



**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 2271 – Municipalities; elections;
partisan; fall, even-numbered years**

To: Honorable Chairman Scott Schwab
Members of the House Elections Committee

From: Leslee Rivarola, Assistant City Administrator
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Honorable Chair and Members of the House Elections Committee, the City of Lenexa thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony opposing HB 2271.

We believe local elections being moved to the fall of even numbered years will cloud the issues occurring at the local level. Currently, voters who turn out for the spring election are informed and wish to cast their ballots for candidates or issues important to them. Moving local elections to the fall of even years makes local governments vulnerable to being lost in the shuffle of State and Federal elections.

The issue of partisan based elections is of particular concern. In Lenexa, our Governing Body makes decisions not based on political party lines, but based on the expectations of our residential and business communities. If our Governing Body is not setting policy and spending dollars according to community priorities, our citizens can and will cast their vote to change the membership of the Governing Body. Lenexa was selected by Bloomberg's BusinessWeek as one of the best places to raise kids in 2013, and as one of CNN Money Magazines best places to live in 2011. We believe we are doing something right in Lenexa, and we believe our citizens and business communities agree by choosing us as a city to live and locate businesses.

In a time where demands for service are increasing, in Lenexa, we are always looking for ways to build partnerships and find the delicate balance between the quality of service delivery and willingness to pay for services. Partisan elections

look to create divisiveness in our community in a time where collaboration is essential.