



“Small Town, Big Dreams”

THE CITY OF NEODESHA • P O BOX 336 • NEODESHA • KANSAS • 66757

March 11, 2013

To: House Committee on Elections
From: Allen J. Dinkel, City Administrator
RE: Opposition to HB 2227

Thank-you for the opportunity to submit comments in opposition to HB 2227.

This bill just simply moves the election from the spring of odd-numbered years to the fall of odd-numbered years. It is pure conjecture that there is any real advantage from moving the date of the election. There however is number of issues that would affect not only the City of Neodesha but other municipalities across the State.

Neodesha presently has a three member governing body with each person serving a three year term and one person is elected each year. This rotation has proven to work well for Neodesha and insures a majority of the Governing Body has some experience to understand the many issues of the City and better serve the needs of the voters. The proposed bill will strip the City of Neodesha from continuing the three year terms they have utilized for many years.

The bill suggests that on and after January 1, 2014, all primary elections for members of the governing body of any municipality shall be held on the first Tuesday in August of 2015 and on such date thereafter in odd-numbered years. The bill does not indicate if a primary election is needed only if three people or less are running for each position. Presently if three persons or less are running for each position or the equivalent thereof no primary is needed.

The bill indicates the terms of members of governing bodies and other elected officials that would expire in 2015 shall expire on the second Monday in January 2016. This would mean that a person whose present term expires in April of 2015 would automatically have their term extended for another nine months.

Though it is not clear to me, it appears all Governing Body positions would expire on the second Monday in January 2016. Therefore those

who will be elected this spring will have their term expire early due to this proposed bill.

On April 2 of this year the voters in Neodesha will select a Mayor for a three year term ending in April of 2016. It appears this bill would end the term early.

The City of Neodesha is to hold an election for a three year for a City Commission position seat in April of 2014 as we have a Commissioner who was elected in 2011. This bill indicates we could not hold an election in 2014 and his term would have to be extended until January 2016.

In addition the voters in Neodesha will be voting to expand from a three member to five member governing body in the upcoming April 2nd election with the two members added with the election in the spring of 2014. This bill would rip that privilege away from our voters as we could not hold an election in 2014.

In summary this bill serves no purpose as it just moves one free standing election to another time and creates nothing but chaos for municipalities in Kansas and most importantly here in Neodesha.