

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Judi Barkema, Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: jabarkema@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to HB 2452.

Moving local elections to even number years will make it harder for voters to be well informed about local issues on the ballot. It is already hard to be a responsible informed voter. Consolidating all the elections onto one ballot will increase the noise level for voters with ads, flyers, and information focused on state and national elections. We need voters to be focused and informed on local issues too. The best way to do that is to keep local elections on the odd-numbered year schedule.

Please vote NO on HB 2452 and support informed participation in local elections.

Judi Barkema

Kansas Citizen

Lenexa

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

Date of Committee Hearing: January 20, 2026

Bill HB 2452 Opponent

Ashley Barlow, Concerned Parent + Resident
ashsbarlow@gmail.com

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452.

Even-year ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding mayoral, city council, and school board elections would make it harder for voters to research down-ballot candidates and issues, increasing voter fatigue and leading many to skip local races altogether.

Even-year elections also encourage more partisan messaging, which is a poor fit for nonpartisan 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 campaigns.

In addition, media coverage in even-numbered years is dominated by national politics, leaving little room for substantive discussion of local governance. Community forums and candidate debates would be harder to organize and receive less public attention. Voters are already overwhelmed by campaign calls, texts, and mail during federal elections; adding local races will only increase burnout and disengagement.

Civic engagement should prioritize informed participation, not just higher turnout numbers. Keeping local elections in odd-numbered years supports more thoughtful, engaged voters and better outcomes for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

So please do what's in the best interest of the public and fair elections. Please vote no on bill HB 2452.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ashley Barlow
Concerned Parent + Resident
Overland Park

Date of Committee Hearing: January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Rana Bentley, Kansas citizen, Olathe Civic Academy Graduate

EMAIL ADDRESS: ranabently24@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to bill HB2452.

As a resident of Kansas for twenty years and deciding to set down roots and raise six children here, I've learned the importance of local, municipal and state elected offices. The decisions made here affect my daily life much more than what's occurring at the Federal level.

Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—these issues that deserve focused attention, not competition with presidential or congressional races. I'm concerned that adding city council, mayoral, school board races on the ballots with federal and statewide races will create voter fatigue and lead more voters to skip critical down ballot races. In addition, 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.

Thank you for listening to your constituents. Please vote “No” on HB 2452.

Rana Bentley

Olathe, KS

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

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

Date of Committee Hearing: January 20, 2026

Bill Number: HB 2452 Opponent

Rick Blumhorst, grandparent

rblumhorst@gmail.com

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my **opposition** to HB2452, Moving Local elections to even-year.

Voters are already tired of phone calls, text messages, and mailboxes flooded with campaign flyers during federal and state elections. Adding local elections to this already busy ballot will lead to even more of this and will result in voters tuning out. The legislature **should** be working to ensure that voter participation in these vital local elections is encouraged, not suppressed by political noise.

Moving non-partisan elections from odd to even years will also cast a partisan shade on non-partisan elected positions. This is completely unnecessary and inappropriate. Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety— these issues deserve **focused** non-partisan attention, not competition with presidential or congressional races.

The media noise generated in even-years is dominated by national politics, which overwhelms and leaves little opportunity for discussion of local governance issues.

Please vote **NO** on HB2452.

Rick Blumhorst, Concerned grandparent

Paola, KS

OVERLAND PARK

City Hall
8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
www.opkansas.org

Date: January 20, 2026

To: Chairman Proctor & the House Committee on Elections

From: City of Overland Park

Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2452

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2452. The City opposes this bill because placing municipal elections on the same ballot as state and federal elections would diminish the ability of residents to focus on local issues.

Creating an election environment that makes it harder to focus on individual races is not good public policy, and that is why the vast majority of American cities hold off-cycle elections. Combining most elections on one ballot would make it more difficult for local candidates to raise money, schedule forums and debates, and find room in cluttered yards for their campaign signs. Right now, because local elections are the only elections happening in odd-years, local newspapers and other media outlets are covering the issues that are important in local communities.

Research indicates combining elections actually leads to an increase in the incumbency rate of local candidates because it decreases attention on local races.¹ Specifically, placing local races on the ballot with a large group of other races causes voters to just pick the names they recognize, rather than select the local candidates most aligned with their viewpoints.

If local elections were combined with state and national elections, counties would likely have to distribute two ballots to each voter. This will increase the likelihood of error, ballot fatigue, and under-voting. The percentage of voters who vote on races decreases as you move down a ballot, and adding city races to the same ballot as state and national races will only compound that problem. Additionally, time-strapped county officials will be less able to inform local candidates about filing deadlines, campaign finance laws, statements of substantial interest, and other information.

Thank you for allowing the City to testify on this legislation. We respectfully request that the Committee not advance HB 2452 to the full House.

¹ Oliver, J. Eric and Shang E. Ha. 2007. "Vote Choice in Suburban Elections," *American Political Science Review*. 101 (3):393-408; also see Trounstine, Jessica. "Information, Turnout, and Incumbency in Local Elections." Princeton University. FN 30. <http://www.princeton.edu/csdp/events/Trounstine020509/Trounstine020509.pdf>.

