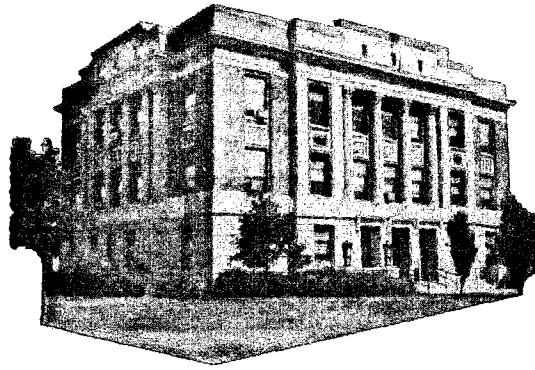


NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS



NORTON, KANSAS

February 10, 2015

Chairman of Ethics and Elections,

I am writing to ask you to consider a change to the language in Senate Bill No. 171, an act concerning municipalities.

As an election official of Norton County I cannot see any benefit in making city and school board positions partisan. In fact I believe this will create additional problems and cost to county government.

A partisan election may create a primary election which eliminates candidates that would generally appear on the General election ballot. This would also generate an additional ballot and style for the Primary election. Again, this would require additional cost to counties for programing and ballots. Please understand that partisan elections also restrict some residents from running for an elected position.

Other concern with SB 171 is straight ticket party voting. I can see a tremendous educational problem with straight ticket party voting. This, in my belief will also cause voter drop off and confusion to the voter. I see a problems with voter instructions on the ballot.

I can see advantages in moving the elections of municipalities and school boards to August and November. My concern remains with partisan elections and straight ticket party voting and I ask for your consideration in removing the language from SB 171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert D. Wyatt".

Robert D. Wyatt
Norton County Clerk and Election Officer