



Kansas Democratic Party

Testimony for Hearing on Monday, February 16th
House Elections Committee
HB 2212

The Kansas Democratic Party is testifying in Opposition to HB 2212.

The Kansas Democratic Party Bylaws contain no provisions for city parties. In as much as the new language in HB2212 on page 4 indicates any city political committee would have to be established by the state committee, it is permissive and would not require us to change our structure.

As a general principle, our objection is based on the need to strengthen county parties, rather than creating structures that might weaken them. As a practical matter, city parties would only be viable in one or two areas of the state. The Kansas Democratic Party has had no requests for such additional parties and has no plans, should this legislation pass, to initiate a city party. We already have many clubs in larger counties that meet specific needs—Sedgwick County is a good example of a county that meets the needs and interests of its residents by having clubs that meet to discuss topics, enjoy fellowship, etc. in different areas at different times. However, anything that would weaken the county party should be avoided.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Joan Wagnon
Chairperson, Kansas Democratic Party