

Summary of SB 171

The following is a summary of the major provisions of SB 171.

Municipalities

1. Municipal elections are moved from the spring (March-April) in odd-numbered years to the fall (August-November) in even-numbered years.
Note: Cities may utilize the fall odd-numbered year election cycle for the purpose of staggering terms or providing a three-year term of office. (Section 1).
2. All municipal elections shall be on a partisan basis. (Section 1).
3. The definition of "municipality" includes:
 - a. Cities; (Sections 1, 2, 43-50)
 - b. Consolidated cities and counties; (Sections 10 and 11)
 - c. Johnson county charter government; and (Section 14)
 - d. Unified school districts. (Section 1(g), 4, 34-42, 62)
4. Nonuniform laws that apply to cities are either repealed or amended to be made uniform in application to all cities. (See title also Sections 12, 13, 44, 47 and 48).
5. A uniform filing fee is set at \$20. Requirements for filing by nomination petition is left to the discretion of the governing body. (Sections 1, 40 and 47).

Special Districts

1. Special district elections are moved from spring (March-April) in odd-numbered years to fall (August-November) in odd-numbered years. (Section 3).
2. Special district elections shall be nonpartisan. (Section 3).
3. The definition of "special district" includes:
 - a. Community colleges; (Sections 57-61)
 - b. Johnson county Water One; (Sections 16 and 17)
 - c. Kansas City Board of Public utilities; (Sections 12 and 13)
 - d. Multi-county extension districts; (Sections 8 and 9)
 - e. Irrigation districts; (Section 56)
 - f. Improvement district; (Section 15)
 - g. Hospital districts; and (Section 63)
 - h. Drainage districts (Sections 18-22)
4. A uniform filing fee is set at \$20. (Section 3)

Other Elections 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 an alphabetical ballot order for candidate names for all national, state and local officers each year for all elections in that year by drawing one letter of the alphabet at random and candidates with that surname shall appear first on the ballot. (Section 27).
4. Two persons (now one person) between the ages of 16 and 18 may act as election workers on each elections board. A letter of recommendation from a school teacher, counselor or administrator is required. (Section 53).
5. Precinct committee members are elected for four-year terms at the August election of a presidential election year. (Section 55).
6. Various amendments are made to the election laws to conform with provisions of this bill.