



BUTLER COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

January 23, 2012

The Honorable Richard Carlson, Chairperson
House Committee on Taxation
Statehouse, Room 274-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Carlson and distinguished members of the Taxation Committee;

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition of HB 2176.

HB 2176 would not cause a financial impact to the State, but certainly would for Butler County.

I have 3 employees that work for 9 weeks to get the tax bills ready by November 1st. It is not possible to take 4 weeks out of a 9 week schedule without severe impact. I would need to hire an additional full-time and one part-time person to compress the schedule from 9 weeks to 5 weeks. This would be an additional cost that my Commissioners would not be happy about and I would have extra staff I would not need the rest of the year. The other option would be to try to get by with temporary, inexperienced help increasing the chance for errors. It is not possible to fix mill levy errors after the tax bills have been mailed out.

The August 25th deadline date for budgets to be turned in is only one in a series of dates in the Ad Valorem tax collection and distribution process. Do not be hasty and drastically change one without looking at and adjusting the dates that follow. I have a November 1st deadline to give the tax bills to the Treasurer to be mailed out. This would need to be moved to December 1st to avoid negatively impacting the Clerk's Office. The tax bills would not be received in time for the December 20th deadline to have taxes paid. The tax deadline should be moved to January 20th to compensate. The Treasurer distributes the taxes collected in December on January 20th. To compensate for the new tax due date, the tax distribution to the governing bodies would need to be moved to February 20th to give all departments involved the same amount of time to get their work done as they currently have.

This would cause the governing bodies to get their money 30 days later than accustomed to. Are the entities requesting this change going to be okay with that? I do not believe they realize the work involved.

After receiving the property values from the Appraiser by June 15th, there are many steps and processes that my office goes through before turning the tax bills over to the Treasurer by November 1st. I will not take your time at this point, but would be happy to go over the details of this process with any or all of you.

Butler is a large county with a lot of governing bodies submitting budgets to us for processing. In addition to calculating the taxes in even numbered years, we are conducting major elections at the same time.

I wish to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my views with you and recommend not supporting HB 2176.

Ronald Roberts
Butler County Clerk & Election Officer

Ron Roberts, County Clerk