Date of Committee Hearing: January 20, 2026
Committee Name: House Elections Committee
Bill Number: HB 2452

NAME: Colleen Cunningham, Community Organizer for Elections

EMAIL ADDRESS: colleen@demod.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Chair Proctor and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to HB 2452.

For the past 5 years, I have done a great deal of community organizing for elections in Kansas. In doing that work, I've learned a lot about voters' experiences of elections, which is why I have concerns about this bill.

Each year, I help voters in my community know what to expect on their ballots. Each year, because ballots can be long and include elected positions that voters are not closely familiar with, I see that voters experience overwhelm at the information, which can make it difficult to share clear information for all of the positions included on each ballot. Passing HB 2452 would make even year ballots even longer and more complicated. This is likely to cause voters to become even more overwhelmed and tune out.

I truly enjoy providing voters with information about local elections because it helps them understand which roles are responsible for various policies that they often have a real stake and interest in. Voters deserve to have the opportunity to focus only on local issues—road maintenance, school policies, and so on—and are substantially less likely to have that opportunity if HB 2452 passes and everything is put on a single ballot.

Again, having done this election work each year, I know that voters are often overwhelmed by campaign outreach. They are receiving too many texts, phone calls, mailers, etc. from each campaign on their ballot. This will necessarily be multiplied if local and state/federal elections are combined in even years. I believe that this scenario will likely lead to more voters tuning out.

I know locally, election turnout is lower than any elections-supporter would like. *However*, turnout has increased each year due, in large part, to the work of election volunteers on the ground, as well as local elections officials. I would encourage this committee to focus efforts on expanding accurate information about elections being shared with voters. If we want to see participation in elections increase, let's make it easier for eligible voters to be informed and vote.

Again, I would ask that members vote NO on HB2452. Thank you for your time and attention.

Colleen Cunningham
Overland Park

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Jennifer Day, Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: jendaykc@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee,

I appreciate your time as you review my testimony in opposition to HB 2452, and thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective.

As an engaged Kansas citizen who has been volunteering as an election worker for the past 8 years in my county, I have concerns about what will happen to our elections processes and voter experience should HB 2452 become law. Primarily, I am concerned with how long the ballot will be for each election if our state shifts municipal elections to even years, particularly in presidential election years when our state senate seats are all on the ballot, as well. There are several problems with longer ballot lengths: will our election offices run into issues with providing a ballot that is sized appropriately to accommodate the additional contests? Will voters lose interest as they work down the ballot, leading to a higher proportion of undervotes in local races? Additionally, will the shift to solely even-year elections cause voter disengagement due to the inconsistency of the voting process in our state?

Every odd year election, I interact with many voters who are unaware that the contests are nonpartisan in nature. I believe that the shift of including so many *nonpartisan* contests with *partisan* contests further up the ballot will cause confusion and unnecessary delays in the voting process.

I applaud efforts to modernize and improve our voting process in Kansas; however, this bill does not achieve either of those goals. I believe it will only cause confusion and discomfort for voters.

Please vote no on HB 2452. Thank you!

Jennifer Day
Overland Park



**Judith Deedy on behalf of
Game On for Kansas Schools
jgdeedy@gmail.com
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.

Caitlin DeFilippo

House Bill 2452 - Opposition Written Testimony Only

House Elections Committee

January 20, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to **House Bill 2452**.

While the stated goal of increasing voter participation is a noble one, HB 2452 is the wrong mechanism for achieving it. By consolidating local municipal and school board elections into even-numbered years alongside high-profile federal and state races, this bill risks drowning out local issues and undermining the nonpartisan nature of our local governance.

We urge the committee to consider the following concerns:

1. Increased "Ballot Drop-off" and Voter Fatigue

Even-year ballots in Kansas are already extensive, featuring races for President, U.S. Senate, Congress, and State Legislature. Adding Mayoral, City Council, and School Board races creates a "ballot marathon" that leads to **ballot drop-off**—a documented phenomenon where voters, exhausted by the sheer volume of choices, stop voting before reaching the bottom of the ballot.

2. Nationalization of Local Issues

Local elections are currently a time for communities to focus on the "pavement and pediatrics" of government: roads, zoning, utilities, and school curricula. Moving these to even-numbered years forces local candidates to compete with the billion-dollar marketing machines of national presidential and congressional campaigns. In this environment, voters are more likely to rely on **partisan cues** rather than researching the specific, nonpartisan qualifications of a local school board member or city commissioner.

3. Media and Engagement "Blackout"

During even-year cycles, local media outlets are saturated with advertising and coverage of federal races. This leaves little airtime or print space for substantive discussion of local governance. Community forums and candidate debates—critical for the health of a small-town democracy—will struggle to find a place on the calendar or capture public attention when pitted against the frenzy of a midterm or presidential election.

4. Voter Overwhelm and Communication Fatigue

Kansans already express significant frustration with the deluge of phone calls, text messages, and campaign mailers that accompany federal elections. HB 2452 would add another layer of local campaign outreach to this existing noise. Rather than increasing engagement, this "noise floor" often causes voters to "tune out" entirely, leading to a less informed and more cynical electorate.

