



January 11th, 2024

Testimony in Support of SB 196
Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee
Written Only

Chair Tyson and Members of the Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee:

The Cities of Mission, Merriam, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, and Westwood Hills support SB 196. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill that fulfills a statutory requirement by reinstating transfers to the LAVTRF. SB 196 is an important step in helping local governments provide property tax relief at the local level, and we appreciate the Legislature's willingness to have this debate. We encourage the Legislature to continue the momentum made by the Kansas House in 2023 with passage of a budget amendment to reinstate the funding, on a bipartisan 83-40 vote. We hope to see more of that bipartisan support for this issue in 2024.

For decades, until 2004, the State upheld Kansas statute by funding LAVTR through excess sales tax dollars, enabling Kansas communities to stabilize, and lower, local property tax. Property taxes, particularly residential, have increased to cover the cost of services provided by local governments. Eliminating LAVTRF funding contributed to increased residential property taxes. Thus, it is crucial that local governments have the ability to use LAVTR to reduce property taxes and fund essential services our citizens depend on, not just for quality of life, but for safety and public welfare.

Rising property taxes are the number one issue for many Kansas families, and SB 196 will help offset the property tax burden with sales and income taxes everyone pays to and provide relief for Kansans. Thank you for your consideration and we welcome any questions or further discussion you may have on this matter.

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