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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of House Bill 2271, regarding moving the current spring elections to August and November of even number years.

As Cowley County Clerk I also serve as the Election Officer with a staff of four including myself. Cowley County population is 36,311. School district boundaries do not follow traditional precinct lines and often times cross County borders. Cowley County is the home county for five school districts. Three of the five school districts cross into other counties. Cowley County also has four school districts that cross into Cowley County from other counties. This requires collaboration with a total of five other County Clerks just for Cowley County. Not only do school district elections create complexities due to crossing county boundaries they also create additional precincts because they do not follow traditional precinct lines. With each additional precinct follows increased costs. The additional races will increase the length of the ballot which will cause each paper ballot to continue on to a second page increasing the complexity of the election for the voter and also increasing costs.

Combining the City/School Election to even number years will create significant cost increases that will not be offset by the cost saving of eliminating the spring elections.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Karen D. Defore
Cowley County Clerk/Election Officer