



CITY OF HUGOTON

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February 20, 2013

To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

From: Thomas G. Hicks, City Clerk

Opposition to SB 211

Changing the date of local elections and making those elections partisan is not an idea that will serve the best interests of local government. The best part of local elections, especially for small communities, is the non-partisan process. Adding party politics to the system will only make local government more divisive. A lot of communities are struggling to even have enough candidates to fill the positions. Having to declare a party will probably reduce the pool even further. Changing the date of local elections, while a well-intentioned attempt to increase voter participation, also comes with the negatives of complicating the voting sites and the dispensing of proper ballots for the election officials.

The current process puts the best interests of the community above party politics. Leave it alone.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Hicks
City Clerk