

January 20, 2026

Bill HB 2452 Opponent

Lane Odle

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Chair & Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452. I urge you to carefully consider the consequences of adding city council, mayoral, and school board races to ballots already crowded with federal and statewide contests.

Local elections are fundamentally different from federal and state races. Offices such as city council and school board are nonpartisan by design, and the issues they address—schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—are deeply local and practical. These issues deserve voters' focused attention, not competition with high-profile presidential or congressional races.

Media coverage in even-numbered years is overwhelmingly dominated by national politics. As a result, local candidates struggle to receive meaningful coverage, and voters have fewer opportunities to learn about their positions on local issues. Community forums, candidate debates, and public discussions for local offices are also harder to organize and attract far less attention during even-year election cycles.

Additionally, voters already face an intense volume of campaign activity during federal and statewide elections—constant phone calls, text messages, and mailboxes filled with flyers. Adding local races to this environment will only increase voter overwhelm and encourage disengagement rather than thoughtful participation.

Civic engagement should be measured not just by turnout numbers, but by how informed and intentional voters are when casting their ballots. Holding local elections in odd-numbered years allows these races to stand on their own, gives voters the space to focus on community issues, and supports more informed decision-making.

In closing, please vote no on bill HB 2452.

Sincerely,

Lane Odle

Business Owner and Parent

Leawood, KS