



Don't overlook Overbrook – a town with a great future built on a trail of past success!

City of Overbrook, Kansas

401 Maple Street
Overbrook, KS 66524

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February 2015

Statement for consideration regarding change to current city elections

Dear Legislators,

I serve as the elected Mayor of the City of Overbrook, Kansas, a City of the Third Class with a total population of 1,057 people living in approximately 420 homes. Our City elections normally bring about 200 voters to the poll. Our elected include a Mayor and five City Council members; all are volunteers with no salary or benefits. Their term of service is four years with many choosing to serve multiple terms. Our city does not have a City Administrator therefore, each of the Council and the Mayor take additional responsibility to work directly with city department heads to assist as needed with their department management. Finding candidates that are willing to serve for this type of commitment is difficult. Many times residents "suggest" to a friend or neighbor that they should run for Council because they believe they would do a good job. Never is there a consideration as to whether that person is of the same political party or concern if they live on the other side of town.

A change to the current election date and manner in which our candidates register and represent themselves will create confusion and greatly hinder the efforts to find candidates. Voters will need to find city candidates on a much longer ballot among names not related to city positions. And, candidates will be required to spend more time and money in preparation as they register and run their campaign for election.

Our election efficiency could be greatly increased for both voter turnout and cost savings by moving totally to **Internet voting and Mail-In voting** – not by changing the date and/or registration requirements.

Thank you for considering my input and for always remembering the small municipalities in our state. Remember, in Kansas there are more Cities of the Third Class than the other two classes combined!

Sincerely,



Don Schultz, Mayor

Overbrook, Kansas