

February 11, 2015

Senator Mitch Holmes, Chair
Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

Re: SB 171

Please consider this written testimony for the committee.

Please consider my opposition to combining the local elections with the State and National elections and moving them to the fall and making them partisan. This would be a detriment to the City of Maize, a city of the third class as well as our school district.

Some reasons for opposition are:

- Combining elections would make it difficult for local candidates.
- The electorate would be over-whelmed with "larger State & National issues" while the local election would become a second thought at best.
- Individuals running for local city office in a city of the third class would be pushed aside and overlooked. They would get lost in the confusion with a lengthy ballot.
- Partisan politics in a city-of-the-third class is not realistic. It will put an undue burden on individuals running and on the electorate at large.
- Partisan elections prohibit federal employees and military personnel from participating. (Hatch Act)
- The current election system allows cities, such as Maize, to have an election that is meaningful and addresses the needs of all.
- To change the current election system, as depicted in SB 171, simply adds expense, confusion and serves no meaningful purpose for local elections.

Donna Clasen,
Councilmember
405 Harvest
PO Box 417
Maize, KS 67101

Phone: (316) 721-3073