

**Testimony to the House Elections Committee**

**Date of Committee Hearing: January 20, 2026**

**Bill HB 2452 Opponent**

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Chair & Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452.

Even-year ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding mayoral, city council, and school board elections would make it harder for voters to research down-ballot candidates and issues, increasing voter fatigue and leading many to skip local races altogether.

Even-year elections also encourage more partisan messaging, which is a poor fit for nonpartisan 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 campaigns.

In addition, media coverage in even-numbered years is dominated by national politics, leaving little room for substantive discussion of local governance. Community forums and candidate debates would be harder to organize and receive less public attention. Voters are already overwhelmed by campaign calls, texts, and mail during federal elections; adding local races will only increase burnout and disengagement.

Civic engagement should prioritize informed participation, not just higher turnout numbers. Keeping local elections in odd-numbered years supports more thoughtful, engaged voters and better outcomes for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

So please do what's in the best interest of the public and fair elections. Please vote no on bill HB 2452.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ashley Barlow

Concerned Parent + Resident

Overland Park