

Election Timing Data

2014 Special Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Prepared for
House Committee on Elections
March 11, 2015

Pro

- Would increase voter turnout; encourage greater participation in local elections by combining with state and national elections. (True)
- Would result in cost savings by streamlining elections. (False or negligible savings)
- Would increase visibility and importance of local elections, resulting in more informed voters. (True)

Con

- Lengthier ballots (True)
- More difficult to manage elections (True)
- Would add confusion for voters (No Evidence)
- Would preclude voters from becoming informed about candidates (False)
- More costly for candidates (Possible)
- Would shift, not reduce costs, resulting in every-other-year, “feast or famine” budgets. (Possible)

State	State Elections	County Elections	Municipal Elections	School Elections
AL	November / Even	November / Even	August / Even	Varies ¹
AK	November / Even	October / All ²	October / All ³	Varies
AZ	November / Even	November / Even	Multiple schedules	November / Even
AR	November / Even	November / Even	November / Even	September / All
CA	November / Even	June / Even	Multiple schedules ⁴	Multiple schedules
CO	November / Even	November / Even	Multiple schedules	November / Odd
CT	November / Even	N/A	Multiple schedules	Multiple schedules
DE	November / Even	November / Even	Varies	May / All
FL	November / Even	November / Even	Varies	November / Even
GA	November / Even	November / Even	November / Odd	Multiple schedules ⁵
HI	November / Even	November / Even	N/A	N/A
ID	November / Even	November / Even	November / Odd	May / Odd
IL	November / Even	November / Even	April / Odd ⁶	April / Odd
IN	November / Even	November / Even	November / Odd	November / Even
IA	November / Even	November / Even	November / Odd	September / Odd
KS	November / Even	November / Even	April / Odd	April / Odd
KY	November / All ⁷	November / Even	November / Even	November / Even ⁸
LA	November / Odd	November / Odd ⁹	Multiple schedules	November / Even ¹⁰
ME	November / Even	November / Even	Varies	Varies
MD	November / Even	November / Even	Varies	November / Even
MA	November / Even	November / Even	Varies ¹¹	Varies ¹²
MI	November / Even	November / Even	Multiple schedules	November / Even
MN	November / Even	November / Even	Multiple schedules	Multiple schedules ¹⁴
MS	November / Odd	November / Odd	June / Odd ¹³	Multiple schedules ¹⁴
MO	November / Even	November / Even	April / All	April / All ¹⁵
MT	November / Even	November / Even	November / Odd	May / All
NE	November / Even	November / Even	November / Even ¹⁶	November / Even ¹⁷
NV	November / Even	November / Even	Multiple schedules	November / Even
NH	November / Even	November / Even	Varies ¹⁸	Varies
NJ	November / Odd	November / All	Multiple schedules	Multiple schedules
NM	November / Even	November / Even	March / Even ¹⁹	February / Odd
NY	November / Even	November / All ²⁰	Varies ²¹	May / All ²²
NC	November / Even	November / Even	November / Odd ²³	Varies ²⁴
ND	November / Even	November / Even	June / Even	Varies
OH	November / Even	November / Even	November / Odd	November / Odd
OK	November / Even	November / Even	April / Odd ²⁵	February / All
OR	November / Even	November / Even	November / Even	May / Odd
PA	November / Even	November / Odd	November / Odd	November / Odd
RI	November / Even	N/A	November / Even ²⁶	November / Even ²⁷
SC	November / Even	November / Even	Varies	Varies
SD	November / Even	November / Even	Varies ²⁸	Varies ²⁹

¹ County school boards are elected in November of even years; city school boards that are elected hold elections at various times throughout the year.

² Alaska has boroughs rather than counties.

³ Anchorage holds its elections in April.

⁴ Charter cities can choose their election dates.

⁵ County school board elections are held during state general or primary elections; municipal school board elections are in November of odd years or during primaries.

⁶ Chicago holds elections in February of odd years.

