



## Kansas County Treasurers Association

To: Chairman Adam Smith and members of the Kansas House Taxation Committee

From: Christine Smith, President - Kansas County Treasurers Association and Wallace County Treasurer

Re: HB 2317 – Proponent Testimony

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

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Chairman Smith and members of the Kansas House Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association and Wallace County, thank you for allowing me to present proponent testimony for HB 2317.

Each year, thousands of property tax statements are prepared and mailed to Kansas taxpayers through the local county treasurer's office. As current statute allows, these tax statements must be delivered using first class mail and postmarked no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. To avoid penalty, customers have until December 20<sup>th</sup> to remit their payments. If passed into law, HB 2317 will improve the delivery of Kansas property tax statements in several ways.

As county treasurers, we are constantly seeking stronger customer service practices. Evolving technology has transformed how customers conduct business; Kansas county treasurers have responded, providing customers with options to renew vehicles and pay their property taxes online. HB 2317 will provide enhanced, innovative customer service to taxpayers who prefer electronic correspondence. Electronic delivery will also provide more expedient service, giving customers additional time to remit payments.

In 2021, KSA 79-2988 was passed, allowing county clerks to electronically send Revenue Neutral notices to taxpayers who requested they be emailed. If passed, HB 2317 would provide consistency in how *all* property tax notices are provided by allowing county treasurers the flexibility to email property tax statements. HB 2317 will alleviate confusion regarding how customers received their tax notices. It will also create a more streamlined process for customers. They have been able to pay online for years. They will now have the option of receiving their notice electronically as well.

The electronic delivery of property tax statements to customers, is fiscally responsible. With increased costs due to inflation, county treasurers are seeking ways to reduce office expenses without reducing services. The passing of HB 2317 will aid in those efforts for both large and small counties. Wallace County mails over 5,200 tax statements, accounting for nearly \$1,200 in postage costs each year. In 2022, 30 customers chose electronic delivery of their RNR notices. This number is expected to increase. As printing and postage rates continue climb and more customers opt in, the passing of HB 2317 will allow counties to reduce expense through the electronic delivery of property tax statements.

While the proposed changes in this bill are very minimal, the allowances it will provide will have a tremendous impact on how county treasurers can better help our taxpayers moving forward. Thank you for your time and consideration for HB 2317.

Respectfully submitted,

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