

House Elections Committee

**Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas
March 10, 2015**

The Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas respectfully offers these comments in **support of SB 171 as currently written**.

*The Board has modified its previous position in opposition to SB 171 and is now supportive of moving city/school elections to the **fall of odd years** with the elections remaining **non-partisan**.*

We understand there may be attempts to amend SB 171 to move elections to even-numbered years in the fall. The Board believes that moving elections to the fall of even years would complicate the election process further by combining partisan elections with non-partisan elections. This could increase confusion among the voting public specifically during primary elections.

Moving elections to the fall of even years would drastically complicate the process of creating ballots. Should this change occur, election offices statewide would need to accommodate a large increase in the number of ballots and multiple ballot pages resulting from House of Representative District splits and Senate District Splits, precinct committeemen/precinct committeewomen offices, township offices and school voting plan splits.

This would lengthen the ballots with the additional candidates for city/school and additional special questions that may be submitted. A lengthy ballot creates longer wait times and the Board is concerned that many voters may choose to not vote if they are required to wait longer. Preparing for elections is a complicated task, adding more complication creates more room for error.

The Board of Coffey County Commissioners of Coffey County respectfully request that you **not** amend SB 171 and pass the bill in its current form of moving city/school elections to the **fall of odd years** with the elections remaining **non-partisan**.

Thank you.

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