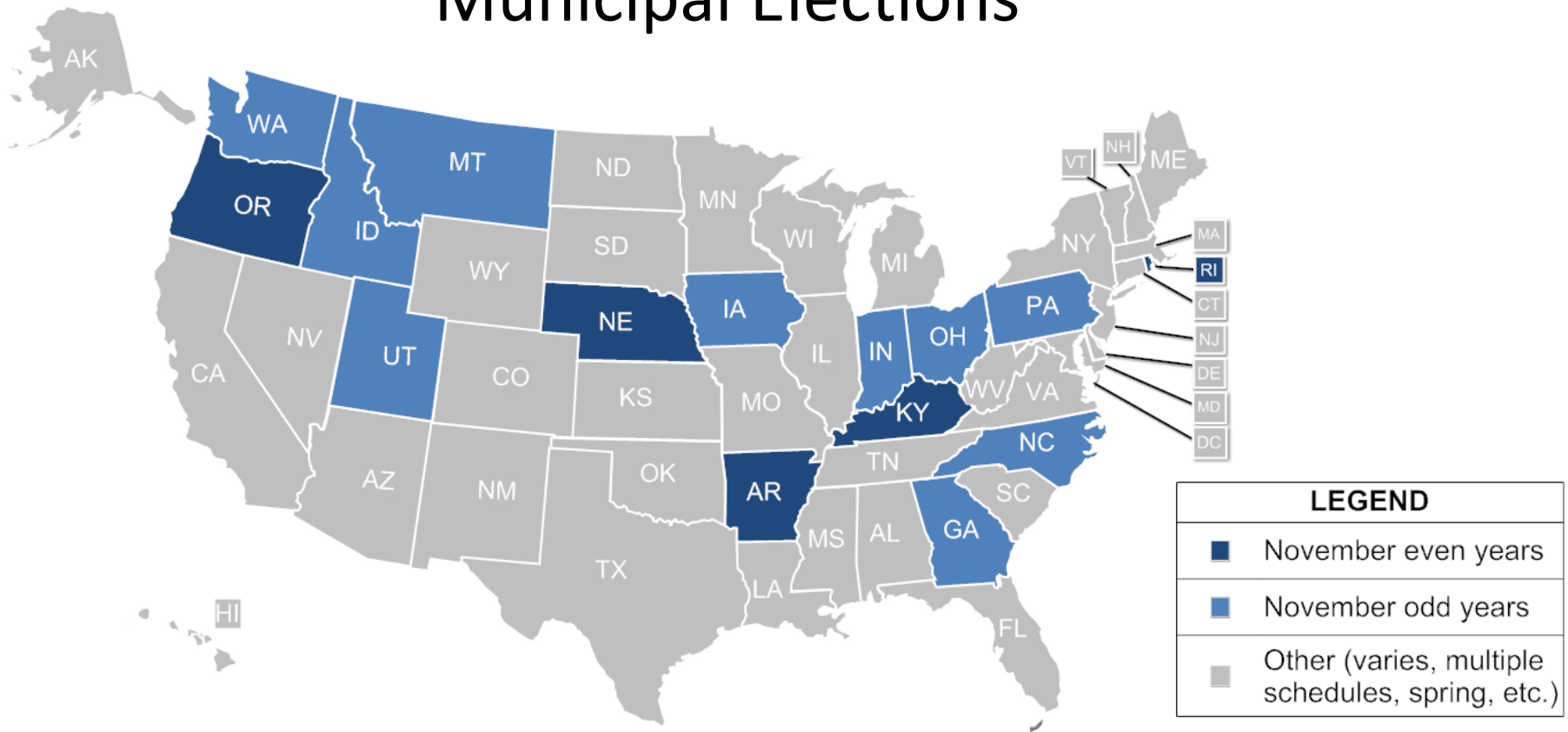
⁷ Statewide offices are elected in odd years; legislative offices are elected in even years.

⁸ Independent school districts that embrace a fifth class city can hold elections in May.

⁹ Orleans Parish is an exception.

