

Summary of Sub for SB 171

As Amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole

The following is a summary of the major provisions of Sub. for SB 171 as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Municipalities—Governing Body Elections

1. Municipal elections are moved from the Spring (March-April) in odd-numbered years to the Fall (August-November) in odd-numbered years.
Note: Cities may utilize the Fall even-numbered year election cycle for the purpose of staggering terms or providing a three-year term of office. (Section 1).
2. The definition of “municipality” includes:
 - a. Cities; (Sections 1-3, 39-46)
 - b. Consolidated cities/counties; (Section 1)
 - c. Unified school districts. (Sections 4, 30-38, 59)
 - d. Community colleges; (Sections 54-58)
 - e. Johnson County Water One; (Sections 12-13)
 - f. Kansas City Board of Public Utilities; (Section 10)
 - g. Multi-county extension districts; (Sections 8-9)
 - h. Irrigation districts; (Section 53)
 - i. Improvement districts; (Section 11)
 - j. Hospital districts; and (Section 60)
 - k. Drainage districts (Sections 14-18)
3. Nonuniform laws that apply to cities are either repealed or amended to be made uniform in application to all cities. (See bill title, also Sections 40, 43-45)
4. A uniform filing fee is set at \$20. Requirements for filing by nomination petition are left to the discretion of the governing body. (Section 1)
5. The term “municipality” does not include any special district where the election of the governing body is conducted at a meeting of the special district. (Section 1)

Bond Issue and Tax Elections

Bond issue and tax increase elections for cities, counties and school districts shall be held at a primary or general election. (Sections 61-69)

Filling Vacancies—Cities and Consolidated Cities/Counties

A special election is required to fill a vacancy in the governing body of a city or a consolidated city/county. The provision does not apply to any city or consolidated city/county which has a procedure for filling vacancies in the governing body and which has filled such vacancy within 60 days of the vacancy. (Sections 70-72)

Cities—Forms of Government

Cities are authorized to adopt any form of government by ordinance, to change the form of government, to establish the duties of the city manager and so forth. (Section 3)

Other Election Matters

1. All unified school districts shall make suitable school buildings available for polling places. Schools shall schedule in-service training days on election days. (Section 4)
2. The Secretary of State shall develop a public information program to explain changes made due to moving elections from Spring to Fall. (Section 5)
3. The Secretary of State shall establish by rules and regulations the arrangement of names for the primary and general election ballots. (Sections 23 and 25-27)
4. Persons between the ages of 16 and 18 may act as election workers on election boards. A letter of recommendation from a school teacher, counselor or administrator is required. No more than 1/3 of an election board may be under the age of 18. (Section 49)
5. Precinct committee members are elected for four-year terms at the August election of a presidential election year. (Section 52)
6. Various amendments are made to the election laws to conform to the provisions of this bill. (Sections 19-29, 47-52)