



Individual Liberty
Economic Liberty
Strengthen Families
Sovereign States Rights
Ending Judicial Activism

February 10, 2015

SB 171 Elections; municipalities and special districts; spring to fall; other changes.

Testimony in Support of this bill

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

As a past City Council Candidate I can personally attest to the difficulties involved with spring elections.

Spring elections are totally biased toward incumbents, there simply is not enough time for a challenger to gain the necessary name recognition to compete.

- 1 Following major November elections it is impossible to get voters (or anybody) to even think about politics. The voter fatigue is absolutely palpable at every event and door.
- 2 The holiday season further destroys any chance at gaining voter attention. People simply refuse to even think about it.
- 3 Bad weather hampers most chances of a "ground game" So candidates are limited to mail, the expense is prohibitive for most challenger candidates. As most of you remember your "first race" and the total lack of financial support.
- 4 In my city council primary we had a dismal 4% voter turnout. 800 people decided the election for 63,000 citizens many of which were USD 259 and City employees voting to retain the "status Quo".

I strongly urge you pass SB 171 to the full Senate for Consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Gabel

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