

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2452

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2452, as amended, would move municipal elections to the fall of even-numbered years from the fall of odd-numbered years. To enact such policy, the bill would modify the terms of office for municipal-elected officials, provide for administrative procedures, and make conforming amendments.

Municipal Elections

On and after January 1, 2028, the bill would direct the primary election for members of the governing body and other elected officials (governing bodies) of these municipalities to be held on the first Tuesday in August 2028. The bill would direct general elections for these same municipalities to be held on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November 2028. The bill further directs both elections to continue in such manner in even-numbered years moving forward.

[Note: The bill would move the current definition of the term "municipality" from KSA 25-21a01 to the new section of law that would be created by the bill; the bill would also repeal KSA 25-21a01.]

*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/>

Elected Officials' Terms

For elected members of governing bodies of municipalities whose term would expire at any time in 2027, the bill would expire their term on the second Monday of January 2029, when newly elected members of governing bodies take office.

The bill would direct the governing bodies of municipalities to establish by ordinance or resolution the terms of office of elected officials in order to comply with the Act. Further, the bill would provide for the specific terms, based on the year and length of term an official was elected.

If the official was:

- Elected in 2025 to a four-year term, they would serve a three-year term;
- Elected in 2027 for a two-year term, they would serve a three-year term;
- Elected in 2027 for a three-year term, they would serve a two-year term; and
- Elected in 2027 for a four-year term, they would serve a three-year term.

Cities and Hospitals

The bill would direct cities and hospitals to provide for all elections of elected officials in even-numbered years and to stagger terms of office by establishing a term of either two years or four years by ordinance or resolution.

The bill would strike provisions allowing for hospital boards to:

- Extend the term of a member for up to one year from the date such member's term would otherwise expire; and
- Change the method by which board members are elected from four-year terms to three-year or four-year terms by a majority vote of the members of the board members.

[*Note:* The bill would amend the three-year or four-year term provision to a two-year or four-year term as part of the conforming amendments.]

Administrative Procedures

The bill would provide for administrative procedures to execute the provisions of the bill. These procedures would include:

- Amending the dates that school board clerks must notify county election officers of boundary changes and voting plans;
- Publication dates of notice of elections;
- No longer closing voter registration applications in odd-numbered years during election windows; and
- Adding two municipal races to county election officers' audit list for each even-numbered year election.

Ballots

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the bill would authorize a person's name to be printed on official primary and general ballots more than once if the person is a candidate for a municipality office.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of State to adopt rules and regulations to establish ballot styles for these elections by July 1, 2027.

Effective Date

The bill would take effect on and after January 1, 2028, and upon its publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

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

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was presented by Representative Huebert and a representative of the Honest Elections Project Action. The proponents generally stated the bill would increase voter turnout and streamline the election process, making election administration easier on county clerks and saving counties money.

Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by Representative Sappington.

Neutral testimony was presented by representatives of the American Legislative Exchange Council, Ballotpedia, and the Secretary of State. The neutral conferees stated the bill would encourage voter turnout, but county clerks may have some issues enacting the legislation.

Opponent testimony was presented by representatives of the Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas County Clerks and Elections Officers Association, Kansas Parent Teacher Association, the League of Kansas Municipalities, Loud Light Civic Action, and a private citizen. The opponents

generally stated the bill would cause voter fatigue, local issues would get buried in national issues, and it is not known whether money would be saved by doing this, as the ballots would go on to two pages.

Written-only opponent testimony was submitted by representatives of the City of Columbus, City of Haysville, Cities of Mission, Merriam, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, and Westwood Hills, City of Olathe, City of Overland Park, Game On for Kansas Schools, Kansas Association of Community Colleges, and Kansas Association of Counties, and 28 private citizens.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Provide for terms of office for officials elected in 2025 for four-year terms to serve three-year terms; and
- Provide that a person's name may appear on a primary and general ballot more than once, if that person is a candidate for municipal office and it is not otherwise prohibited by law.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of State is contacting all 105 counties to survey the fiscal effect the passage of the bill would have on counties, but the agency was unable to complete this survey before the hearing on the bill. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates passage of the bill could have a fiscal effect on counties. There could be cost savings from counties not conducting elections in odd-numbered years; however, this could be offset if special elections occurred in those years. Special elections that occur

in even-numbered years may require longer ballots which would require additional costs for configuring or upgrading ballot machines to read the longer ballots.

The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates the bill could have a fiscal effect on cities, as the bill would require a municipality to establish the terms of office of elected officials to be either two years or four years, but the League is unable to determine a precise fiscal effect.

Municipalities; municipal elections; elections; Secretary of State; terms of office