



## Dr. LeEtta Felter

### House Bill 2452 | Written Testimony – Opponent

Chairperson and Members of the Kansas House Elections Committee,

My name is Dr. LeEtta Felter, and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 2452. I respectfully ask the Committee to reject this bill because it is a local control issue and risks undermining Kansas' long-standing tradition of nonpartisan, community-focused municipal elections.

**1) Municipal elections should remain a local decision-** Kansas communities are diverse in size, structure, and needs. A one-size-fits-all mandate from the state legislature would remove local flexibility and override decisions that should remain with cities and their residents. Local governments are best positioned to determine what election timing and term structures support effective governance, accountability, and continuity.

**2) Protect the nonpartisan nature of local elections-** Kansans have long valued the fact that local elections are different than state and federal elections. City races should focus on practical, everyday issues like public safety, infrastructure, responsible budgeting, housing, and neighborhood quality of life—not partisan labels or national political dynamics. Moving municipal elections into even-numbered years would place local races directly inside the most partisan and expensive election cycles. That shift would make it harder for voters to evaluate municipal candidates based on local priorities and could discourage qualified community leaders from running.

**3) Even-year cycles will drown out local issues-** Even-numbered years are dominated by high-profile statewide and federal campaigns. Municipal issues and candidates would compete for attention, resources, and voter focus. More elections on the ballot does not automatically mean better engagement—often it means local concerns get lost in the noise.

**4) Cities need flexibility in term structures-** HB 2452 would restrict local discretion on term lengths, despite the fact that cities have different governance models and planning needs. Term structures impact stability, long-range budgeting, infrastructure planning, and leadership continuity. These decisions should remain local, not mandated by the state.

HB 2452 would reduce local control, weaken the distinct nonpartisan character of municipal elections, and pull city governance into increasingly partisan election cycles. Kansas communities deserve the freedom to govern themselves in a way that best fits their residents. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose HB 2452.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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