

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mitch Holmes at 9:35am on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 142-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Darla Conner, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dennis Wilson, Larned City Council  
Jeff Taylor, Pratt City Commissioner  
Larry Alley, Former Member USD 396 School Board  
Joy Eakins, Member USD 259 School Board  
Dr. Walt Chappell, Former Member of the State Board of Education  
Clay Barker, Executive Director Kansas Republican Party  
Jim Howell, Sedgwick County Commissioner  
Gary Yost, Member USD 403 School Board  
Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent USD 208

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Chairman Holmes distributed a copy of the revised Committee Rules to committee members and staff.  
[\(Attachment 1\)](#)

### **Hearing on:**

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB171**. Mike Heim, office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an overview of the bill. [\(Attachment 2\)](#) Questions and discussion followed.

Proponents:

Dennis Wilson, Larned City Council, testified via skype in support of **SB171**. [\(Attachment 3\)](#) Mr. Wilson believes this bill would be positive for smaller communities to increase voter turnout and be more cost effective.

Jeff Taylor, Pratt City Commissioner, testified via skype in support of **SB171**. [\(Attachment 4\)](#) Mr. Taylor supports this bill because it would give municipal government more exposure to the citizens it serves and not let local elections be over-shadowed.

Larry Alley, Former Member USD 396 School Board, testified in support of **SB171**. [\(Attachment 5\)](#)

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mr. Alley supports the change in election dates to: 1) Encourage more candidates to run for office; 2) Have better voter turnout; 3) Allow school board members more time to gain experience in budget issues.

Joy Eakins, Member USD 259 School Board, testified in support of **SB171**. ([Attachment 6](#)) Ms. Eakins supports moving the local elections because they are extremely important and often overlooked by the community.

Dr. Walt Chappell, Former Member of the State Board of Education, testified in support of **SB171**. ([Attachment 7](#)) ([Attachment 8](#)) Dr. Chappell stated "our democracy will be stronger and more cost/effective decisions be made about how to spend taxpayer money once SB171 is passed into law".

Clay Barker, Executive Director Kansas Republican Party, on behalf of the Republican party, testified in support of **SB171**. ([Attachment 9](#)) Mr. Barker expressed the party's support in moving spring elections to fall and making the elections partisan.

Jim Howell, Sedgwick County Commissioner, testified via telephone conference in support of **SB171**. ([Attachment 10](#)) Mr. Howell supports moving the spring to fall election to increase voter turnout and allow the voters to have a better understanding about whom they are electing.

Steve Roberts, Member of the Kansas State Board of Education, submitted written testimony in support of **SB171**. ([Attachment 11](#))

### Opponents:

Gary Yost, Member USD 403 School Board, testified in opposition to **SB171**. ([Attachment 12](#)) Mr. Yost opposes moving local and school board elections to fall because it would cause longer ballots leading to local elections becoming trivial.

Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent USD 208, testified in opposition to **SB171**. ([Attachment 13](#)) Dr. Griffith stated the biggest issue with moving local issues to the fall would be the local elections overshadowed by larger races held at the same time.

Written testimony in opposition to **SB171** was submitted by:

Whitney Damron, On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Coffey County ([Attachment 14](#))

Donald Pyle, Crawford County Clerk and Election Officer ([Attachment 15](#))

Richard Boeshaar, Chairman of the Johnson and Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors ([Attachment 16](#))

Stuart Little, on behalf of Johnson County Government ([Attachment 17](#))

Bill Phillipi, President of the Kansas Mayors Association ([Attachment 18](#))

Angela Stallbaumer, Policy Specialist/Attorney with the Kansas Association of School Boards ([Attachment 19](#))

