



CITY OF HUGOTON

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February 19, 2013

To: House Elections Committee

From: Thomas G. Hicks, City Clerk

Date: February 19, 2013

Opposition to HB 2271

Changing the date of local elections and making those elections partisan is not an idea that will serve the best interests of local government. The best part of local elections, especially for small communities, is the non-partisan process. Adding party politics to the system will only make local government more divisive. A lot of communities are struggling to even have enough candidates to fill the positions. Having to declare a party will probably reduce the pool even further. Changing the date of local elections, while a well-intentioned attempt to increase voter participation, also comes with the negatives of complicating the voting sites and the dispensing of proper ballots for the election officers.

The current process puts the best interests of the community above party politics. Leave it alone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas G. Hicks'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Thomas G. Hicks
City Clerk