

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

**To: Chair, Representative Scott Schwab  
Members of the House Committee on Elections**

**From: Darci Meese, Government Affairs Coordinator  
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County)**

**Date: February 20, 2013**

**RE: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2271**

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On behalf of WaterOne, I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 2271 intended to eliminate spring municipal elections. HB 2271 proposes to modify K.S.A. 19-3505 and K.S.A. 19-3507, which deal with the election of water utility board members. WaterOne is currently the only water utility in the State of Kansas that these statutory provisions impact. Under present law, the 7 member governing body of WaterOne is elected in April of odd numbered years with staggered 4 year terms running from May through April 30.

WaterOne's concern with 2271 is that it poses a comprehensive overhaul of how important local issues and candidates are voted upon by the public. Voters in April, though fewer, are likely going to be more informed about local candidates and topics than the masses voting in a November Presidential election. Important local issues deserve that focused attention. We would respectfully request the Committee leave the municipal election process as is. In this case, we believe the quality of an informed vote is more beneficial than the quantity of voters at the polls.

Darci Meese  
Government Affairs Coordinator  
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas)  
913-895-5516 direct  
913-579-9817 cell  
[dmeese@waterone.org](mailto:dmeese@waterone.org)