Conclusion Local government is the level of democracy that most directly impacts the daily lives of Kansans. It deserves its own dedicated space on the calendar, free from the distractions of national partisan warfare. We believe HB 2452 will dilute the focus of our local elections and ultimately harm the quality of our local representation.

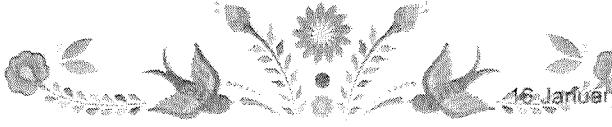
We respectfully ask that you do not recommend HB 2452 for passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin DeFilippo

345 Indiana Street, Lawrence



16 January 2026

Dr. LeEtta Felter

House Bill 2452 | Written Testimony – Opponent

Chairperson and Members of the Kansas House Elections Committee,

My name is Dr. LeEtta Felter, and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 2452. I respectfully ask the Committee to reject this bill because it is a local control issue and risks undermining Kansas' long-standing tradition of nonpartisan, community-focused municipal elections.

1) Municipal elections should remain a local decision- Kansas communities are diverse in size, structure, and needs. A one-size-fits-all mandate from the state legislature would remove local flexibility and override decisions that should remain with cities and their residents. Local governments are best positioned to determine what election timing and term structures support effective governance, accountability, and continuity.

2) Protect the nonpartisan nature of local elections- Kansans have long valued the fact that local elections are different than state and federal elections. City races should focus on practical, everyday issues like public safety, infrastructure, responsible budgeting, housing, and neighborhood quality of life—not partisan labels or national political dynamics. Moving municipal elections into even-numbered years would place local races directly inside the most partisan and expensive election cycles. That shift would make it harder for voters to evaluate municipal candidates based on local priorities and could discourage qualified community leaders from running.

3) Even-year cycles will drown out local issues- Even-numbered years are dominated by high-profile statewide and federal campaigns. Municipal issues and candidates would compete for attention, resources, and voter focus. More elections on the ballot does not automatically mean better engagement—often it means local concerns get lost in the noise.

4) Cities need flexibility in term structures- HB 2452 would restrict local discretion on term lengths, despite the fact that cities have different governance models and planning needs. Term structures impact stability, long-range budgeting, infrastructure planning, and leadership continuity. These decisions should remain local, not mandated by the state.

HB 2452 would reduce local control, weaken the distinct nonpartisan character of municipal elections, and pull city governance into increasingly partisan election cycles. Kansas communities deserve the freedom to govern themselves in a way that best fits their residents. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose HB 2452.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



14220 S. Copper Creek Drive
Olathe, Kansas 66062
(913) 486-7809 | LeFelter@yahoo.com

Date of hearing: January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections
Committee

NAME: Lynne Ganaden, Kansas citizen
EMAIL

ADDRESS: Lynne.ganaden@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:

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

I am a recently retired registered nurse
living in Shawnee, Kansas. Being a
retiree has given me the advantage of
making it more convenient to vote but I
know there can be many obstacles. I
believe this bill would make the voting

process more difficult and discourage voter participation.

Even-year (presidential & midterm) ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding city council, mayoral, school board races on the ballots with federal and statewide races will make it even harder for voters to research down ballot local issues and candidates, create voter fatigue and lead more voters to skip voting.

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. Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety –issues that deserve focused attention,

not competition with presidential or congressional races.

Media coverage in even-years is dominated by national politics, leaving little room for substantive discussion of local governance.

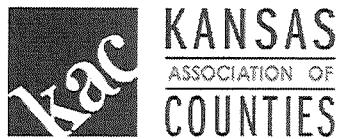
Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would be even harder to organize and will receive less public attention in even-numbered years. Voters already tire of phone calls, text messages, and mailboxes flooded with campaign flyers during federal and state level elections. Adding local elections will lead to even more overwhelm and voters tuning out.

Civic engagement should prioritize

informed participation, not just raw numbers. Keeping local elections to odd-numbered years results in more informed voters.

Please vote against this bill: HB 2452.

Sincerely,
Lynne Ganaden
Shawnee, Kansas



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

715 SW 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612
785-272-2585 • www.kansascounties.org

House Elections Committee
January 20, 2026
HB 2452

Kansas Association of Counties
Opponent Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Proctor and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer opponent testimony on HB 2452, moving all elections to even-numbered years.

While KAC understands the intent of moving all elections to even-numbered years, this move could prove problematic for voters. Moving all elections to even-numbered years would lead to longer ballots with more races. This could lead to ballot fatigue, as voters may simply turn in their ballots without voting on races further down the ballot.

Additional races may also lead to voters needing more time to fill out ballots, which could lead to lines in polling places where individuals may take longer to fill out a ballot with more races than anticipated. This could lead to longer wait times for voters. Longer ballots may also lead to voters overlooking a race because they are further down the ballot, or on the back of the ballot sheet. We oppose longer ballots and longer wait times for voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this perspective on this legislation.

Jay Hall
Deputy Director and General Counsel
Kansas Association of Counties
hall@kansascounties.org
(785)272-2585

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Alyx Hubler, Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: alyx.hubler@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to bill 2452.

