

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

January 20, 2026

Bill HB 2452 Opponent

Rachel McCawley, MBA, parent of a SMSD student

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Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452. As a parent and citizen of the SMSD, I am opposing the new bill. Even-year (presidential & midterm) ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. This would make it even harder for voters to research down ballot local issues and candidates. Voters are more likely to rely on partisan messaging in even-year elections, which is a poor fit for nonpartisan local 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 races. Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would be even harder to organize and will receive less public attention in even-numbered years.

Civic engagement should prioritize informed participation, not just raw numbers. Keeping local elections to odd-numbered years results in more informed voters.

Our House Elections Committee needs to ensure a fair election.

Please vote no on bill HB 2452.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rm', written in a cursive style.

Rachel McCawley,
Parent of a SMSD student
Leawood, KS