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Judith Deedy, Executive Director of Game on for Kansas Schools ([Attachment 20](#))  
Nathan Eberline, Legal Counsel for Kansas Association of Counties ([Attachment 21](#))  
Linda Fund, Executive Director Kansas Association of Community College Trustees ([Attachment 22](#))  
Gregory Kindle, On behalf of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce ([Attachment 23](#))  
Tammy Bartels, Kansas PTA President ([Attachment 24](#))  
Brandi Fisher, Executive Director MainStream Coalition and Education Foundation ([Attachment 25](#))  
Djuan Wash, Economic Justice Organizer and Communications Coordinator for Sunflower Community Action ([Attachment 26](#))  
Margaret Nightengale, President USD 214 School Board ([Attachment 27](#))  
Dayna Miller, Member USD 458 School Board ([Attachment 28](#))  
Pam Robinson, President USD 229 School Board ([Attachment 29](#))  
Patricia Welicky, Vice President USD 204 School Board ([Attachment 30](#))  
Gina McGowan, Member USD 327 School Board ([Attachment 31](#))  
Tom Brungardt, Member USD 475 School Board ([Attachment 32](#))  
Ted Collins, Attorney for USD 111, RFD #2, Doniphan County ([Attachment 33](#))  
Kenneth Harshberger, Superintendent USD 226 ([Attachment 34](#))  
Amy Martin, Member USD 233 School Board ([Attachment 35](#))  
LeEtta Feltner, President and Rick Schier, Vice President USD 233 School Board ([Attachment 36](#))  
Deb Zila, President and members of the Shawnee Mission Board of Education ([Attachment 37](#))  
Glennis Zimmerman, President USD 509 School Board ([Attachment 38](#))  
Doug Glenn, Former Member USD 501 School Board ([Attachment 39](#))  
Rod Stewart, Member USD 108 School Board ([Attachment 40](#))  
Diane Gjerstad, On behalf of the Wichita Public Schools ([Attachment 41](#))  
Julie Parker, for the city of Olathe ([Attachment 42](#))  
Martha McCoy, Chanute City Commissioner ([Attachment 43](#))  
Gary Adrian, City of Colby Mayor ([Attachment 44](#))  
Tyson McGreer, City of Colby City Manager ([Attachment 45](#))  
Dion Avello, City of Derby Mayor ([Attachment 46](#))  
John McTaggart, Mayor and the members of the Edwardsville City Council ([Attachment 47](#))  
Roy Cessna, City of Garden City Mayor ([Attachment 48](#))  
John Deardoff, City of Hutchinson City Manager ([Attachment 49](#))  
Mike Amyx, City of Lawrence Mayor ([Attachment 50](#))  
Sandy Jacquot, City of Lecompton Mayor ([Attachment 51](#))  
Members of the Governing Body of Lenexa ([Attachment 52](#))  
Donna Clasen, Council Member City of Maize ([Attachment 53](#))  
Bill Phillipi, City of Marysville Mayor ([Attachment 54](#))  
Bobby Busch, Fiance Director/City Clerk City of Neodesha ([Attachment 55](#))  
Linda Reed, City of Ottawa Mayor ([Attachment 56](#))  
Don Schultz, City of Overbrook Mayor ([Attachment 57](#))  
Dick Carter, On behalf of Council Members and the Mayor of the city of Overland Park ([Attachment 58](#))

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MINUTES of the Committee on Ethics and Elections at 9:35am on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 142-S of the Capitol.

Jay Wieland, City of Paola City Manager ([Attachment 59](#))

Nolan Sunderman, Assistant of the City Administrator for the City of Prairie Village ([Attachment 60](#))

Jason Gage, City of Salina City Manager on behalf of the Salina City Commission ([Attachment 61](#))

Katie Killen, City of Shawnee Assistant City Manager ([Attachment 62](#))

Whitney Damron, On behalf of the City of Topeka ([Attachment 63](#))

Deborah Brown, City of Wakefield Mayor ([Attachment 64](#))

Written testimony provided in a Neutral position on **SB171**:

Robert Wyatt, Norton County Clerk and Election Officer ([Attachment 65](#))

Bryan Caskey, Assistant State Election Director for the Office of the Secretary of State ([Attachment 66](#))

The hearing on **SB171** will continue at the next meeting on February 12, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44am.