

Date of Committee Hearing: January 20, 2026

Committee Name: House Elections Committee

Bill Number: HB 2452

NAME: Colleen Cunningham, Community Organizer for Elections

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Chair Proctor and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to HB 2452.

For the past 5 years, I have done a great deal of community organizing for elections in Kansas. In doing that work, I've learned a lot about voters' experiences of elections, which is why I have concerns about this bill.

Each year, I help voters in my community know what to expect on their ballots. Each year, because ballots can be long and include elected positions that voters are not closely familiar with, I see that voters experience overwhelm at the information, which can make it difficult to share clear information for all of the positions included on each ballot. Passing HB 2452 would make even year ballots even longer and more complicated. This is likely to cause voters to become even more overwhelmed and tune out.

I truly enjoy providing voters with information about local elections because it helps them understand which roles are responsible for various policies that they often have a real stake and interest in. Voters deserve to have the opportunity to focus only on local issues—road maintenance, school policies, and so on—and are substantially less likely to have that opportunity if HB 2452 passes and everything is put on a single ballot.

Again, having done this election work each year, I know that voters are often overwhelmed by campaign outreach. They are receiving too many texts, phone calls, mailers, etc. from each campaign on their ballot. This will necessarily be multiplied if local and state/federal elections are combined in even years. I believe that this scenario will likely lead to more voters tuning out.

I know locally, election turnout is lower than any elections-supporter would like. *However*, turnout has increased each year due, in large part, to the work of election volunteers on the ground, as well as local elections officials. I would encourage this committee to focus efforts on expanding accurate information about elections being shared with voters. If we want to see participation in elections increase, let's make it easier for eligible voters to be informed and vote.

Again, I would ask that members vote NO on HB2452. Thank you for your time and attention.

Colleen Cunningham
Overland Park