



2023 - 2024 Executive board

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I am submitting testimony on behalf of KCCEOA membership to express our opposition to specific provisions outlined in House Bill 2683, particularly those concerning modifications to property taxation deadlines for the County Clerk. While acknowledging the importance of enhancing tax administration efficiency, we are concerned that the proposed alterations could yield adverse effects for both taxpayers and local taxing subdivisions.

County clerks engage in collaborative efforts with counterparts in joint districts, a process involving the awaiting of valuations from other counties to calculate our levy. This is followed by awaiting levies before progressing with tax roll generation. Subsequently, we undertake verification, balancing, and certification to the Treasurer, all while concurrently managing election responsibilities. This workload poses significant strains on offices, particularly those with minimal staffing, consisting only of the clerk and one other staff member, to meet existing deadlines. Our paramount objectives revolve around ensuring accuracy and transparency. Maintaining current clerk deadlines remains paramount to ensuring the most meticulously reviewed and accurate information for taxpayers, counties, and the state.

Moreover, the proposal in Section 3 of the bill, which amends K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 79-2930, introduces a provision allowing the county clerk to resort to the previous year's budget information and ad valorem tax amount in instances where a taxing subdivision fails to file its budget timely. While recognizing the necessity for contingency measures, this approach raises significant concerns regarding transparency and accountability. Relying on outdated budget information may not accurately reflect the current financial needs and priorities of the taxing subdivision, potentially resulting in misallocations of resources.

Furthermore, the proposed repeal of K.S.A. 79-1806 and K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 79-2001 and 79-2930 in Section 4 of the bill prompts inquiries into the rationale behind such a measure. The existing statutes establish a framework for responsible and transparent property tax administration. Repealing them without clear justification could introduce uncertainty and impede effective governance.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge a reconsideration of the proposed changes delineated in House Bill 2683. It is imperative to strike a balance between streamlining administrative processes and ensuring the accuracy and fairness of property tax assessments. A more collaborative and deliberative approach is warranted to address the concerns of all stakeholders involved.

Sincerely,

Jamie R Doss

Saline County Clerk & Election Officer – KCCEOA Clerk Legislative Committee Chair