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. Adding city council, mayoral, school board races on the ballots with federal and statewide races will create voter fatigue and lead more voters to skip critical down ballot races. 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. Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—issues that deserve focused attention, not competition with presidential or congressional races. Media coverage in even-years is dominated by national politics, leaving little room for substantive discussion of local governance. Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would be even harder to organize and will receive less public attention in even-numbered years.

Please vote no on bill number HB 2452.

Alyx Hubler

Shawnee, KS

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Thomas Hubler, Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: thad.hubler@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to bill 2452.

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. Adding city council, mayoral, school board races on the ballots with federal and statewide races will create voter fatigue and lead more voters to skip critical down ballot races. 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. Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—issues that deserve focused attention, not competition with presidential or congressional races. Media coverage in even-years is dominated by national politics, leaving little room for substantive discussion of local governance. Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would be even harder to organize and will receive less public attention in even-numbered years.

Please vote no on bill number HB 2452.

Thomas Hubler

Shawnee, KS

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Rebecca Jones

EMAIL ADDRESS: Becca.suzanne@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to bill HB2452.

This bill is a bad idea for a multitude of reasons. The biggest is that local elections deserve focused attention of voters, not competition with presidential or congressional races.

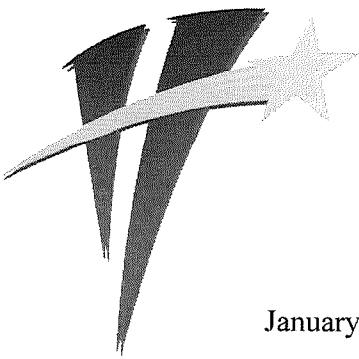
It is important for voters to be able to have time to research local elections, as they impact daily lives much more than presidential or congressional races. Voting for things like schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety are just as important as the “big name” races.

Please vote NO to HB 2452 (moving elections to even years).

Thank you,

Rebecca Jones

Shawnee, KS



CITY OF HAYSVILLE, KANSAS

200 W. GRAND AVENUE - P.O. BOX 404 - HAYSVILLE, KS 67060
(316) 529-5900 - FAX (316) 529-5925 - WWW.HAYSVILLEKS.GOV

January 19, 2026

House Committee on Elections
Hearing: Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
Room 218-N

MAYOR

RUSS KESSLER

CITY COUNCIL

WARD I

DALE THOMPSON
ERIC MYERS

WARD II

JANET PARTON
CARYN CLOTHIER

WARD III

BOB RARDIN
PAT EWERT

WARD IV

JUSTIN BRUSTER
DR. DANNY WALTERS

Re: Testimony in opposition of HB 2452

To Chair Pat Proctor and Members of the Committee:

Kansas has a proud tradition of Home Rule, which empowers local governments to make decisions that best reflect the needs and values of their communities. HB 2452 undermines this principle by imposing state-level restrictions on local election processes. Cities are closest to the people they serve, and they are best positioned to determine how elections should be conducted to ensure accessibility, fairness, and trust.

HB 2452 also undermines the **nonpartisan character** of city and school board elections. Placing these races alongside partisan contests invites national party dynamics, outside money, and polarization into spaces where neighbors have traditionally worked together to solve community problems.

Just as importantly, this bill conflicts with **Kansas constitutional Home Rule**. Article 12, Section 5 grants cities broad authority over local affairs. Election timing has always been a core local function, and cities differ widely in size and needs. A one-size-fits-all mandate from Topeka erodes local autonomy and sets a troubling precedent for future intrusions into municipal governance. Local officials understand the unique challenges their voters face.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB 2452 and uphold the principle of Home Rule in Kansas. Local governments should retain the authority to manage their own elections in a way that reflects the needs of their residents. HB 2452 would disrupt established terms of office, create administrative burdens for counties and cities, and introduce confusion for voters. There is no demonstrated problem that this bill solves, and it creates several new ones.

Sincerely,

Russ Kessler
Mayor

Kylie Kilmer
Regarding HB2452
January 17, 2026

Dear Elections Committee,

My name is Kylie Kilmer, and I hold an elected seat on the Abilene, Kansas School Board.

I oppose HB2452.

I am proud to serve on a non-partisan school board with seats filled by community members of all political backgrounds and experiences. Our board works collaboratively on nearly all votes, regardless of our backgrounds, and we have had only one split vote in my time on the board. Because we are elected as non-partisan officials, the dynamic of the board has been incredibly productive with very little political tension. Our work together has resulted in positive, forward movement in our district.

Moving local non-partisan positions to even year ballots to align with politically divided elections risks further dividing our communities, resulting in the destruction of trusting, collaborative boardrooms.

Keeping municipal and school board elections as non-partisan elections is essential to the integrity of the board and our work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kylie C. Kilmer, MS.Ed
Abilene, KS

Written Testimony Opposing HB 2453

January 19, 2026

House Election Chair and Committee,

I am opposed to HB 2453. Access to voting is a sacred right that Americans expect. Enforcing unrealistic limits on the ability for some Kansans to vote is wrong.

I have been an RN and Nurse Practitioner for over 40 years and have worked many 12 hour shifts, along with needing to be at a hospital or clinic when I am scheduled off. It is difficult for any essential worker to get to a voting site as the rules stand now. Enforcing stricter limits impedes our ability to vote.

