



# SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SB 314

Opponent

Written-Only

January 28, 2026

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

The Shawnee Mission School District opposes SB 314. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2451, which prohibits the use of local assets in support or opposition of state constitutional questions or ballot initiatives. In short, SB 314 infringes on local decision-making on questions of importance for municipalities (including school districts) and their citizens and attempts to restrain the content of information that should be made available to the public.

The law focuses on the election or defeat of a state or local political candidate and SB 314 adds State constitutional amendments and local ballot questions.

A public school board by necessity is responsible for explaining, detailing, and presenting a proposed ballot question for construction bonds for new schools. For example, is a levy for a construction not described by its benefits, efficiencies, and contribution to the operation of the public school? Could that description be rebutted by potential critics who argue the language is promoting an issue? The designation can be subjective.

We support our elected leadership and administration's capacity to truthfully and accurately explain ballot questions and trust our communities' capacity to evaluate a non-partisan and political decision based on the needs for physical improvements, or other resources. An accurate and detailed description of a project and its benefits is not partisan.

We oppose the imposition of the limitations in SB 314 as unnecessary, unless there exists a deep and obvious legacy of local school board misuse of the process, that warrant some consideration of change. We do not believe there is and thus respectfully request the Committee oppose this bill.

If I can provide any additional information or answer questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



SHAWNEE MISSION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Michael Schumacher  
Superintendent