



**Oral Proponent Testimony on
SB 2
House Committee on Local Government**

**By
Shannon Kimball
Government Relations Specialist**

**Kansas Association of School Boards
skimball@kasb.org**

March 5, 2025

Chair Bergquist and Members of the Committee,

KASB appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2. Our member-adopted permanent policies on local bond issues and local board authority over decision making about facilities and district operations provide as follows:

Capital costs should continue to be the responsibility of local districts through local bond issues and capital outlay levies, provided both receive state equalization aid that meets constitutional standards of equity. Arbitrary limits on the amount of school district bond issues should not be imposed.

. . . .

As the constitutional authority charged with the management of local schools, the school board is accountable to district patrons through the electoral process and must be the final authority on local management decisions for expenditures, personnel, facilities, and programs.

We offer support of SB 2, as it will ensure fairness and uniformity of access to bond funds for USD 200 as compared to other districts across Kansas. Further, and most importantly, the bill ensures that the will of the voters in USD 200 Greeley County Public Schools is carried out regarding their bond issue vote in May 2024.

The application of the statutes requiring publication of notice on a county website is, in this circumstance, fundamentally unfair. If that interpretation were to be carried forward in the future, the statute would prevent USD 200 from implementing the will of its voters and from meeting the facilities needs of its students and staff. A school district has no authority over or

ability to control the actions of the county government as to whether the county creates and maintains a website that would allow the district to comply with the strict letter of the law in these circumstances. Given what seem to be the unintended consequences of the inconsistent and overly-strict application of the web publication statutes' language to the facts at hand, we ask the committee to prioritize fairness and good public policy by supporting this bill.

Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.