

MIKE KEMMLING

Shawnee City Councilman

March 3, 2025

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Kemmling and I am a Councilman in the City of Shawnee, and was a candidate for mayor in 2023.

I am writing today in support of SB 177, which would increase donation limits for several offices, including First Class cities, such as Shawnee. I am writing in support due to the increased fairness this bill provides for candidates for local office, especially in larger cities like Shawnee.

As Chairman Thompson knows, the City of Shawnee makes up the bulk of Senate District 10. Thus, a race for mayor can be quite expensive – a mailer can cost several thousand dollars to reach the bulk of voters. However, a candidate for mayor is currently limited to just \$500/cycle, which is half of the limit for a State Senate candidate. This situation is even more pronounced for candidates for the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, where the districts are larger than Senate districts, and certainly for countywide offices.

SB 177 wisely addresses this concern by creating a 50,000 population threshold to trigger a higher limit, eliminating unfairness and creating a level playing field for candidates for First Class cities and county offices.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Kemmling

Mike Kemmling
City Councilman - Shawnee