

Testimony in Opposition to SB 171  
Senate Ethics and Election Committee  
February 9, 2015

For full disclosure I am Patricia Welicky, Vice President of the USD 204 School Board

**Opposition Statement:**

**Is it ethical to make school board elections partisan?** Is it the way the Senate Ethics and Election Committee believe Kansans want their school board elections? The truth be known, probably no one outside of politics has given it much thought. But they should, because school board elections should be above partisan politics. And yes, the Elections and Ethics Committee have the means to place local school board election in the crosshairs of partisan politics. But why? I can only guess it is because of partisan politics that the rush to move local elections into the political arena has entered the discussion.

But is it ethical? Yes it's political, but is it ethical to make school board elections partisan? When I ran for school board four years ago I did so not because I was a Republican out to prove a Republican Agenda, but as a parent wanting to make my local school district the best it could be. **Serving on the school board really has nothing to do with politics**, sure we have our leanings but in the end **it is only about the students that means everything**.

But this does not answer if passing SB 171 is ethical. By placing local school board elections into the realm of partisan politics is morally apprehensive for the action serves political interest not the students' interests. The ethics committee has a moral obligation to determine if the action of turning local school board elections partisan taints the moral fiber of a non-partisan election. In good conscience, I can only find that making school board elections partisan is ethically and morally wrong. Others will come before you and offer more eloquent testimony but I say to the Ethics and Election Committee to vote in the negative and kill SB 171 in committee. Not to is morally and ethically wrong.

**Final Thought:**

**It is my hope and prayer that the Ethics and Election Commission will rise above politics and vote SB 171 down.**

With Respect,

Patricia Welicky  
414 Allcutt Ave.  
Bonner Springs, KS 66012  
[Welickyp@usd204.net](mailto:Welickyp@usd204.net)