

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
Chair, Senator Caryn Tyson
Proponent SCR 1610
19 March 2023

Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee,

I support SCR 1610 that blocks property valuation from increasing higher than 3% in a given year, and I urge you to also support it and pass it favorably out of committee. The last few years have left citizens of Kansas struggling financially, my family included. We live on one income, and after the pandemic, our employer didn't have the margin to give salary increases that matched the inflation rates of our weekly-purchased items.

Now, our County Commissioners, against our public comments and pleas in the negative, have decided to increase our property valuations--AGAIN. They're going to price us out of our homes. In two years, the County has tried to declare our valuation (and collect taxes on unrealized gains) to increase \$112,000. Just so you know, our home was purchased less than 5 years ago for less than a half million dollars. I might understand an increase of \$112,000 in valuation in a \$1 million+ home, but not ours. We've:

- planted two ornamental trees in the front landscaping
- added storage shelves to our unfinished basement
- revived the grass and have kept the same paint, windows, tile, etc.

Our improvements have been unremarkable. Our neighbors and nearby friends have also had increases of 11-39% on their homes valuations...with no actual explanation for these numbers. **THIS IS NOT SUSTAINABLE.**

We aren't receiving income increases at the rate they're hiking our property tax valuations. We need help at the State level since our local has ignored our pleas for help. Would you help us be able to stay in Kansas where our family is? Please pass SCR 1610.

Respectfully,

Melissa Campbell
Senate District 9