neufeld in the August primary for the GOP seat in the Kansas House. Huelskamp will take Rep. Jerry Moran's seat in the U.S. House. Moran will take outgoing Sen. Sam Brownback's seat when Brownback becomes governor in January.

Petty said that he was very pleased with how the convention went and the turnout.

"Our precinct members were so great these last few weeks in making sure they fit this convention into their busy schedules along with organizing for proxy votes with those who couldn't make it. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to associate with," Petty said.

Petty said state senator-elect Love also passed along his gratitude toward Seward County at a victory dinner after the convention.

Petty, who endorsed Love for the spot, said he was also pleased with the outcome.

"I think the precinct members in all six counties (Seward, Ford, Meade, Clark, Gray and Haskell) realized just how crucial it was to send the right person to Topeka. Garrett has proven that he isn't afraid to stand up to anyone. I have full confidence that Garrett will prove that we made the right choice," Petty added.

Love officially resigned his seat in the state house effective this morning. He will be sworn in to the state senate on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, in Topeka.