



209 NORTH 8TH ST., MARYSVILLE, KS 66508 ♦ PH: (785) 562-5331 FAX: (785) 562-2449

February 10, 2015

Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections
c/o League of Kansas Municipalities
300 SW 8TH Avenue
Topeka, KS 66603

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 171

On behalf of the entire Governing Body of the City of Marysville, we strongly urge you to reject Senate Bill 171 and not move city and school board elections to the fall and/or make the elections partisan. Our concerns are ballot fatigue, issues being lost and employees of the Federal Government being unable to run in partisan elections.

Each city has a unique character and unique issues that come to the forefront in local elections. These issues do not fit into the ideology of the existing political parties. There is no Republican or Democratic way to build a swimming pool or new school. Both city councils and school boards across the state must be free to do important work without being concerned about the pressure of a political platform or agenda and whether they have the blessing of a particular political party.

The idea that moving the elections to the fall will draw a greater number of voters also presents the likelihood that voters would be less informed about the local issues. The present system of local elections in the spring of odd numbered years has worked for literally decades and is not in need of reform. Energy needs to be focused on the economic situation facing the State of Kansas and not expended on an issue that is working properly for all citizens across the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Phillipi", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Bill Phillipi
Mayor

Cc: Governing Body
City Attorney
City Administrator