



**House Commerce and Economic Development Committee
Scott J. Schneider J.D.
Written Testimony
On Behalf of the City of Derby
House Bill 2227
March 13, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Scott Schneider and I am representing the City of Derby. We are opposed to House Bill 2227 because the system of non-partisan, district elections held in the spring is working well for the City of Derby.

Derby is a relatively young city. In 1961, Derby Charter Ordinance 1 & 2 set out how our community chose to hold elections. Derby has four non-partisan wards that ensures representation of all areas of our city. House Bill 2227 would move municipal elections to the fall.

Derby is located just south of McConnell Air force Base and we have a significant number of residents who serve their country as either active, reserve or are in the Kansas National Guard. We do appreciate the bills provisions keeping the elections non-partisan as this allows our service men and woman an additional public service opportunity in municipal government.

Our residents have not expressed concern about the municipal election process and our elected council stands in opposition of placing a state solution on a local issue.

The strength of local elections is grounded in the ability for communities to focus on local issues – the issues that matter the most.