



February 9, 2015

Senator Mitch Holmes, Chair
Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
State Capitol Building – Room 237-E
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: CITY ELECTIONS

Dear Committee Members:

The City of Hutchinson wishes to express strong opposition to any bill intended to move local elections to the fall and/or to make local elections partisan.

City elections in Kansas are non-partisan in nature. Moving city elections to coincide with other partisan primaries and general elections would be inappropriate and confusing for the public. Local candidates and elections would be lost in the myriad of statewide and federal elections that are conducted at the same time. While tying local elections to the state and federal elections may increase the total number of individuals who vote in city elections, it would likely diminish the information available about city elections and candidates.

Proponents of this change have argued that consolidating city and state elections would save money. However, the last time this proposal was considered, the statewide savings was negligible.

We respectfully urge you to oppose any measure to move local elections to the fall and/or to make local elections partisan.

Sincerely,

John Deardoff
City Manager
johnnd@hutchgov.com

cc: Reno County Legislators
League of Kansas Municipalities