

OVERLAND PARK

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

Date: January 27, 2026
To: Chairman Proctor & the House Committee on Elections
From: City of Overland Park
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2447

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2447. The City opposes HB 2447 because every four years this law would take attention away from special election issues, and prevent the use of popular, turnout-generating mail-ballot elections for those special elections.

If HB 2447 becomes law, every March before a presidential election, cities would be prohibited from holding special elections by mail ballot. Instead, these special elections would be combined on the same ballot with the presidential primary races. Creating elections that make it harder to focus on individual issues is not good public policy, and that is why the vast majority of states allow special elections to occur at different times than other races. Right now, because special elections can be held separately from other races in March, local newspapers and other media outlets can devote attention to those important local issues.

In addition, legislation adopted last session already limited mail ballot elections for special elections to a single date per year (in March). HB 2447 would eliminate the option for any mail ballot elections entirely in years preceding a presidential election (i.e. every four years). Mail ballot elections are cost-effective and increase voter turnout,¹ and unsurprisingly are becoming increasingly popular.² Requiring special elections to be placed on ballots with partisan races every four years, instead of allowing the special elections to be conducted separately by mail ballot, will likely limit turnout in those years to voters interested in the partisan races.

Thank you for allowing the City to testify on this legislation. We respectfully request that the Committee not advance HB 2447 to the full House.

¹ <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/mail-voting-in-the-us-data-points-to-very-low-fraud-and-significant-benefits-to-voters/>

² <https://electioninnovation.org/research/voting-before-election-day-resources/use-methods-voting-before-election-day/>