



Testimony

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Local Elections HB 2227

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House Elections Committee

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City opposes HB 2227. While not as bad as HB 2271 which would move local elections to the Fall of even-numbered and make them partisan, HB 2227 is still another big government, big brother intrusion into local affairs.

HB 2227 simply moves one free-standing election held in the Spring of odd-numbered years to the Fall of odd-numbered years. What is the point of that? The goal of all this unneeded legislation is allegedly to increase voter turn-out. Why would moving the election from Spring to Fall of the same year increase voter turn-out? Is there any proof or evidence that it would?

Local elections generally don't draw as many voters as State and National elections. Moving the election from Spring to Fall isn't likely to change that. The turnout has to do with the issues, the media coverage and advertising that surround the elections. More people will turn-out to vote for President or Governor than Mayor or City Council member. It doesn't matter what time of year the election is held. Lower turn-out in local elections can also mean that many voters are happy with the way their city government is being run and the services they receive, so they aren't as motivated to vote.

There has been no outcry for moving City and School elections from Spring to Fall. Once again the Kansas Legislature is looking to meddle in the business of local government.