



Ness County Bank Building

## City of Ness City

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208 West Main  
P.O. Box 419  
Ness City, Kansas 67560  
Ph: 785-798-2229  
Fax: 785-798-3753  
nesscity@gbta.net

CITY COUNCIL  
Ann Kuhlman  
Gaylen Kerr  
Craig Goodman  
Travis Snyder  
Bill Stiawalt

*Scott Barb, Mayor*  
*Wanda Gabel, City Clerk*  
*Earl Crosswhite, City Superintendent*  
*Tony Rues, City Attorney*

February 15, 2019

House Judiciary

RE: House Bill 2219

The proposed legislation would be very detrimental to our small city. We struggle to get people to serve, and I think the mandatory audio or video recording would immensely inhibit getting anyone to voluntarily go through the process of registering and the voting process in order to serve. We don't have a large pool of potential candidates in a city of approximately 1400 people to begin with, usually struggling to fill the open positions.

We currently only have two on staff at city hall, a utility clerk and myself as city clerk. In addition to securing the equipment and a vendor to store and have available the recordings, the time frame of twenty-four hour accessibility is really unreasonable. We are already so limited by the cycle of billing and meetings in order to take time off for personal time that this would add another dimension to that burden.

I would also have to secure equipment and probably a website for accessibility. Again, we do not have the IT professionals to assist with this. Some of these issues which the larger cities don't even think about are crucial hurdles for us to come by with limited positions and resources.

I see very limited interest in our meetings now, with only one or two regular interested citizens attending out meetings regularly. I think that this would cause an undue burden on budget resources as well as staff and those elected to serve.

Please reconsider these factors in opposition to the proposed bill.

Sincerely,

Wanda Gabel, MMC  
City Clerk