Furthermore, I have a 98 y/o mother who has voted in every election since she became eligible. She now depends on submitting a mail-in ballot. Making the timeline more confusing and restrictive will decrease the opportunity for older voters to get their votes in on time.

Please vote against HB 2453. We need to preserve and enhance every voter's right to cast their ballot without random restrictions.

Respectfully,

Michelle Knowles

Hays, Kansas



To: House Committee on Elections

From: Jake Letner – City Administrator, City of Columbus

Subject: Testimony on HB 2452

Date: 01/16/2026

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 2452. As currently written, this law would shift all municipal elections to even-numbered years. This would require elected city officials to serve terms of either two or four years.

The City of Columbus' City Council members currently serve 3-year terms. If enacted, this legislation would require the city to amend its charter ordinances to comply with the new law. The city would prefer the opportunity to establish term lengths and associated elections according to its own needs and preferences – as is currently the case.

Should you have any questions, please feel to reach out to me. My contact details are included below.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jake Letner".

Jake Letner
City Administrator
City of Columbus, Kansas
Phone: (620) 429-2159
Email: jletner@columbusks.gov



January 20, 2026

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2452 House Elections Committee

Chairman Proctor and Members of the House Elections Committee:

The Northeast Johnson County Cities of Mission, Merriam, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, and Westwood Hills oppose HB 2452. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2452, which changes the timing of local elections to the fall of even-numbered years and sets requirements for terms of office for locally elected officials. In short, HB 2452 infringes on local control, diminishes voter focus on important local issues, undermines stability and continuity in local government, and, at its core, is an unfunded mandate.

Our citizens are best served when locally elected officials have the freedom to conduct the business of their jurisdictions in manners that best reflect the needs and desires of their constituents. These decisions are first and foremost about the critical everyday matters that keep our cities safe and running smoothly to support a high quality of life for all of our residents: public safety, streets and sidewalks, trees, and parks and recreation. Yet, at the same time, each local government is uniquely equipped to respond to the particular needs and desires of its community. Keeping local elections separate enables our candidates and voters to focus on these important local issues.

We believe HB 2452 challenges the long-standing State election laws which affirm non-partisan requirements for local elections. In the past few years there has been an increasing focus to modify local elections, attempting to make them more partisan and political. For example, when the timing for local elections was changed in 2015 from a spring to fall election cycle, a desire to inject partisanship into local government was part of that effort, though explicitly partisan elections were ultimately rejected by the Legislature, an important decision from our perspective.

House Bill 2452 is the latest effort to transform local elections once again. The shift to elections in even numbered years would appear to be another attempt to tap into the broader partisan and cultural challenges unfolding in America. The division and contention associated with that has no place in local government. Communities in Kansas—our cities are just a few examples—know the local government non-partisan reality, know the partisanship that exists in our nation, and believe the added distraction of bringing partisan politics into our operations is not necessary or wanted.

Our cities support the current laws that protect non-partisanship at the local level. While the current proposed move to even year elections does not overtly impose partisan

political identity, it places local candidates and issues into the environment of partisan politics, based on the timing of state and national elections. Further, many of our municipalities choose to intentionally stagger their local elections in order to prevent significant turnover and preserve stability in city government.

We respectfully request the Committee oppose HB 2452. We appreciate your consideration and we welcome further questions or discussion you may have on this important topic.

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.
Little Government Relations
stuartjlittle@mac.com

January 20, 2026
Testimony to the House Committee on Elections

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**

TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**

EMAIL ADDRESS: **ldmark61@gmail.com**

BILL NUMBER: ***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; requiring terms of office to be either two years or four years.***

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: **Opponent**

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: **Written Only**

Chair Proctor & Members of the Committee,

I oppose HB 2452. Granted, the ALEC website, where boilerplate legislation for this concept originates, makes two intriguing arguments for moving local elections to even numbered years. Sponsors of this bill postulate this would create higher-turnout and increase participation in local races because fewer separate election dates might actually reduce “election fatigue because it would just be more convenient for people.”

A second argument for this change aligning election timing is that it will be a cost-saving measure as well, “... since local governments spend a lot of money on elections — things like paper, electricity and staffing. More staffing is important for election security,” adds ALEC.

Local elections are about schools, utilities, zoning, potholes and public safety. Putting those local control issues and candidates at the end of already much longer presidential and midterm cycle ballots will challenge the most diligent voter to research local issues and candidates.

Costs will likely skyrocket for everyone, if not local election clerks. Even-year cycles dominate media markets, with national politics crowding out substance and debate for most local issues. It’s clear local elections would cause increased competition in the attention marketplace, leaving small campaigns at competitive disadvantage for social media buys, traditional airwaves and print media, to say nothing of limiting participation in local debates and forums.

As the political space grows more complex, and noisy, fewer voters tune in because they don’t want to be overwhelmed. Keeping local elections to odd-numbered, off-cycle years does really realize more informed voters and opportunity to engage them all the way to the polls. Vote NO on HB2452.

Leslie D. Mark
Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Mrs. Kathleen Rafferty Martinez, Kansas constituent

EMAIL ADDRESS: katieraff@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452. 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. Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—issues that deserve focused attention, not competition with presidential or congressional races.

