

**January 20, 2026**

**Testimony to the House Elections Committee**

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**BILL NUMBER: HB 2452**

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** OPPONENT

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for considering my opposition to HB 2452

I am opposed to the proposal to move local elections to even numbered years. 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. This could lead to voter fatigue and lead more voters to skip critical down ballot races or voters would be 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, where media coverage is dominated by national politics.

Please vote to oppose HB 2452. Civic engagement should prioritize informed participation, not just raw numbers. Keeping local elections to odd-numbered years results in more informed voters.

Melinda Parks

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