



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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Testimony before the
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
on
HB 2237 - Municipalities; pertaining to using the internet for official publications

by

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Association of School Boards has previously supported legislation that would allow school districts to publish required public notices on the internet rather than through purchasing notices in official local newspapers.

Although school districts are not currently included in **HB 2237**, KASB would support amending this bill to include districts if the committee chooses to endorse legislation with this intent.

Attached below is a listing of required school district public notices identified by the KASB research department. School districts are not required to publish as many notices as cities and counties, and likely have lower costs. However, options for reducing expenditures are always appreciated.

We further support making this an option, rather than a requirement, for local school boards, who may believe it is appropriate to continue to provide public notices in local papers. KASB believes local elected officials are in the best position to evaluate the overall impact of changes designed to reduce costs, and are the most directly accountable to local voters for those decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

KANSAS PUBLIC NEWSPAPER NOTICES

- **Bond Election Notices**

The board shall give notice of a bond election in the manner prescribed in K.S.A. 10-120, and the election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the general bond law. The notice of a bond election called pursuant to K.S.A. 72-6761 must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district once each week for **two** consecutive weeks, with the first publication occurring not less than 21 days prior to the election.

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- **Published Resolution of a Lease-Purchase Agreement**

The board of education of a unified school district is required under K.S.A. 10-1116c to publish a resolution stating its intention to enter a lease-purchase agreement when the agreement involves the acquisition of land or buildings, is for a term exceeding the current fiscal year of the district, and provides for yearly payments that in total exceed \$100,000. The resolution shall be published once each week for **two** consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality.

- **Notice of School District Elections**

Notices of board member elections and question submitted elections of a school district shall be made as provided in K.S.A. 25-2018. On or before January 15, the county election officer shall publish a notice of election **one** time in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district.

- **School Board Vacancy Notices**

When a vacancy occurs, the board shall publish a notice **one** time in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district stating that the vacancy has occurred and that it will be filled by appointment by the board not sooner than fifteen (15) days after such publication. K.S.A. 25-2022.

- **Publication of a Tax Levy**

According to K.S.A. 72-8801, the board of education of any school district may make an annual tax levy at a mill rate not to exceed the statutorily prescribed mill rate for a period of not to exceed five years upon the taxable tangible property in the school district. No levy shall be made until a resolution is adopted by the board and published once a week for **two** consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district.

- **School Building Bonds**

According to K.S.A. 75-2317, notice of the intention to make an application for a school building bond shall be given to the electors by a publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district, in a form to be prescribed by the state board of education.

- **Local Option Budget**

According to K.S.A. 72-6433, the board of any district may adopt, by a majority vote of the members, a local option budget in each school year. In lieu of utilizing this option for adoption of a local option budget, the board of a district may pass a resolution authorizing adoption of such a budget and publish such resolution **once** in a newspaper having general circulation in the district.

- **Closing School Buildings**

According to K.S.A. 72-8213, the board, by adoption of a resolution, may close any school building at any time it determines the building should be closed to improve the school system of the unified school district. Prior to adopting such a resolution, the board shall call and hold a hearing on the proposal. The notice of such hearing shall be published at least once each week for **two** consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district. The last publication shall be at least 10 but not more than 20 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

- **Transfer of School District Territory**

According to K.S.A. 72-7108, transfers of territory from one district to another shall be made only after notice of the public hearing on such a petition has been published by the state board of education for **two** consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the district from which territory is to be transferred, the last publication to be not more than 10 nor less than three days prior to the date of the hearing.