



**House Ethics Committee
Representative Schwab, Chair**

H. B. 2227 – Municipal elections

*Presented by Diane Gjerstad
Wichita Public Schools
March 13, 2013*

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

We oppose this bill to move school board elections from current spring election cycle to November with members taking office in January.

Currently Board Members take office in July which coincides with a new school year, new teacher contracts, new programs, and changes in programs for a new school year. Board members start the new school year along with students and staff.

Moving the election to November and taking office in January would put new Board members in the midst of contract negotiations with inadequate time to become acquainted with practices and concerns facing the district. Districts begin the negotiations process and the budget process in January. This bill would put new Board members in the difficult role of evaluating budgets with little time to become acquainted with a district's priorities and business practices.

The current election cycle aligns with the operational and budget calendars for school districts and should not be changed.

We oppose moving school board elections.