

Testimony in Support of SB 7

Bill Brady , USD 259, Wichita

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 7. We understand that some districts might be interested in reducing the time period between a school board election and the time elected members are sworn in. We think Senator's Hawk's approach in SB 7 gives district's an opportunity to do so. We agree that the ultimate decision should remain in the hands of the elected board.

USD 259 would like to request an additional amendment to SB 7 to deal with the rules governing a change in boundaries for a school board election. I have attached the proposed amendment to my testimony. Current law requires a majority vote of the board and then a special election to change boundaries. This amendment would still require a majority board vote and an election but would allow the board to include the election on a primary, general election or still opt for a special election. This was the common practice for school districts prior to 2015. Current law only allows for a special election. In Wichita a special election could cost \$40,000. The advantage of this alternative is that a school board desiring to put such a question before voters could do so without having to pay the cost of a special election. Such a change might make sense for efficiency and also as a tax savings for taxpayers.

USD 259 views this amendment as a simple cleanup. The district has no plans in this area but simply identified the issue a few years ago when the special election mandate was included. When we read the contents of SB 7 we thought this issue fit nicely into the context of SB 7.