

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

**To: Chair, Senator Dennis Pyle
Members of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government**

**From: Darci Meese, Government Affairs Coordinator
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County)**

Date: March 13th, 2013

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 211

On behalf of WaterOne, I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 211 intended to eliminate spring municipal elections and move said elections to the fall of even numbered years. SB 211 proposes to modify K.S.A. 19-3505 and K.S.A. 19-3507, which deal with the election of water utility board members. WaterOne is currently the only water utility in the State of Kansas that these statutory provisions impact. Under present law, the 7 member governing body of WaterOne is elected in April of odd numbered years with staggered 4 year terms running from May through April 30.

WaterOne's concern with 211 is that it proposes an unnecessary change to how local issues and candidates are voted upon by the public that will likely lead to confusion. Voters in April, though fewer, are going to be more informed about local candidates and topics than the masses voting in a November Presidential election. Important local issues deserve the focused attention that a spring election provides.

We would respectfully request the Committee leave the municipal election process as is. In this case, we believe the quality of an informed vote is more beneficial than the quantity of voters at the polls.

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