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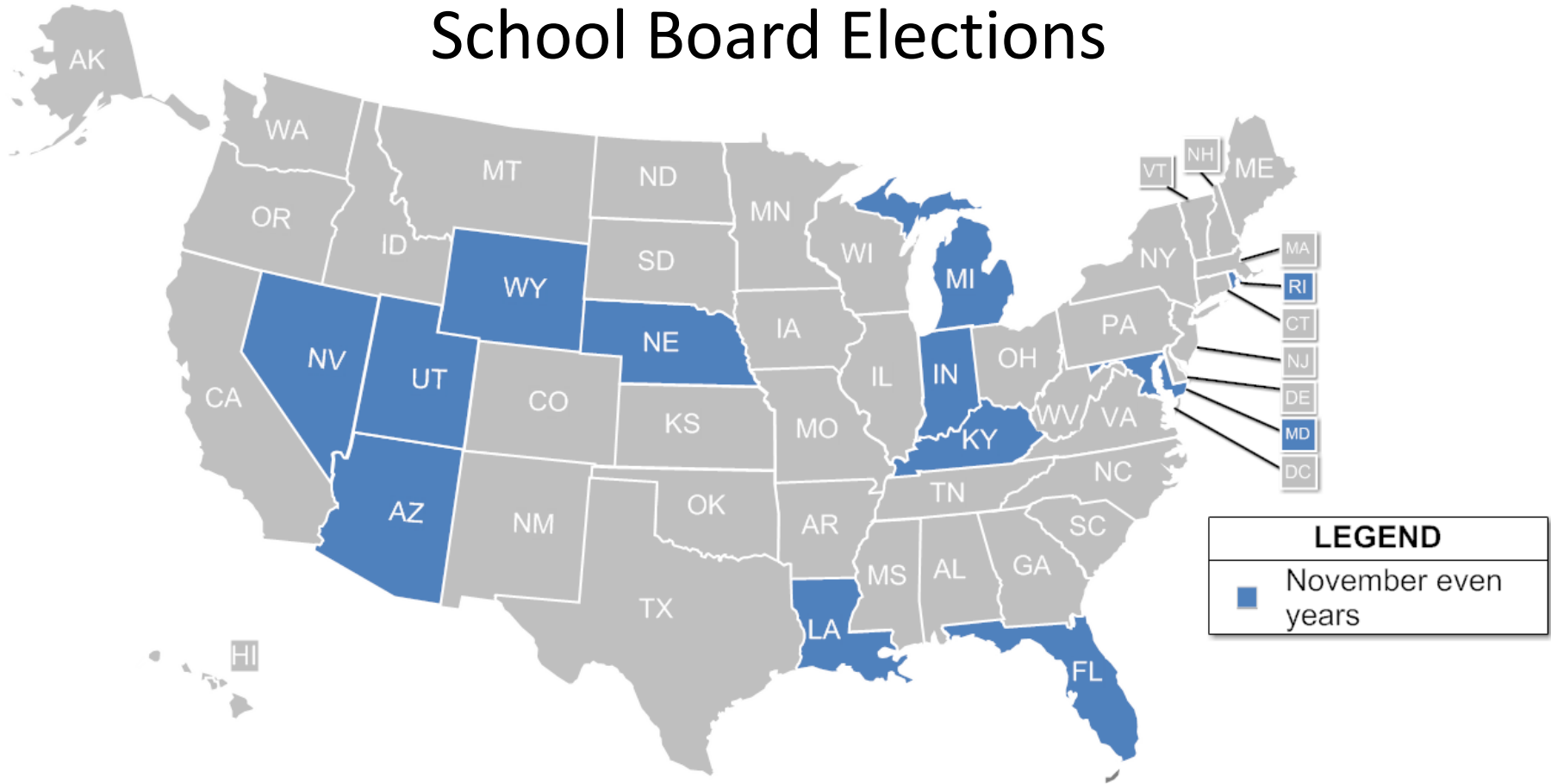
Municipal Elections



*data courtesy of Timing & Turnout (Anzia)

NCSL Presentation

School Board Elections



*data courtesy of Timing & Turnout (Anzia)

General Purpose Govt

State	Total local Govt	General Purpose	Special Purpose	Total Per 100K	General Per 100K	Special Per 100K
Illinois	6,968	2,831	4,137	54.1	22.0	32.1
Minnesota	3,633	2,726	907	68.0	51.0	17.0
Pennsylvania	4,905	2,627	2,278	38.5	20.6	17.9
Ohio	3,702	2,334	1,368	32.1	20.2	11.8
Kansas	3,806	1,997	1,809	132.6	69.6	63.0

General Govt Per 100K Population

State	Total local Govt	General Purpose	Special Purpose	Total Per 100K	General Per 100K	Special Per 100K
North Dakota	2,666	1,724	942	389.8	252.1	137.7
South Dakota	1,979	1,284	695	240.1	155.8	84.3
Kansas	3,806	1,997	1,809	132.6	69.6	63.0
Nebraska	2,581	1,042	1,539	140.1	56.5	83.5
Minnesota	3,633	2,726	907	68.0	51.0	17.0

