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Chairman and members of the committee. I am here in support of SB 66. This legislation is badly needed as many Kansans believe, and I concur with their assessment, that the well connected are afforded many more privileges (including paying a small percentage of their property taxes if they pay any through tax incentives) than the normal main street small business and or regular taxpayer which are simply attempting to keep their head above water.

The cycle of elected officials being elected with the support those who are seeking tax incentives is the norm in Kansas. Do I believe this legislation will curtail such activities, no, but at least it is a beginning to bring transparency and possible increase in fairness to the process.

As a former Johnson County Commissioner, this has been my experience:

1. County Manager and county assistant manager being on the board and or on an advisory board of United Community Services which receives annual grants from the county. This was not revealed to the BOCC and was only in the public record because of my questions. Naturally the funds were given to UCS.
2. In November, 2024 Chairman Kelly voted for an executive session on a transit issue (as stated on the reason for the executive session) but when we returned, he announced he would be abstaining from the vote on tabling a \$26 million contract with WHC Worldwide. When I asked the reason, he declined to respond and our Chief Legal Counsel supported his silence. When the contract was brought back for a vote in December 2024, again he abstained from the vote with no explanation.
3. A contract for the vacant Antioch library building at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Antioch was accepted for \$3.9 million despite the 4 parcels was appraised at over \$6 million. This action was fast tracked by the County Manager's office and Chairman Kelly. Myself and Commissioner Ashcraft questioned this 2/3rds of value contract, but we were ignored and it passed 5-2.
4. KC2026 was given a grant of \$1.5 million from Johnson County and the Chairman voted (obviously in favor) even though he is a member at large board member.
5. Chairman Kelly is a partner of Husch Blackwell, a large real estate firm which specializes in tax incentives and land use, along with many other areas of expertise. The BOCC Chief Legal Counsel on many occasions assured me that Chairman Kelly is "siloes" and needs not to recuse himself even should his firm be involved.
6. Chairman Kelly was the founder and the head of Climate Action KC, yet he does not recuse himself from voting on "green" energy agenda items, such as the notorious Biden EV charging stations to be built in Johnson County. However, Trump Administration announced federal funds for EV charging stations has been pulled. I do not know the status of those projects.

These are examples of my firsthand experience and I'm certain that this is repeated time and time and time again.

Again, will these types of too "close for comfort connections" to agenda items at the county, school district or city level be addressed? As it written no, and possibly it could never be written to cover these types of situations, but hopefully it is a beginning in rebuilding trust in the political process.

I stand for questions.