



Kansas PTA
715 SW 10th Street, Topeka KS 66612
submitted by Mary F Sinclair, PhD, Advocacy Team
on behalf of Kansas PTA President, Tammy Bartels
www.kansas-pta-legislative.org ▪ kansaspta@gmail.com

Testimony to House Committee on Elections

Chair, Representative Scott Schwab
Monday, February 10, 2014
Diane Brian, Committee Assistant, 785-296-7501
Diane.Brian@house.ks.gov
1:30 am, Room 281-N

Kansas PTA stands Opposed to HB 2227 – municipal elections

Chairman Schwab and Committee Members,

Please accept this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas PTA. While we recognize the committee hearing was held Monday, February 10, 2014, consideration of our testimony after initial deliberations is greatly appreciated.

Our opposition to this bill is in alignment with the Kansas PTA mission and legislative platform. The mission and values of the PTA have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago:

PTA Mission - to facilitate every child's potential by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Through advocacy, as well as family and community education over the century, PTA has established programs and [called for legislation](#) that improves our children's lives including: the creation of kindergarten classes, child labor laws, public health service, hot and healthy lunch programs, juvenile justice system, mandatory immunization, arts in education and school safety.

A critical component of our initiatives has been and continues to be a robust K12 public education system, which stems from the valued leadership and oversight of Kansas school board members. These elected officials volunteer hours upon hours to their local school districts, contributing their expertise and valuable time to an essential community resource. Their service is driven by a recognition that equal opportunity for a quality education is the backbone of a thriving democracy, essential to the health and growth of Kansas and a constitutional right of all Kansas youth. School board members are elected on the basis of merit, not political affiliation.

The emerging nature and volume of bills out of alignment with the [Kansas PTA Legislative Platform](#), challenging the quality of Kansas K-12 public education, is raising concerns among parents and teachers. The concerns stem from a number of bills but this testimony will focus on HB 2227.

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities.

Shifting municipal elections from spring to fall is unnecessary and problematic. The primary concern with this bill is the potential threat of a partisan agenda, interfering with the functions of our local school boards, overseeing school governance, curriculum and looking out for the needs of students. Further, the proposed bill would throw the current election cycle out of alignment with the school year. Moreover, the estimated costs to make this change are \$566, 000 in 2014 and fiscally irresponsible to pursue (see more detailed fiscal notes of the similar 2013 [HB2271](#)).

Current school board election procedures are working well, no need for change. On behalf of the Kansas PTA, we thank you for your time and consideration.