

ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Sherrie L. Riebel
COUNTY CLERK

1 N. Washington
Iola, KS 66749

620-365-1407
Fax: 365-1441

Email: coclerk@allencounty.org

To: Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 211

From: Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 211.

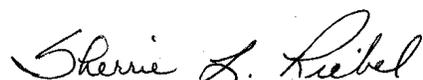
In November of 2010, Allen County had to use a 17" ballot to get US Senator, US Representative, Governor/Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Insurance, State Representative, State Board of Education, County Commissioner, two special questions, two constitutional questions, four Supreme Court Justices, seven Court of Appeals Judges, one District Judge, and one Magistrate Judge on one ballot, front and back. Normally our ballot in Allen County is 14" long, but I went to the longer ballot to allow voters to be able to read the font and to keep board workers from getting confused on handing out two ballots.

Every spring in odd-years Allen County has a community college, city councils, USD, and extension district election. The front of the ballot is filled with College, City, USD, and Extension candidates and then sometimes a special question which ends up on the back of the ballot. If we were to have City/School Elections in the fall with Federal, State and Local elections, we would be forced to have two ballots if not more. Allen County only has 21 precincts, which is a very small county compared to the larger counties.

This is just the top reason why I would prefer not changing spring elections to the fall of even-years. This bill would cause a chain reaction and add more confusion than we can predict affecting cities, schools, colleges and county voters.

I urge the committee to report Senate Bill 211 as unfavorable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrie L. Riebel
Allen County Clerk