



**Judith Deedy on behalf of
Game On for Kansas Schools
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Opponent Testimony
HB 2452**

AN ACT concerning elections; changing the timing of municipality elections for cities, school districts, community colleges and certain other municipalities to fall in even-numbered years;

**In the House Committee on Elections
January 20, 2026**

Chair Proctor, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2452 on behalf of Game On for Kansas Schools, a grassroots public education advocacy organization. We oppose moving municipal elections, including school board elections, to even-numbered years for several reasons.

Although voter turnout is relatively low in municipal elections, the goal is not just to have more voters, but to have more **informed** voters. HB 2452 is unlikely to achieve that goal when combined with other races that attract greater attention from voters. School board positions are unpaid, and candidates do not spend the kind of money that is common for legislative, statewide or federal races. Voters' time and attention are limited, and they are not likely to educate themselves on candidates when they are also deciding who they will be voting for in those larger races. In odd year elections, voters can take advantage of forums devoted to these smaller races and take the time to review information on these candidates rather than running out of time and bandwidth before they get beyond constitutional questions and elections for larger offices. Currently, the people who vote for local offices are the people who care about those offices and have taken the time to figure out who they want to put in those seats. We oppose having more people cast uninformed votes for school board races they don't even realize would be on their ballots until they walk into the voting booth, and we oppose having informed voters outnumbered by uninformed voters.

We would also like to be frank about this bill being step 2 in a 3-step process. Step 1 was moving school board and other municipal elections from the spring to the fall of even numbered years. As we said it 2015,

“In case anyone thinks we’re being paranoid when we say that the elections bill passed yesterday is step one in moving elections so that eventually they are combined with state and federal elections: ‘Secretary of State Kris Kobach said the bill was ‘a good first step’ to eventually moving local elections to even-numbered years so that they coincide with state and national elections. He said this would increase turnout even more significantly.’

(See <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2015/may/21/kansas-house-approves-variety-election-changes/>). Rep. Huebert used the same language when he spoke during the House debate yesterday.”

<https://gameonforkansasschools.com/2015/05/bill-to-move-local-elections-to-fall-of-odd-years-is-step-one/>.

Step 3 will be to make these elections partisan, which we also oppose. Not only does partisanship scare off some civic-minded candidates, it also prevents people in certain fields (including government employees and members of the military) from running. We support those people being able to hold municipal level offices.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to oppose HB 2452.