

Testimony for consideration by the Kansas Senate regarding SB 171,

Respectfully submitted by Steve Roberts, Member, Kansas State Board of Education, February 10, 2015

Permit me to assert that:

I favor moving local elections to the fall. Most of the proposed bill seems appropriate and timely for our citizens and their collective sense of self government.

Section 28(b) is especially well directed, in my view. Spelling out the “Official Ballot” is the right way to write legislation, in my opinion.

Partisan elections help protect the interests of the minority and those without a strong voice in the majority. Those who don’t understand this basic concept do not genuinely understand American government.

I may be uniquely qualified to speak to the distinction between non-partisan and partisan school board elections, as the only member of the Kansas State Board of Education to have run for the office as a true independent with no party affiliation in 2008 and as a Republican in 2012.

Thank you.

Steve Roberts

Member, Kansas State Board of Education