

To: Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government
From: Erich Campbell, City Commissioner for the City of Holton
Date: March 13, 2013
Re: Opposition to SB 211

My name is LTC Erich Campbell and I am currently serving as a City Commissioner for Holton Kansas.

I am a 27 years Army Veteran and I am currently still on active assigned as the Senior Regular Army Advisor to the Adjutant General for the State of Kansas.

I have been in the state of Kansas since 2007 and a resident of Holton since 2009. My wife and I selected Kansas as our retirement home. We have taken to our adopted state with great enthusiasm and want to become model residents of our new home. As a citizen of Holton I have been active in many of it community organizations and activities such as Cub Scout Den Leader, Church President, VFW and the County Historical Society. Recently I became involved in City Government as a city commissioner. I am currently running for reelection this April for my current position unopposed.

As a member of the Armed Forces I am allowed to run for city elections only because they are non partisan elections. This is a military regulation and also Federal law. If this bill passes in its current form, all candidates will be required to become partisan. The immediate effect of this change will result in not only me but thousands of other active duty, Active Kansas National Guardsmen, and Active Reservist to be excluded as candidates for all future local elections.

It is my belief that the leadership skills, management skills and discipline that the members of the military have acquired can be extremely beneficial to the communities we live in. I am not saying that there will be a large or even a moderate amount of active duty servicemen or women that will want to run for city elections and I may even be an a nominally but at least we currently have the option to run for city office. I have been deployed 6 times since 911. I have three bronze stars, a purple hearts and a valorous unit award. I have not only earned yours and mine right to vote but I also earned my right to run for city election. We want to serve and make our communities a better place with the skills that we have learn and been taught through our military experiences. Please let those of us that are currently serving our nation to continue to serve our communities. Please remove the partisan requirement from this bill.

Erich G. Campbell
525 New York Ave
Holton, KS 66436
(785) 477-0884
erichnroline@gmail.com