In addition, voters already tire of phone calls, text messages, and mailboxes flooded with campaign flyers during federal and state level elections. Adding local elections will lead to even more overwhelm and voters tuning out.

I appreciate your time and consideration in regards to HB2452 and consider voting to oppose this bill.

Mrs. Kathleen R. Martinez

Overland Park, Kansas

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

January 20, 2026

Bill HB 2452 Opponent

Rachel McCawley, MBA, parent of a SMSD student

Rachel.mccawley2@gmail.com

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452. As a parent and citizen of the SMSD, I am opposing the new bill. 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. 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.

Local elections are about schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—issues that deserve focused attention, not competition with presidential or congressional races. Community forums and candidate debates for local offices would be even harder to organize and will receive less public attention in even-numbered years.

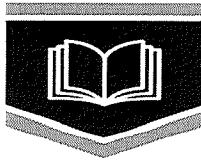
Civic engagement should prioritize informed participation, not just raw numbers. Keeping local elections to odd-numbered years results in more informed voters.

Our House Elections Committee needs to ensure a fair election.

Please vote no on bill HB 2452.



Rachel McCawley,
Parent of a SMSD student
Leawood, KS



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

19 Colleges- One Voice

Opponent Testimony on HB 2452

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges in opposition to HB 2452. Kansas community colleges oppose this bill because placing local institutional elections on the same ballot as state and federal elections could make these elections more partisan than they are today and would reduce voters' ability to focus on issues that directly affect their local colleges, students, and communities with so many other issues potentially also on the ballot. Importantly, the current system of off-cycle local elections is functioning well, provides clear accountability, and has not demonstrated a need for statutory change.

Local elections are most effective when voters can give meaningful attention to individual races and candidates. For this reason, many local governing bodies, including community colleges, hold elections in off-cycle years. This structure allows voters to engage more deeply with local issues and candidates. Combining state, federal, and local races onto a single ballot would significantly limit the ability of community college trustee candidates to communicate with voters, participate in candidate forums, and gain visibility in an already crowded election environment. Off-cycle elections also allow local media to focus on community-specific issues such as workforce development, educational access, and affordability—core priorities for Kansas community colleges.

Historical experience indicates that when local contests are placed alongside high-profile state and federal races, voters are more likely to default to familiar names rather than evaluate candidates based on their positions on local education issues. This dynamic weakens local accountability and diminishes meaningful voter choice, despite the fact that the current election structure already supports informed voter participation.

In addition, HB 2452 would require certain trustees to serve extended terms of three years in order to accommodate the proposed election schedule changes. For many community college trustees—who serve in a part-time, unpaid, or minimally compensated capacity—this extension is untenable due to professional, personal, or family obligations. As a result, some trustees may choose to resign rather than serve longer-than-anticipated terms. These vacancies would then be filled by appointment rather than by election, undermining voter intent and replacing elected trustees with appointed board members. Consolidating elections would also create additional administrative challenges for county election officials. These challenges may include the need for multiple ballots, increased voter confusion, ballot fatigue, and higher rates of under-voting. Research consistently shows that voter participation declines as ballots lengthen, and adding local community college races to ballots already filled with state and national contests would exacerbate this problem. Additionally, county officials would have reduced capacity to support local candidates with filing requirements, campaign finance compliance, and election-related guidance. A question posed, which was unable to be answered was, "If this change is implemented would this mean that someone couldn't possibly serve as a community college trustee and a city commissioner or on the school board and the college board. Would this change limit the number of times a name could appear on the ballot and potentially limit someone's ability to serve in local offices? This question needs exploration because it could have significant ramifications in some situations.

Kansas community colleges strongly support civic participation and transparent, accessible local elections. However, when a system is working effectively and serving both voters and institutions well, change for the sake of change is unnecessary and potentially harmful. For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee not advance HB 2452.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Should you have any questions please contact Heather Morgan at 913-683-9946 or hmorgan@kacct.org.

January 20, 2026

Bill HB 2452 Opponent

Lane Odle

lane@dottedlinemarketing.com

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2452. I urge you to carefully consider the consequences of adding city council, mayoral, and school board races to ballots already crowded with federal and statewide contests.

Local elections are fundamentally different from federal and state races. Offices such as city council and school board are nonpartisan by design, and the issues they address—schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—are deeply local and practical. These issues deserve voters' focused attention, not competition with high-profile presidential or congressional races.

Media coverage in even-numbered years is overwhelmingly dominated by national politics. As a result, local candidates struggle to receive meaningful coverage, and voters have fewer opportunities to learn about their positions on local issues. Community forums, candidate debates, and public discussions for local offices are also harder to organize and attract far less attention during even-year election cycles.

Additionally, voters already face an intense volume of campaign activity during federal and statewide elections—constant phone calls, text messages, and mailboxes filled with flyers. Adding local races to this environment will only increase voter overwhelm and encourage disengagement rather than thoughtful participation.

Civic engagement should be measured not just by turnout numbers, but by how informed and intentional voters are when casting their ballots. Holding local elections in odd-numbered years allows these races to stand on their own, gives voters the space to focus on community issues, and supports more informed decision-making.

In closing, please vote no on bill HB 2452.

