

Date: January 10, 2024
Senate Bill 196: Support
From: City of Basehor
Subject: Copy of Verbal Testimony

Good morning. My name is Maddie Waldeck and I am the Deputy City Administrator for the City of Basehor. I'd like to start by thanking Madam Chair Senator Tyson and all of the members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation for the opportunity to give verbal testimony in support of Senate Bill 196. I'd like to recognize the local elected officials from the City of Basehor that are with us in the room and those present online: Mayor Dick Drennon, Council President Ben Sims, and Councilmembers Shari D. Standiferd, Vickie McEnroe, Vernon J. Fields, and Ty Garver; and also our City Administrator Leslee Rivarola, who are all united here to show Basehor's strong support for passing this important piece of legislation and advocating for the positive impact it would have on the city of Basehor and state of Kansas. We'd like to extend a very special thank you to Madam Chair Senator Tyson, Senator Beverly Gossage, Representative Tim Johnson, and Leavenworth County Register of Deeds TerriLois Mashburn for meeting with us, collaborating with us, educating us, and working with us regarding the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund and property tax relief in general.

Basehor is a small but growing community in the greater Kansas City Area. As of the last US census, Basehor is the 2nd fastest growing city in Kansas with a population of 5,000 or more. Our population has grown by nearly 50% in the last 10 years.

Property tax relief is incredibly important to our Mayor and City Council in Basehor. Basehor feels very strongly it's a best practice to fix the issues of property taxes, and not just put in place short term temporary solutions. Provided to you in the written form is a copy of two resolutions that have been approved by the City of Basehor's Governing Body. The first resolution formalizes Basehor's support of funding the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund. Basehor leadership did a lot of research and proactive communication in order to understand the history of LAVTRF and why it had remained unfunded for so many years. The concern that was a common thread among all the groups with whom we communicated was state legislators were apprehensive to fund LAVTRF because there is no mechanism in place to guarantee these funds would be dedicated to property tax relief. The elected officials and staff of the City of Basehor took this very seriously. In addition to the resolution supporting the funding of LAVTRF, this resolution also dedicates 100% of any distributions received to property tax relief for our residents. This relief would provide much-needed support to senior citizens and those on a fixed income, contribute to homeownership affordability in an ever-increasing cost of real estate market, and would not only attract—but also retain—residents who are interested in calling Basehor home.

After passing this resolution, the City of Basehor emailed every state legislator a copy of the resolution, respectfully requesting the consideration of funding LAVTRF in the 2024 legislative session. We are very grateful to all of the legislators who responded to this communication, furthering the discussion of how we can work together to provide property tax relief to our residents. Through these discussions, an alternate idea was proposed that would eliminate the State's 1.5 mills in exchange for the removal of LAVTRF. Basehor's Governing Body has

since passed a subsequent resolution that would support eliminating the State's 1.5 mills from property taxes in exchange for removing LAVTRF. Basehor remains steadfast in its support of providing property tax relief to its residents, no matter how or where it comes from.

The City of Basehor's Mayor and City Council remain committed to working together. We understand and respect that the relationship between state and local governments is not often collaborative. The City of Basehor stands here today ready to roll up our sleeves, have the hard conversations, and put in the work. We stand ready to communicate proactively and professionally. We stand ready to help fix the issues. We believe we can do this together. As we stand in this beautiful building whose halls have been graced with the presence of current and past dedicated state legislators, public servants, and Kansans, we are honored to convey to this committee the absolute importance of finding a way to provide much needed property tax relief to our community members, to our neighbors. And it is our formal position that funding LAVTRF would be a momentous and historic step forward in providing property tax relief to not just Basehor residents, but Kansans. We respectfully request a vote of approval in support of Senate Bill 196 moving out of this committee today. Thank you.

Links to City of Basehor's Resolutions

Dedicating 100% of LAVTR to Property Tax Relief if funded:

<https://www.cityofbasehor.org/DocumentCenter/View/2558/Resolution-No-2023-31>

Supporting Eliminating the State's 1.5 mills in Exchange for Eliminating LAVTR

<https://www.cityofbasehor.org/DocumentCenter/View/2598/Resolution-No-2023-34?bidId=>