

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

**To: Chair, Representative Scott Schwab
Members of the House Committee on Elections**

**From: Darci Meese, Government Affairs Coordinator
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 Johnson County)**

Date: March 13th, 2013

RE: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2227

On behalf of WaterOne, I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 2227 intended to eliminate spring municipal elections and move said elections to the fall of odd numbered years. HB 2227 proposes to modify, among other statutes, K.S.A. 19-3505 and K.S.A. 19-3507, which deal with the election of water utility board members. WaterOne is currently the only water utility in the State of Kansas that these particular statutory provisions impact. Under present law, the 7 member governing body of WaterOne is elected in April of odd numbered years with staggered 4 year terms running from May through April 30.

WaterOne's concern with 2227 is that it proposes an unnecessary change to how local issues and candidates are voted upon by the public. Little will be accomplished in the way of savings or voter turnout by moving elections from the spring of odd numbered years to the fall of odd numbered years. Voters in April, though potentially fewer, are accustomed to voting local candidates and topics and care enough about the particular local issues to come out and vote in April.

If the process is not broken, there is no need to fix it. We would respectfully request the Committee leave the municipal elections in the spring. In this case, we believe the quality of an informed vote is more beneficial than the quantity of voters at the polls.

Darci Meese
Government Affairs Coordinator
WaterOne (Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas)
913-895-5516 direct
913-579-9817 cell
dmeese@waterone.org