

House Taxation
Date: 1/26/2012
Attachment: 15

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of House Bill 2176, regarding moving the budget submission date from August 25 to September 25.

As Cowley County Clerk I also serve as the Election Officer with a staff of four including myself. Cowley County population is 36,311. Once all 64 budgets are submitted to my office they must be checked, entered into the system and levies calculated and then levies must be checked. All of this must be complete and certified to the County Treasurer according to Statute by November 1. Several districts cross county lines so until the levy is set and sent to the other counties they also must wait to finish certification to the Treasurer's Office. As Election Officer I also administer Elections. In even years the General Election is the first part of November which is also the same time levies are set which makes October an extremely busy month. Those 30 days are critical to accurately and efficiently setting levies.

Moving the budget submission date to September 25 will not allow adequate time to check budgets, set levies and also administer Elections in an efficient manner.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Karen D. Defore
Cowley County Clerk/Election Officer