



FORD COUNTY CLERK
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March 12, 2013

Honorable Kansas State Senator Dennis Pyle
Chairman, Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
And Distinguished Members of the Committee

RE: SB 145

I am writing in opposition to SB 145 which would move spring elections to the fall of odd numbered years and make them partisan.

I see no benefit to local elections for members of school boards, city councils and other small entities such as drainage districts, improvement districts, etc. to be conducted as partisan. Making these elections partisan will create extra expense to have a primary for an entity that can barely post candidates to fill the positions now. There also is the likelihood that one party or the other will be posting a nearly blank ballot as there will not be candidates for each party file for these positions.

There will be much confusion created on when terms of office begin and end for these smaller entities. City council members and school board members take office in mid-year and this has seemed to work very well.

I oppose this bill because the administration of it is very difficult. We already have difficulty recruiting and retaining good election board workers. Board workers do not do this kind of work in their everyday lives and if the administration of elections keeps getting more difficult we will not be able to get board workers. If the intent is to improve voter turnout, this will only confuse voters as well as candidates.

I respectfully ask that you consider these factors in making your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Seibel".

Sharon Seibel
Ford County Clerk