



To: House Taxation Committee
From: Kim Winn, Deputy Director
Date: January 26, 2012
Re: Support for HB 2176

On behalf of the member cities of the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM), thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of HB 2176. LKM has long had a policy position in favor of altering the date that property taxes must be certified to the county clerk, and for this reason, we wholeheartedly support HB 2176.

The certification date of August 25th has been in state law since the statute itself was first enacted in 1876. Certainly, technology has been developed and efficiency has been improved since 1876. We would argue that the proliferation of e-government services and modern technology should dictate a change in this antiquated statute.

Since 2009, all taxing subdivisions have been required to submit their budgets to the county clerk electronically (K.S.A. 79-2930). Clearly, this mandate has allowed for greater efficiencies to be realized making it appropriate at this time to offer greater flexibility to those cities in the making of their budgets.

Moving the date back to September 25 would enable local governments to be more accurate throughout their budgeting process. As government at all levels struggles to find that difficult balance between services and taxes, we believe that good government requires that we rely on the most up-to-date, accurate information possible when making critical decisions about the burden that local taxpayers will have to bear.

Cities receive information regarding assessed valuation on July 1 of each year, leaving only a few weeks to complete a budget following that critical piece of information. In addition, during those weeks, the assessed valuation numbers are often changing as a result of appeals working their way through the process. Moving the budget submission date to September 25th would allow for more of those appeals to be completed and the data upon which budgets are based to be more certain.

We believe that HB 2176 is a common sense piece of legislation whose time has certainly come. We would be happy to work with the Committee to provide any information or assistance that we can. And, I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.