

To: House Committee on Local Government
From: Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director
Date: February 8, 2023
RE: HB 2145 – Extending Voting Franchise in City Elections
In Opposition – Verbal Testimony

Thank you to the Chair and Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB 2145 creates a fundamental change to our voting processes by allowing non-citizens of a community to vote in that community. It would water down the rights of those who choose to live in a city by granting voting authority to those who choose not to live in a city and don't have to follow those laws or pay city taxes. The League of Kansas Municipalities asks you to vote NO on HB 2145.

County residents make a choice to live outside city limits for a variety of reasons. They understand when they make that decision what impact it will have on their daily lives. With this choice comes the understanding that they are not citizens of a city, and they are not bound by the laws within that city.

County residents are not taxpayers to the city. The primary reason city residents vote on County Commissioners is because they have taxing authority over city residents. The reverse is not true: City officials do not have the same taxing authority over county residents. Taxation without representation is not acceptable, but neither is representation without taxation.

Those who live within the 3-mile boundary of extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) do have representation in County Commissioners. Those Commissioners have authority to ensure a city does not overstep within the ETJ. If that is not occurring in some counties, that needs to be addressed with those Commissioners, including at the ballot box.

We ask you to vote NO on HB 2145.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues. I am always available to provide additional information and answer any questions you have.



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