

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee, I submit this testimony in opposition to the proposal to move local elections to even-numbered years.

Even-year ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding city council, mayoral, and school board contests will increase voter fatigue and make it harder for voters to research and thoughtfully consider down-ballot local races.

Local offices such as school boards and city councils are nonpartisan by design. Even-year elections are dominated by partisan messaging, which is a poor fit for offices focused on practical, community-level governance rather than party ideology.

Local elections center on schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—issues that deserve focused voter attention. In even-numbered years, media coverage and public discourse are overwhelmingly driven by national politics, leaving little space for meaningful discussion of local governance.

Community forums, candidate debates, and civic education efforts are also harder to organize and receive less attention during presidential and midterm election cycles. Voters are already overwhelmed by campaign calls, texts, and mail during even-year elections; adding local races will further reduce engagement and increase ballot drop-off.

Civic participation should prioritize informed decision-making, not just higher turnout totals. Keeping local elections in odd-numbered years supports more engaged, informed voters and stronger local democracy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill.

Cassandra Woolworth

Constituent

Olathe, KS