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March 9, 2015

Honorable Kansas State Representative Mark Kahrs
Chairman, House Committee on Elections
and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: Senate Bill 171, Concerning Municipality & School Elections

Chairman Kahrs and Distinguished Committee Members,

As Cowley County Clerk and Election Officer, I thank you for your consideration of my testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 171 as amended to move City and School Elections to the fall of even years. The randomness of School District boundaries add a complexity to the managing of an election when paired with Federal and State elections. Also to consider is the fact that school districts cross county lines which requires collaboration with multiple County Election Offices. This holds the possibility that voters would be required to travel outside the county to vote. Accurate elections are something each election officer strives for in the State and we have an outstanding group of election officials working hard to make sure that continues to happen. The complexity of the ballot when combining Federal and State elections with local elections and the strong possibility of multiple ballots will prove challenging to continue the level of accuracy Kansas has proven in the past.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Madison
Cowley County Clerk and Election Official