

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Dennis Pyle, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government
Statehouse, Room 234-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Pyle:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 211 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 211 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 211 would amend existing law concerning elections for local governments. The bill would make all such elections partisan, rather than nonpartisan; move these elections from the spring of odd-numbered years to the fall of even-numbered years to coincide with national, state, and county elections; and eliminate the election of political party precinct committee positions at the August primary election. In addition, the bill would eliminate ballot rotation, where candidates' names are rotated so each candidate's name shows at the top of the list an equal number of times through the election district. The bill would apply to the following jurisdictions: extension districts, cities, boards of public utilities, water districts, drainage districts, irrigation districts, unified school districts, and community colleges.

According to the Office of the Secretary of State, passage of SB 211 would have no fiscal effect on agency expenditures or revenues. The Office indicates that the fiscal effect from passage of the bill would be on local governments, particularly county election offices. With regard to both the primary and general elections, the Office estimates that there could be savings to the counties of several hundred thousand dollars every two years. The savings would result from reduction of the number of ballot styles; combining local elections on ballots with national, state, and county races; and eliminating elections for political party precinct committee positions.

According to the Kansas Association of Counties, passage of SB 211 could save money in the odd-numbered years, but would cause additional expense in the even-numbered years from

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increased ballot costs and increased costs associated with the complexities of biennial elections. The League of Kansas Municipalities is unable to determine the bill's fiscal effect, if any.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Courtney Canfield, Secretary of State's Office
Melissa Wangemann, KAC
Larry Baer, LKM