

To: House Committee on Local Government
From: Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director
Date: March 2, 2026
RE: HB 2769 – Taxing Authority Residency Requirement
Proponent – Written Testimony

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2769, which requires all members appointed to the governing bodies of subordinate service taxing areas be residents of the area they serve when those governing bodies have authority to levy property taxes or set budgets for public services in that area. The League supports for several reasons:

1. **Strengthens Local Accountability:** When a governing body has authority to impose property taxes for services within a subordinate taxing area, residents should have confidence those decisions are made by individuals who live in and are directly affected by those decisions. Residency requirements ensure board members share a common stake in the taxes and services they govern.
2. **Aligns Representation with Authority:** Subordinate taxing areas relate to a defined geographic and fiscal footprint. It is reasonable that those who make fiscal and service decisions for an area are residents of that area. This aligns representation with the people who contribute tax revenues and receive the services.
3. **Consistent with Principles of Local Governance:** Kansas law already includes resident-based qualifications for various local boards and commissions. HB 2769 extends this principle to subordinate service taxing areas in a manner that respects local control while reinforcing democratic accountability.
4. **Clear Standard of Practice:** Under current law, there is some ambiguity about whether a municipality may appoint non-residents to governing bodies of subordinate taxing areas. HB 2769 provides clarity and a consistent standard for municipalities.

The League understands some municipalities may currently appoint non-residents in certain circumstances and this bill may require adjustments in appointment practices. However, the clarity this bill offers outweighs transitional administrative concerns. Thank you for your consideration.



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