



Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent
Olathe Public Schools
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SB 314
Written-Only Opponent
January 28, 2026

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

Olathe Public Schools oppose SB 314. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 314, 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.

The bill will likely result in misinterpretation. A local unit of government by necessity is responsible for explaining, detailing, and presenting a proposed ballot question for example. Is a levy for a new courthouse, or school district improvements such as school safety improvements or a new auditorium, for example, not described by their benefits, efficiencies, and contributions to the operation of local government and community access? 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 school board 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 new or repaired facilities, enhanced security, or other resources. An accurate and detailed description of a project and its benefits is not partisan.

SB 314's imposition of limitations is unnecessary, unless there is consistent evidence of local school boards' 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.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Yeager", is written in a cursive style.



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