



SEDGWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Pete Meitzner • Jeff Blubaugh • Stephanie Wise • Ryan Baty • Jim Howell

100 N. Broadway - Suite 660, Wichita, KS 67202 • Phone (316) 660-9300 • Fax (316) 660-9345

SEDGWICKCOUNTY.ORG

February 6, 2025

Dear Chair Petersen, Vice Chair Kloos, Ranking Minority Member Corson, and Committee members:

I am writing on behalf of the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners in support of SB 119, which would reallocate a larger portion of the fees collected by the county treasurer for license applications and certificate of title applications to the county treasurer to cover the ever-growing costs of providing said services.

Kansas law requires the Sedgwick County Treasurer, and applicable staff, to handle vehicle tags, titles and registrations in Sedgwick County for the state. K.S.A. 8-145 provides a portion of the fees collected for said services to the county treasurer to pay "for necessary help and expenses incidental to the administration of duties" for the services provided by the county treasurer to the state. In 2023, Sedgwick County was the last county in the state to start operating these services at a deficit, resulting in an increased reliance on property tax dollars for its county's residents.

A portion of the increase in the costs of administration are attributable to increased equipment costs and increased costs of staff wages and benefits. However, another factor in the increased costs is a shift of workload previously performed by state employees to county staff. Sedgwick County believes this shift in workload justifies a similar shift from the state to the county in the retention of revenues generated by the work of county employees. SB 119 would accomplish such a shift and allow the Sedgwick County Treasurer to handle vehicle tags, titles, and registrations using existing revenues generated by these services provided primarily by county staff.

In short, the passage of SB 119 would decrease Sedgwick County's reliance on the use of property tax dollars by generating adequate revenue for the county to provide state mandated services.

Thank you for considering our testimony in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Baty".

Ryan Baty, Chairman

Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County