Sincerely,

Lane Odle

Business Owner and Parent

Leawood, KS

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Melinda Parks, lifetime Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: melindaparks85@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, 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

Lenexa

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the Election Committee

Jill Quigley, Voter

jill.j.quigley@gmail.com

HB2452

Opponent

Written testimony only

Chair and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to House Bill 2452.

Consolidating elections may seem like a money saver, however increasing the number of races on the ballot will result in less down ballot voting; local races will suffer. Voters will be more attuned to state and national races so that local candidates will not get the attention they deserve. It will be confusing to combine partisan and non-partisan races on the ballot. Please maintain the current off year voting for local races.

I ask you to vote against HB2452 and preserve the integrity of local elections.

Jill Quigley

Lenexa

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Laura Robeson, Private Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: laurarobeson@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to HB 2452. The most important form of government is often the government closest to people: city and municipal government.

Maintaining an odd year cycle allows for an emphasis and attention on local elections. I regularly attend forums and candidate events to learn more about these elections. If these races moved to an even year, these elections would completely fall off the radar of most people. State and national elections would completely overshadow our local government elections.

Local government is focused on our city services, our schools, and daily life. As I have often heard, there isn't a partisan way to fill about hole. A move to even years will increase the role of partisan politics. If we know anything, we know that increased division and partisanship is already infused too often in our every day lives. We do not need to create more partisan hostility in our elections.

Our local elections are too important to diminish in a state and federal election cycle. Keep more politics out of our elections and do not pass HB 2452.

Respectfully,

Laura Robeson

Prairie Village, Kansas

Testimony to the House Elections

January 20, 2026

Bill 2452 Opponent

Heather Schroer

haschroer8200@gmail.com

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to this proposed bill to move non-partisan elections to even numbered years. Doing this would place them on the ballot alongside many other partisan races. These election issues are meant to be separate from partisan politics.

Additionally, the ballot in even numbered years is already long and difficult to wade through knowledgeably. Adding to the length of those ballots will only provide less clarity and more confusion for voters.

Please vote no on this bill.

Thank you,

Heather Schroer

Shawnee

Alexandra Shoup
Private Citizen
alexshoup8@gmail.com
Opponent Testimony for HB 2453 (written only)
House Committee on Elections

Good morning,

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my thoughts, and I urge you to oppose HB2453. In my opinion, HB 2453, if allowed to be law, would only make it more difficult for voters to participate in elections.

There is already a low turnout of voters without these barriers. Johnson County said that in the 2025 election, there was only a 25% turn out. Shawnee County had 22.43%. That's out of 116,000 registered voters, only 26,023 people voted. There are many people that depend on advanced voting ballots like the elderly and those with disabilities.

There is a serious lack of informing people of when elections are happening. I have had many conversations with people that have absolutely no idea when elections are going on. If those people unfortunately hear about the election after fourteen days, they are denied the opportunity to request an advanced ballot. If those with a disability don't have the ability to vote because they can't request their ballot, then isn't that essentially losing a potential voter for YOU? There is no reason why the current system needs to change.

The bill states, on page three lines eleven through sixteen, "for question submitted elections not occurring on the date of a primary or general election, between the time of the first published notice thereof and the 14th day before such question submitted election." What does "first published notice" mean? How many people do you think actually pay attention when things are first published? And just because it has been published, where would it be published? Is it widespread where many people will hear about it? How can you guarantee that voters will know when the notice has officially been posted? How are voters supposed to know when it's the 14th day before the election if they have no idea when the notice has been posted? Again, that is a potential vote that YOU could've received. You are denying someone the ability to vote when that vote could be beneficial to you.

This all comes back to there is a lack of information regarding when elections are happening and an already low turnout rate of voters. It is unreal the about of registered voters there are that don't show up for elections. It is unfathomable to think about continuing to lower the amount of voter turnout. I urge you to focus more on policy choices that would increase voter participation in elections. To me, it seems as though the abysmal election turnout numbers strongly correlate with a lack of creativity and productive legislation coming out of the Elections Committee. Please do try harder to increase voter turnout numbers, rather than make it more difficult for voters to participate in elections.

Thank you for your time, and vote no on HB 2453. I wouldn't want to sign a bill that takes away the ability for a voter to potentially vote for you. It seems quite silly, doesn't it?

Thank you again,
Alexandra Shoup
Voter in Shawnee County
66605



Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2452

By Amanda Stanley, Asst. City Attorney
Kansas House Committee on Elections

Chairman Proctor and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the City of Olathe in opposition to House Bill 2452.

A primary reason the City of Olathe supports continuing odd-numbered year municipal elections is that they keep the focus squarely on local issues. When city elections occur in odd years, voters are making decisions based on city services, infrastructure, public safety, land use, taxes, and quality-of-life concerns—not national or statewide partisan dynamics. This focus benefits voters, candidates, and local accountability.

Even-year ballots are already crowded with high-profile federal and statewide races. In those cycles, municipal candidates and issues are often overshadowed, reducing meaningful engagement with the decisions that most directly affect residents' daily lives. Odd-year elections ensure that voters have the space and attention to evaluate city leadership based on performance, priorities, and local needs.

