

To: Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee
From: Sage Pourmirza, Staff Attorney
Date: January 28, 2026
RE: Neutral Testimony on SB 314 – Oral In-Person

I would like to thank Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee for providing an opportunity for the League of Kansas Municipalities to provide neutral testimony on SB 314.

The League is neutral on this bill as this is already the law under Attorney General Opinion 93-125, and what we are already teaching our membership when it comes to ethics. Attorney General Opinion 93-125 states, *“public funds may not be used to promote or advocate the position of a governing body on a matter which is before the electorate. However, this does not mean that public funds may not be expended to educate and inform the electorate.”*¹.

The minor concern that our organization has with the language of SB 314 is clarification on the definitions of promote or oppose, and whether or not this would prevent local governments from publishing factual information. Often times, our local governments are asked to publish informational sheets, particularly with sales tax questions, that state provide data on how much it may cost the average family, what the anticipated revenue would be, and the use of funds that the local government would receive through those tax initiatives.

Ultimately, the League sees this bill as a codification of what our local governments are already practicing and being educated to do. While we would like to see some additional clarifying language, the language in SB 314 is an improvement on the language from HB 2451. For these reasons, we are neutral on the bill.

¹ XXVII Kan. Op. Att’y Gen. 45 (1993)