

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2022

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2022, as amended, would amend the definition of “special election” in election law and specify the timing of elections required for the issuance of bonds in municipalities. The bill would also make conforming amendments to other provisions of election law concerning special elections.

Special Election Timing

The bill would amend the definition of “special election” to mean any election held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in April of any year or on the same day as a general or primary election.

[*Note:* Current law states a special election shall not be held within 45 days of a general or primary election.]

Timing of Municipal Bond Elections (New Section 1)

The bill would specify that, whenever an election is required for the issuance of bonds by any municipality, including those for school districts, the election would be called and held on the date of the next primary or general election, as specified in the resolution calling the election. The bill would provide for any law that specifies an election date would take precedence over this provision.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

The bill would state that no municipality could call or hold more than one bond election at a time other than on the same date as a primary or general election within any one calendar year. However, this provision would not prohibit the planning for, consideration of, notice of, or other preparation for any bond election during the period between authorized bond elections. This provision would not apply to bond elections held for the purpose of replacing or repairing and equipping municipal buildings or facilities destroyed or substantially damaged by fire, windstorm, flood, or other casualty.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Waggoner.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, the Deputy Secretary of State presented **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would clarify the intent of the 45-day provision, which the Deputy Secretary stated was always meant to be before or after an election to ensure a county election officer is not faced with a conflict between state and federal law regarding the time registration books may be closed.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the Senate Committee hearing, the Deputy Secretary of State and the Sedgwick County Election Commissioner provided **proponent** testimony. The Deputy Secretary stated the bill would clarify the intent of the 45-day provision. The

Sedgwick County Election Commissioner stated Sedgwick County had four special elections in 2024 and asked that special elections be limited to three specific dates throughout year—the first Tuesday in March or April, the primary election, and the general election—to help with costs of special elections, reduce voter confusion, and increase voter turnout.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), who noted that the bill, as introduced, would not have a negative impact on school district special elections, but KASB would oppose any amendment that would specify an arbitrary date because school districts should have the flexibility to schedule special elections to maximize their effectiveness.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change the definition of “special election” to mean any election held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in April of any year or on the same day as a general or primary election and make conforming amendments throughout the election statutes.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to specify that elections required for the issuance of municipal bonds, including those for school districts, would be called and held on the date of the next primary or general election, and to allow for certain exceptions to this provision.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of State indicates it would use existing resources to update training materials for local election officials and update educational and promotional materials for the voting public regarding the

provisions of the bill. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill could have a fiscal effect on counties if there is an increase in special elections but is unable to estimate the fiscal effect.

Special election; elections