The City of Olathe is a city of the first class with a long-established system of staggered terms of office, adopted through our city charter. While the Legislature has historically set the timing of elections, cities retain local authority over how those elections are structured, including staggering and continuity of leadership. House Bill 2452 would significantly disrupt that locally adopted framework.

It is also important to note that within the last decade, Kansas cities—including Olathe—undertook a major transition when municipal elections were shifted from the spring to the fall. That change required substantial administrative work, public education, and cost, but it resulted in a stable system where voters now expect to go to the polls every November, not just every other year.

HB 2452 would once again change the rules midstream. Requiring municipal elections to occur only in even-numbered years would:

- Undermine the effectiveness of staggered terms adopted locally

- Potentially require extending or shortening terms of office
- Disrupt voter expectations and reduce consistency in civic participation
- Limit opportunities for voters to engage in municipal decision-making by eliminating odd-year elections altogether

Frequent changes to election timing are not beneficial for voters. Stability and predictability increase participation and confidence in the electoral process. Continually moving local elections—first from spring to fall, and now from odd years to even years—creates confusion and disengagement rather than clarity.

Olathe's staggered, odd-year elections also provide practical governance benefits:

- Continuity and institutional knowledge on the governing body
- Reduced risk of complete turnover during periods of growth and long-term capital planning
- Deliberate, issue-focused local elections that are not eclipsed by state and national campaigns

The City of Olathe does not oppose even-year elections as a concept. If a community believes alignment with even years is beneficial, Kansas law already allows for that choice at the local level. House Bill 2452 instead imposes a uniform mandate regardless of whether it improves voter understanding, engagement, or governance in a particular city.

Finally, HB 2452 would impose unfunded costs on cities, including charter and ordinance changes, election administration adjustments, and renewed voter education efforts—without a demonstrated statewide benefit.

For these reasons, the City of Olathe respectfully urges the Committee to oppose House Bill 2452. Odd-year municipal elections play an important role in keeping local issues front and center for voters, preserving stable governance structures, and maintaining a predictable and trusted election system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

Name: Leigh S. Stites, Blue Valley parent and engaged voter

Email Address: leighstites@gmail.com

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

January 21, 2026

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

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Amanda Winch, lifelong Kansas resident

EMAIL ADDRESS: amanda.winch@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Chair Proctor and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to HB 2452. I oppose this bill because it would overwhelm voters and reduce informed participation in local elections.

Even-year ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding city council, mayoral, and school board contests to those ballots would create information overload, making it far more difficult for voters to research down-ballot candidates and issues.

In even-numbered years, voters are bombarded with political ads, texts, phone calls, and mailers. Adding local races to that environment increases confusion and voter fatigue, leading more people to skip important down-ballot races or rely on partisan cues that are inappropriate for nonpartisan offices like school boards and city councils.

Civic engagement should prioritize informed participation, not just higher turnout numbers. Keeping local elections in odd-numbered years allows voters to focus, learn, and make thoughtful choices about their communities.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 2452.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Winch
Overland Park, KS

January 20, 2026

To: Testimony to House Elections Committee

From: Naomi Wood, Kansas citizen, wood.naomi@gmail.com

Re: HB 2452

Opponent of this bill

Written only testimony

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I would like to voice my opposition to HB 2452, which would change the way we currently run local and regional elections in the state.

There is a great deal of business the state needs to conduct, regardless of when national elections take place. Shifting the elections process to alternate years postpones that necessary business, whether it's city council, mayoral, school board races, actions on roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety, or any of the other pressing concerns a community may face.

Because national media focus on national races, there is less awareness and discussion of regional ones, especially in even years. There is not enough room for substantive discussion of local governance as it is. This bill would make that situation worse. I would rather see elections work to enhance voter involvement at all levels of governance rather than suppressing it by making opportunities more scarce.

Please vote this HB 2452 down. The advantages do not outweigh the disadvantages.

Thank you for your attention,

Naomi Wood

Manhattan, KS

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Elections Committee

NAME: Cassandra Woolworth, constituent

EMAIL ADDRESS: Cassie Woolworth

BILL NUMBER: HB 2452

PROPOSER, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee, I submit this testimony in opposition to the proposal to move local elections to even-numbered years.

Even-year ballots are already extremely long due to federal and statewide races. Adding city council, mayoral, and school board contests will increase voter fatigue and make it harder for voters to research and thoughtfully consider down-ballot local races.

Local offices such as school boards and city councils are nonpartisan by design. Even-year elections are dominated by partisan messaging, which is a poor fit for offices focused on practical, community-level governance rather than party ideology.

Local elections center on schools, roads, utilities, zoning, and public safety—issues that deserve focused voter attention. In even-numbered years, media coverage and public discourse are overwhelmingly driven by national politics, leaving little space for meaningful discussion of local governance.

Community forums, candidate debates, and civic education efforts are also harder to organize and receive less attention during presidential and midterm election cycles. Voters are already overwhelmed by campaign calls, texts, and mail during even-year elections; adding local races will further reduce engagement and increase ballot drop-off.

Civic participation should prioritize informed decision-making, not just higher turnout totals. Keeping local elections in odd-numbered years supports more engaged, informed voters and stronger local democracy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill.

Cassandra Woolworth

Constituent

Olathe, KS