

The City of



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House Elections Committee
300 S.W. 8th Avenue, Ste. 100
Topeka, KS 66603-3951

02-19-2013

Re: HB 2271

Honorable Committee Members,

I write to you to express the City of Andover's concern regarding HB 2271. The City of Andover is expressly opposed to this piece of legislation.


Mandating partisanship at the municipal level is completely unnecessary and has no particular usefulness. The philosophical differences between national parties have no application and frankly, no place at this level of government. In my 13 years as mayor of this town, I cannot remember one instance that the final product or vote was split down party lines.

While we do have Republicans and Democrats alike on our City Council, we make no distinction between ourselves because there is no reason to do so. We, like our counterparts across the State, act as a cohesive unit, to work for the betterment of our community without the undue machination of political interference.

Insofar as moving local elections to the fall, we find no substantial evidence of benefit. Logically, voter turnout may *possibly* be improved but we would be sacrificing the spotlight on key issues that directly impact our local community and that is something we would not willingly offer to trade. The concentration of the many moving parts and issues of State and national elections would completely dwarf the nuts and bolts of local politics, which is what we have been tasked to do.

We would ask you as our duly elected officials to please consider what we perceive as a negative impact at the local level before you hasten this bill to a vote.

As Always, Thanks for your Consideration,


Ben Lawrence-Mayor
City of Andover / Andover City Council