

Committee Hearing: January 20, 2026
Testimony to the: House Elections Committee

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Bill Number: HB 2452
Proponent, Opponent, Neutral: Opponent
Oral or Written Only Testimony: Written Only

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opposition to HB2452. This bill seeks to move local elections to even numbered years for the stated purpose of increasing voter participation in local elections. The actual result would be opposite, in terms of engaged voter participation in local elections for the following reasons.

Under the current system, even year (presidential and midterm) ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding local elections will increase voter fatigue and subsequent disengagement with down ballot local issues and candidates. This is bad for local elections.

By adding city council, mayoral, school board races on ballots with federal and statewide races, this creates a daunting task for local candidates and local issues to break through the clutter and get their message across to voters. These local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning and public safety. Local elections deserve focused attention, not competition with presidential or congressional races.

Media coverage in even-years is dominated by national politics, which leaves little to no room for substantive discussion of local governance. Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would receive even less attention in even-numbered years. This is bad for local elections and for the residents who are impacted by these elections.

Voters already tire of phone calls, text messages, and mailboxes stuffed with campaign flyers during federal and state level elections. Adding local elections will overwhelm voters and they will tune out. This is bad for local elections. I can't stress that enough.

HB2452 will negatively impact civic engagement on local elections. Do not move local elections to even-years. Keep local elections to odd-numbered years. Allow local elections to have the attention they deserve and we deserve.

I respectfully submit my opposition to HB2452 as untenable and undesirable, and I hope you will agree and oppose this bill.

Leigh Stites
Blue Valley parent and engaged voter
Overland Park, Kansas