



Office of the President

Testimony to the
House Committee on Local Government
House Bill No. 2092
Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek, President
Washburn University
February 6, 2023

Chair Bergquist, Vice-Chair Blex, Ranking Member Featherston, and members of the Committee. I am JuliAnn Mazachek, President of Washburn University; thank you for allowing my testimony today in support of House Bill No. 2092.

We appreciate the support of Leader Miller and all the Shawnee County House Delegation members for sponsoring this bill.

The Washburn University Board of Regents comprises nine members appointed by the Governor, Mayor, County Commission, or the Kansas Board of Regents. Washburn University Regents are singularly responsible for the operation of the University.

Currently, the Mayor of Topeka is statutorily authorized to appoint three city residents to serve on the Washburn Board of Regents and selects one regent from each of the three state Senate districts in Topeka.

State senate reapportionment approved by the legislature last year created a fourth senate district containing a portion of the city of Topeka. This caused the need to adjust how the Mayor appoints future Washburn regents.

House Bill No. 2092 amends the statute by allowing city council districts to be used as boundaries (rather than state senate districts).

We believe it is essential to have each of the three Washburn campuses represented by a regent (District 1- Tech East; District 2- University; District 3- Tech). We support the balloon amendment requested by Leader Miller to organize the Regent districts as follows:

Washburn District 1 - City County Districts 2, 3, 4
Washburn District 2 - City Council Districts 1, 5, 6
Washburn District 3 - City Council Districts 7, 8, 9

I am pleased to answer your questions at the appropriate time. Thank you for allowing my testimony.