



Individual Liberty
Economic Liberty
Strengthen Families
Sovereign States Rights
Ending Judicial Activism

March 11, 2015

SB 171 Fall Elections

Proponent testimony in favor of this bill

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

One simple question and answer to the problems in this country lies with the populous understanding the value or importance of municipal elections.

Few people see the school board or city council as a Board of Directors. Instead these are individuals that sit on these boards allowing the Mayors and Superintendents to act like owners of their own personal companies, supplying little if any resistance to their directions.

In the State of Kansas, state legislators currently oversee \$6.3 Billion of a total \$15 Billion dollar budget. Of that \$6.3 Billion is state funding, nearly \$4 Billion is designated to schools. So even though a State legislator gets to actually dictate about 15% of the overall budget, they are scrutinized dramatically more on their votes or position versus a local candidate. Yet, the state level representative desires more efficiencies, has a better understanding of crucial functions and still has to answer to 4-5 times more of the voters. How??

An issue I see for school boards is their constant use of "volunteer school board members". There is nothing stopping the districts from paying these individuals \$100 a month for their time and effort. Simplify, \$100 a month x 7 members x 12 months = \$8,400. Take this a step forward and multiply it times every school district $286 \times \$8,400 = \2.4 Million, or .00027% of the total education spending. This would almost be laughable considering we are investing \$9 Billion a year in Kansas education.

After the March 3rd Primary elections here in 2015 Sedgwick County produced less than 20K voters, 9.2% of the electorate. This is actually a better turnout than Johnson County which was only able to garner 6.3% of their registered voters. How do we have the 2 largest counties in population in the state, that generate more than 60% of the ENTIRE tax base of the state - get less than 40K people to vote of their more than 1.15 million citizens??? It takes a very low level of effort to obtain a very high appropriation authority in your local area.

While we have weak results and turnout, this only leads to dysfunction and the inability to truly effect local politics for reforms. It's extremely important to know the candidates. Knowing their political leanings only leads to a clearer understanding of the values and positions these individuals start from when casting their votes.

We need larger turnout. Fall elections gets us headed in that direction. It should save us money, increase the quality of our overall elections. This should encourage more candidates to run for these positions. Better turnout should produce better candidates.

Every year for the rest of our lives we "by all accounts" are going to spend our Januarys thru April focusing on one thing. TAXES!!!! Not elections. Just food for thought.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brown
316-644-8075 Cell
browncontract@hotmail.com