

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

STATE CAPITOL
RM 359-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7630
vic.miller@house.ks.gov



HOME
1174 S.W. FILLMORE
TOPEKA, KS 66604
(785) 224-3375
victormiller@aol.com

VIC MILLER
58TH DISTRICT

January 11, 2024

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I believe property tax relief for homeowners stands as one of the most important, if not the most important, and pressing issues confronting the Kansas Legislature today.

Rapidly rising property values have exacerbated an already existing threat to one the most fundamental American dreams—home ownership.

Recognizing this threat, House Democrats are about to introduce this session's version of replenishing the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund (LAVTRF). I am pleased to say that this year's version will enjoy the co-sponsorship of several of our colleagues from the majority party.

I am here today to highlight unique features of our bill so that you might consider them in any discussion you may have on this subject.

First, our bill limits the relief to residential properties only. I believe this feature is important as the problem of rising property taxes are most acute for that class of property. I also believe it helps address a long developing problem of a shift onto residential properties. In addition, it allows us to compound the relief directed to beleaguered home owners.

Secondly, the bill also extends the relief to the original 3.63% of State sales and use taxes as designed under the original LAVTRF statute—currently estimated at approximately \$130,000,000.

Lastly, language is included in our version of the legislation that directs the relief go directly to the taxpayer and not to local units of government to bolster their budgeted spending.