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Office of the Crawford County Clerk

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March 12, 2013

Honorable Kansas State Representative Scott Schwab  
Chairman, House Elections Committee  
and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: House Bill 2227, Concerning City & School Elections

Chairman Schwab and Distinguished Committee Members,

As Chairman of the Elections Legislation Committee for the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, I thank you for your time in allowing me to testify on this bill. The KCCEOA has not adopted an official position on this bill and I would like to submit this testimony in a neutral position in regards to House Bill 2227. I believe there are some points that the committee should consider to ensure that no harm is committed in this process.

By not moving these elections to the even-numbered years, this bill avoids nearly all the objections that our association raised concerning Senate Bill 211. The movement of these elections to the fall of odd-numbered years will give election officers an easier timeline to manage and it will provide a consistent annual election calendar that will help to increase voter turnout. This also provides a reliable election platform for other election issues to be brought to a public vote. However, I would ask that you listen very closely to cities and schools as they discuss possible adjustments to the dates when newly elected members are seated on their boards or councils. The time of the year that these new board members are seated can have a profound effect on budgeting and other processes of these entities. These newly elected board and council members will still have a full 2 or 4 year term to participate in their governance.

The Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials work hard to make sure that Kansas Elections are administered in a professional manner. I feel that the Election Officers have an outstanding track record and we strive to continue this tradition. I ask that you carefully consider the factors I have mentioned when making your decision. Thank you for allowing me to testify and for allowing me to share my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald P. Pyle". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Donald P. Pyle  
Crawford County Clerk and Election Officer  
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