

EXHIBIT # 7  
DATE Jan 25 11  
HR 242

State Administration Committee

Jan. 25, 2011

Testimony on HB 242

Thank you for the opportunity to appear and support HB 242. My name is Ed Argenbright, Ed D. retired teacher/coach, administrator, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Commissioner of Political Practices. I reside in Helena.

I strongly favor this bill to insure voters in our communities feel they have an impact and continue to support our local public schools. Under current rules for separate school elections folks aren't aware and the voter turnout is low. Joining the primary elections with school elections will increase awareness and participation. This will promote confidence in our local community school trustees and insure greater support to the notion our schools are truly operated locally. As things now stand elections are held off the radar of many ordinary citizens. Candidates favored by district employees, their relatives and friends enjoy a significant advantage. To regain the confidence of the whole community this change will be a step in the right direction. Greater participation will engender better support for our school governance structure. I urge support for this bill.

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