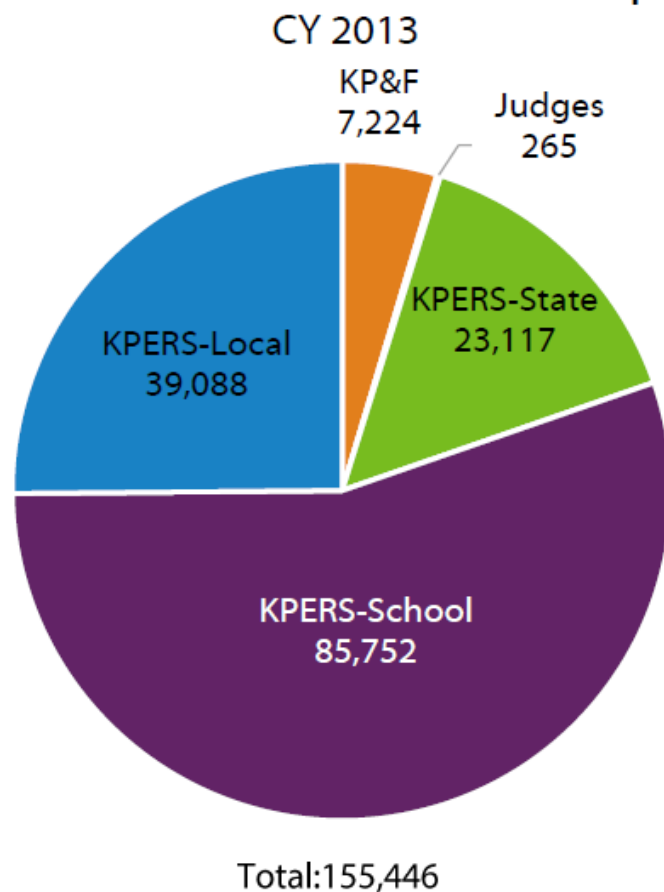
Most government is local government

- 3,806 governments in KS
- FTE
 - K12: ~69,000 FTE - 85,752 KPERS covered
 - Local: 39,088 KPERS covered
- \$? Billion in revenue (2014)
 - K12: \$5.9 Billion
 - Counties: \$1.7 Billion
 - Cities: \$?
- Over 6,000 elected officials
 - K12: 1,998
 - Cities: ~3,800
- Most are not elected on “Election Day”

KPERS Overview

Active KPERS Membership

Active KPERS Membership



- More than half of active members employed by school districts
- Average current age
 - KPERS – 45.5
 - KP&F – 39.6
 - Judges – 57.8
- Average years of service
 - KPERS – 11.3 years
 - KP&F – 11.8 years
 - Judges – 11.7 years

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Down-Ballot Turnout in Municipal Elections: **California**

City	Election Type	Citywide Turnout	Down-Ballot Turnout
San Francisco	Non-Consolidated November 2011 General Election	43%	40%
San Jose	Consolidated November 2010 General Election	64%	57%
City	Election Type	Citywide Turnout	Down-Ballot Turnout
Los Angeles	Non-Consolidated May 2013 General Election	23%	17%
San Diego	Consolidated June 2012 Primary Election	39%	37%

*data courtesy of Greenlining Institute

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- In a 2008 study, 70 percent of voters favored local elections at the same time as national elections*
- Consistency and predictability
- Culture of November voting
- Trend is to move to uniform dates
- No trend to move back to off-cycle by states that now have on-cycle

*According to a question in the Cooperative Congressional Election Study in 2008

Do American voters want off-cycle elections?

	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Independent</i>
Different day	27%	39%	35%
Same day	73%	61%	65%
Total	100%	100%	100%

“Support for on-cycle election scheduling did not vary with respondent age, sex, education level, race, or ethnicity.”

Panel Discussion - Utah

“Taking school boards off the ballots of even numbered years would not make our task easier”

Panel Discussion - Nebraska

- School Board & Municipal in even-year
- Voter Drop-off not with races, but rather:
 - amendments
 - bond issues
 - sales tax increases
 - other special races

Panel Discussion - Nebraska

- Panelists saw no problems with combined elections:
 - Good Voter Registration System
 - Poll worker training
 - Other Provisions in Place

Summary of the book's argument

- Shifting from on-cycle to off-cycle election timing increases the electoral presence of *the organized*:
 - 1) People with a large stake in an election turn out at high rates regardless of timing, and many are members of organized groups.
 - 2) Off-cycle election timing enhances the effectiveness of organized groups' mobilization efforts.
- Organized groups should be more successful in securing favorable policies in governments with off-cycle elections.

History of election timing choice

- In early 19th century, off-cycle city elections were recognized as having significant effect on voter turnout.
- Local Political parties began manipulating the timing of city elections as early as the 1840s.
- Many off-cycle elections have been in place since early 1900's due to vehement opposition to change.