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Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Jennifer Day, Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: jendaykc@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee,

I appreciate your time as you review my testimony in opposition to HB 2452, and thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective.

As an engaged Kansas citizen who has been volunteering as an election worker for the past 8 years in my county, I have concerns about what will happen to our elections processes and voter experience should HB 2452 become law. Primarily, I am concerned with how long the ballot will be for each election if our state shifts municipal elections to even years, particularly in presidential election years when our state senate seats are all on the ballot, as well. There are several problems with longer ballot lengths: will our election offices run into issues with providing a ballot that is sized appropriately to accommodate the additional contests? Will voters lose interest as they work down the ballot, leading to a higher proportion of undervotes in local races? Additionally, will the shift to solely even-year elections cause voter disengagement due to the inconsistency of the voting process in our state?

Every odd year election, I interact with many voters who are unaware that the contests are nonpartisan in nature. I believe that the shift of including so many *nonpartisan* contests with *partisan* contests further up the ballot will cause confusion and unnecessary delays in the voting process.

I applaud efforts to modernize and improve our voting process in Kansas; however, this bill does not achieve either of those goals. I believe it will only cause confusion and discomfort for voters.

Please vote no on HB 2452. Thank you!

Jennifer Day
Overland Park