



The City of Lindsborg

Little Sweden, U.S.A.

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Date: February 20, 2013
To: House Elections Committee
From: Greg DuMars, City Administrator
RE: HB 2271

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Lindsborg City Council and the City of Lindsborg.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 2271 which would move city elections to the fall of even-numbered years and would change these elections from non-partisan to partisan. Lindsborg has a mayor/council form of government with the members of city council elected by ward. This form of government was selected in 1973 by the citizens of Lindsborg as the best form to meet the representation needs of the community. A council member is elected based upon their ability to represent the interests of their ward.

Furthermore, moving city elections to coincide with federal and state elections would diminish the information available regarding the local election. The broadcast media would be focused on covering the national and state elections during their 30 minute newscast. The number of local newspapers in Kansas has been declining. Those local newspapers operating have reduced staffs to remain competitive and they do not have the resources to adequately cover local elections. The competition of local elections with national and state elections would be lost in the broadcast media. This coupled with the reduction in local newspapers and coverage means that the information available regarding local elections and candidates would be drowned out by federal and state elections.

The Lindsborg City Council's adopted 2013 Legislative Priorities includes, "Supporting the retention of city elections in the spring." The policy tenant endorsement statement reads, "City elections are non-partisan and running these elections to coincide with partisan primaries and general elections creates confusion. Further, the coverage and importance of local elections would be lost in the crowd of state and federal elections. The voter participation numbers may be higher, but would also diminish the available information concerning local elections and candidates."

Based upon the aforementioned reasons, the Lindsborg City Council and I strongly urge you to reject HB 2271.