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SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

Wednesday (AM) : February 4, 2014

**TO : Senator Mitch Holmes; Chair/ Ethics & Elections
Senator Steve Fitzgerald; Vice-Chair / Ethics & Elections
Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau; Ranking Member / Ethics & Elections**

RE: SUPPORT for SB 10 – Timely Filling of an Elected Municipal Office Vacancy

Mister Chair / Fellow Committee Members :

Thank you for hearing this bill which covers a simple issue; one easily understood. I will be brief.

SB 10 provides a requirement that any vacancy that occurs in an elected seat/office of a municipal body be filled within thirty (30) days by the remaining members of that municipal body or, if not, then submitted to the electorate of that vacated, unrepresented seat within forty-five (45) days.

At the Federal AND State levels, if a member of Congress or you or I or of the Kansas House were to resign, become incapacitated or die while in office, Constitutions provide swift procedures for replacements in either of our legislative bodies to, obviously, fulfill our unexpired term.

The question SB 10 will resolve is : “Why should a voting citizen of a county or city be less represented at the local level should a vacancy occur and, apparently, continue unfilled?” I contend, Mr. Chair, each voter casting a vote deserves a full-term or full-termed representation.

Predicting opposition assertions that local control may be usurped by state government or that a special election might be costly or whatever ; SB 10 does NOT mandate HOW the successor is named and an election is ONLY triggered when remaining municipal members stall or fail to act.

Ask yourself. Shouldn't every ELECTED term be represented in FULL no matter at the federal, state or local level? This should be our democracy.

Please recommend this matter favorably. I am happy to stand for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,
– David Haley (WY)
– Senator / Kansas

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