

Opposition Written-Only Testimony for **HB 2452**

For the House Committee on Elections

Kristen Blackton, Private Citizen

January 20th, 2026

Chair Proctor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my opponent testimony. My name is Kristen Blackton. I live in Johnson County and pride myself on being an informed voter in every election. I am writing to you today to ask that you vote **NO** on HB 2452.

While I moved to Kansas within the last ten years, it is my understanding that Kansas previously did have municipal and local elections fall during even years. It is a very recent change to have our local elections during odd years, and it is a change that everyone I know has welcomed!

There are a few reasons why I oppose this bill. First and most importantly, having local, non-partisan elections during odd years allows those elections to receive the attention they rightly deserve. I know that all of you on this committee recognize the importance of local government and know that local issues are often very different from those that are handled at the state and federal levels. My fear is that moving municipal elections to the same year as state and federal races will overshadow the importance of school board, city council, and mayoral elections. Because of my passion for voting, I often serve as a resource to many of my friends and family when it comes to who or what will be on the ballot. My municipal ballot in 2025 had a city council race, three school board positions, positions for our county water board, and positions for our community college. That's a decently long ballot already! Imagine adding state legislature races, congressional races, senate races, and a presidential race-- you risk your average voter being unable to do research into all of the races in order to make an informed decision when voting! Furthermore, local news outlets and organizations often host candidate forums. With *more races* on an even-year ballot, they risk not having the time or resources to host forums for every race, which would affect voters' ability to make informed decisions as well. Finally, moving municipal races to even numbered years along with state and federal races will make these local government roles *more partisan* as they begin to be associated with the partisan higher offices. I know that in Johnson County, our mayors, city council members, and school board members pride themselves on being non-partisan as they serve the people of their cities and districts. I'd love to keep it that way.

Our current voting schedule works well. It gives voters time to research and allows for space between partisan and non-partisan elections. Please vote no on HB 2452. Thank you.

Kristen Blackton
Shawnee, KS