



Date of Testimony: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Bill Number: **HB 2452** — Changing the timing of city, school, community college and certain other municipality elections to fall in even-numbered years and requiring the term of office of municipal elected officials to be either two years or four years.

Disposition: Opponent; Written and Oral Testimony

From: Cille King, Advocacy Chair; League of Women Voters Kansas

To: Chair Representative Proctor and Members of the House Committee on Elections

The League of Women of Kansas opposes HB 2452 which would limit elections to only even number years and insert partisanship into nonpartisan elections.

The stated goal in reducing the number of elections is to increase voter turnout for down ballot elections. We question this notion. Would those who show little or no interest in school board or city government elections suddenly become interested when there are a dozen or more races on the ballot above the municipal races? A number of voters already only vote for the top of the ballot, or for their relative or friend who is in a race and leave the rest of the ballot unmarked.

By making current non-partisan elections partisan, the Hatch Act would prohibit federal employees from being a candidate on school boards or the city council or commission, removing good candidates from serving on local boards and councils.

Cities and School Boards benefit from nonpartisan commissions, councils and boards by placing the needs of the community first and without the furor of political parties.

During the campaign in odd numbered years, voters can focus on the positions of the candidates, without the state or national political arguments. Out-of-area campaign contributions are minimized. Third-party, dark money ads are reduced. Campaigns are more focused on winning arguments rather than destroying the opponents. By allowing the candidate's political party on the ballot, you remove the essence of nonpartisanship elections.

After the election, those nonpartisan commissions, councils and boards can more easily work together to solve the local problems without state or national politics, whether directly or indirectly interfering.

The League asks that the Kansas Legislature refrain from mandating requirements of counties, cities, and school boards that are unnecessary, arbitrary, or harmful. HB 2452 is unnecessary, arbitrary and harmful. It has no benefit to our communities. We ask that you vote NO on HB 2452.