Date of hearing: January 20, 2026
Testimony to the House Elections Committee
NAME: Lynne Ganaden, Kansas citizen
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BILL NUMBER: HB 2452
OPPONENT
WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:

Chair and members of the committee, Thank your for the opportunity to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452.

I am a recently retired registered nurse living in Shawnee, Kansas. Being a retiree has given me the advantage of making it more convenient to vote but I know there can be many obstacles. I believe this bill would make the voting

process more difficult and discourage voter participation.

Even-year (presidential & midterm) ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding city council, mayoral, school board races on the ballots with federal and statewide races will make it even harder for voters to research down ballot local issues and candidates, create voter fatigue and lead more voters to skip voting.

Voters are more likely to rely on partisan messaging in even-year elections, which is a poor fit for nonpartisan local offices like school boards and city councils. Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety —issues that deserve focused attention,

not competition with presidential or congressional races.

Media coverage in even-years is dominated by national politics, leaving little room for substantive discussion of local governance.

Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would be even harder to organize and will receive less public attention in even-numbered years. Voters already tire of phone calls, text messages, and mailboxes flooded with campaign flyers during federal and state level elections. Adding local elections will lead to even more overwhelm and voters tuning out.

Civic engagement should prioritize

informed participation, not just raw numbers. Keeping local elections to odd-numbered years results in more informed voters.

Please vote against this bill: HB 2452.

Sincerely,
Lynne Ganaden
Shawnee, Kansas