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Testimony to the Education Committee

NAME: Claire Walsh, Concerned Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: clairemcody@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to HB 2452.

There are several reasons why I believe this bill is not in the best interest of Kansas citizens. First, even-year ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. This would make it harder for voters to research down ballot local issues and candidates. This may lead to voter fatigue and cause more voters to skip critical down local races. Additionally, 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. With media coverage in even-years dominated by national and state-wide politics, little room is left for substantive discussion of local governance. Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would be even more difficult to organize.

Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety- these issues deserve focused attention, not competition with presidential and midterm elections. Please do not move these issues to the same elections.

Claire Walsh  
Concerned Kansas Citizen  
9307 Dearborn St  
Overland Park, KS 66207