

# ***CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE***

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**“All-American City – 1992”**

***690 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
P.O. Box 13738  
Edwardsville, KS 66113  
(913) 441-3707  
Fax (913) 441-3805***

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Mitch Holmes  
and members of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

The City of Edwardsville would like to voice its opposition to SB 171, which is before you for discussion and consideration.

As you know, local government is the backbone of democracy in the United States, providing everyday services like police and fire protection, water and sewer services, and parks and recreation for young and old alike. All of this is provided under the guidance of non-partisan elected officials throughout Kansas and the nation. In contrast, we see our national and state governments embroiled in partisan politics, resulting in inefficient and bureaucratic services.

We believe changing the date of local elections and bundling them with state and national elections will actually dilute the vote of local citizens. Further, we believe adding partisan elections may result in partisan appointments in local government leading to a return to a Pendergast style of governance. Finally, we are concerned how this legislation could affect our service men and women and other federal employees who serve as non-partisan elected officials in towns and cities across Kansas.

In closing, we hope you will agree that local citizens should continue to determine the fate of their communities through a system of non-partisan governance that has served them well since the inception of statehood in 1861.

Please vote no on SB171

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor John McTaggart and members of the Edwardsville City Council