

Smith County

218 S. Grant Smith Center, KS 66967-2798

www.smithcoks.com

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
(785) 282-5110
Roger Allen
First District
Lebanon, KS 66952

Dale Pickel
Second District
Smith Center, KS 66967

Denise Sasse
Third District
Gaylord, KS 67638

COUNTY OFFICIALS

Sharon K. Wolters
County Clerk Suite 5
(785) 282-5110
(785) 282-5114

Vernon Reinking
County Treasurer Suite 4
(785) 282-5170
(785) 282-5170

Tabitha Owen
County Attorney
(785) 282-6689

Stephanie Arment
Register of Deeds Suite 7
(785) 282-5160

Bruce Lehman
County Sheriff
217 S. Jefferson
Adm. Calls (785) 282-5180

Kathy A. Hansen
County Appraiser Suite 6
(785) 282-5100

Chris Jones
Noxious Weed Director
901 S. Monroe
(785) 282-5155

Patrick S. Eastes
EMS Director
914 E. Hwy 36
(785) 282-6924

Chad Meyer
Communications Director
(785) 282-5180

Mitchell Fritz
Road Supervisor Suite 2
(785) 282-5150

Laura Hageman
County Health Dept.
119 S Main
(785) 282-6656
(785) 282-3301fax

Dave Tucker
Landfill Supervisor
785-389-1200

March 9, 2015

Honorable Kansas State Representative Mark Kahrs
Chairman, House Committee on Elections
and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: Senate Bill 171, Concerning Municipality & School Elections


Chairman Kahrs and Distinguished Committee Members,

As Smith County Clerk and Election Officer, I thank you for the time you have spent collecting information on elections and studying how to improve voter turnout in city and school elections. I regret that I am unable to attend your committee hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2015; but, I am an office of two and so coming to Topeka is not feasible this week.

I have a rather specific concern about the SB171 which includes irrigation districts. Irrigation districts are listed as elections to be moved to the fall of even years. Currently my irrigation district runs their own election because they are small enough to be exempt from county-wide elections. If the irrigation district is left on this bill, Smith County will have an additional 15 ballot styles in the city/school elections and an additional 5 ballot styles in the state and federal elections. That change alone will cost Smith County \$733 per election. Fifteen additional ballot styles will also complicate training the poll workers.

As an Election Officials in Kansas I have attempted to work hard for the tax payers of my county. I have tried to be prudent about election expenditures. I feel the irrigation districts could be removed from this bill without any harm to the voters. Please consider removing this type of election from any election reform bill.

Sincerely,



Sharon Wolters
Smith County Clerk and Election officer