



To: House Standing Committee on Elections
From: Ken Sissom, Mayor
Date: February 18, 2013
Re: HB 2271

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments regarding HB 2271. We believe this piece of legislation would have a tremendously negative effect at the local level and, as a result, we stand in strong opposition to HB 2271.

City elections in Kansas are non-partisan in nature. Moving city elections to coincide with other partisan primaries and general elections would be inappropriate and confusing to the public.

It has been presented by proponents of this legislation that this change would achieve a significant measure of cost savings. Our belief is the statewide per-capita savings would be negligible. The last time this change was proposed the savings, statewide, were estimated to be only \$34,000. With a population of over 2.8 million people those savings would be less than \$0.01 per resident.

Finally and most importantly, if passed, this legislation would lead to local candidates getting lost in the myriad of statewide and federal elections that are conducted at the same time. While tying local elections to the state and federal election cycle may increase the total number of voters, it would likely diminish the information available about city elections and candidates.

Local nonpartisan elections held in odd-numbered years are what keep local governing bodies independently strong, effective and responsive to all residents. In addition, keeping municipal elections in their current cycle best insures a well-informed electorate that remains focused solely on local elections.

For these reasons we urge this Committee to reject HB 2271.