



THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE

STAR OF KANSAS

To: Honorable Chair Representative Scott Schwab and Committee Members of the House
Standing Committee on Elections
From: Dennis J. Enslinger, Assistant City Administrator, on behalf of the City Council of Prairie
Village, Kansas
Date: February 20, 2013

RE: HB 2277

I am here on behalf of the Prairie Village City Council with regard to House Bill 2227. The City Council believes that this bill would have tremendously negative impacts at the local elections and therefore we stand in opposition to HB 2271.

Elections at the local level are currently non-partisan in nature and occur at a time when there can be a focus on local issues. Moving local elections to coincide with other partisan primaries and the general election would be inappropriate and could be confusing to the public.

Proponents of this legislation have argued that there will be a significant cost savings with the enactment of this bill. Our belief is that this costs savings would be negligible relative to the overall population served by the electoral process.

In addition, proponents have argued that moving the elections to November would result in an increase in the total number of voters. We believe that while the number of voters may marginally increase, the overall effect would be to diminish the available information regarding local issues and candidates.

Kansas has a long tradition of nonpartisan elections held in odd-numbered years which has lead to responsive and effective local government leaders who are responsive to all residents. We believe that maintaining the cycle insures that the electorate can focus on local issues and candidates that they believe will best represent them. In fact, the City of Prairie has taken the additional step to move local elections to even-number years to further ensure active citizen engagement in the electoral process.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Committee to reject House Bill 2271. Thank you for consideration of our comments in this matter.