



# THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE

## STAR OF KANSAS

To: Honorable Chair Senator Dennis Pyle and Committee Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government  
From: Dennis J. Enslinger, Assistant City Administrator, on behalf of the City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas  
Date: February 20, 2013

**RE: SB211**

I am writing on behalf of the Prairie Village City Council with regard to Senate Bill 211. The City Council believes that this bill would have tremendously negative impacts at the local level and therefore, we stand in opposition to SB211.

Elections at the local level are currently non-partisan in nature and occur at a time when there can be a focus on local issues. Requiring local elections to coincide with other partisan primaries and the general election would be inappropriate and could be confusing to the public.

Proponents of this legislation have argued that there will be a significant cost savings with the enactment of this bill. Our belief is that these costs savings would be negligible relative to the overall population served by the electoral process.

In addition, proponents have argued that moving the elections to November would result in an increase in the total number of voters. The City Council believes that while the number of voters may marginally increase, the overall effect would be to diminish the available information regarding local issues and local candidates.

Kansas has a long tradition of nonpartisan elections held in odd-numbered years which has lead to effective local government leaders who are responsive to all residents. Maintaining the cycle insures that the electorate can focus on local issues and candidates whom they believe will best represent them.

Therefore, the Prairie Village City Council strongly urges the Committee to reject Senate Bill 211. Thank you for consideration of our comments in this matter.