



*Individual Liberty*  
*Economic Liberty*  
*Strengthen Families*  
*Sovereign States Rights*  
*Ending Judicial Activism*

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February 10, 2015

SB 171 Elections; municipalities and special districts; spring to fall; other changes.

Testimony in Support of this bill

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

If it is truly the desire of the legislature to work toward supporting the entire populous, this bill serves as a starting point.

Currently the State is funding spring elections at a much higher cost. It takes the same resources to fund a fall election that produces 50% of the registered voters as it does to allow 2-10% of the registered voters in the spring. Is this representation of the populous? I would say, Yes & No. Yes, these are the dates and times to vote. No, because we are setting a period of time that is not conducive to high turnout, nor does it allow for the public to vet these candidates.

The state can set any date it wants for these elections. If it desires the turnout, participation and to allow for the public to be able to vet their candidates, then moving the elections is simply the most plausible answer.

We may need to simply look into the actual date we have currently and ask ourselves some serious questions.

- 1) When was the last time you had a City Council member visit your home to receive your vote? A school board member?
- 2) Do you know all of your school board members? Your City Council person?
- 3) Why are we allowing 2 ½ months for primaries and a General election to occur vs 6 months?
  - a. City Councils and School Boards "SPEND" and create the largest amount of our debt and monies we have in the state.
  - b. Does that not deserve at least the same amount of debate and vetting as a legislator that works 4 months a year in session?
- 4) The worst weather occurs during this time in Kansas its (COLD), slick and its almost impossible to campaign outside or host outdoor events during this time period.
- 5) During this time the legislature is in session and it, by all accounts takes precedence over anything happening locally.
- 6) Every year for the rest of our lives we "by all accounts" are going to spend our Januarys thru April focusing on one thing. TAXES!!!! Not elections.

Food for thought.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brown