



Sedgwick County...
working for you

Sedgwick County Treasurer

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Linda Kizzire
Treasurer

Mailing Address:

To: House Committee on Local Government

P.O. Box 2961, Wichita, KS 67201-2961

From: Linda Kizzire, Sedgwick County Treasurer

Personal Property/Real Estate Taxes
Auto License

Date: February 17, 2015

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Re: House Bill 2235

www.sedgwickcounty.org

Chairman Huebert and Members of the Local Government Committee:

I am not in support of House Bill 2235 which would make changes to Kansas Statutes 19-501 and 19-504 to allow the board of county commissioners of any county with a population of 50,000 or more may submit to an election the question of abolishing the office of county treasurer and providing instead the appointment of such office by the board of county commissioners by passage of a resolution calling for such election.

Democracy, it's our system of government. While it's not the most efficient, nor the most streamlined, I still believe it's the best government system in the world. A benevolent king might be more efficient, but we have all seen examples of dictatorships and the disruption of governmental functions that result from this type of system. With our democratic form of government, all Americans can and should vote. Thus, the elections become a circuit breaker for elected officials who abuse their offices and do not represent the people who elected them. For example, would you want the President chosen by Congress? Perhaps, if the Internal Revenue Service Commissioner was an elected position, as is the local tax collector the county treasurer, there would not have been the hearings in Congress regarding the collection abuses. Those abuses were in the newspaper headlines across the country. More importantly, changing our form of government requires a change in political will for the people and results in a system that becomes that much harder for the average citizen to obtain redress. And most often you can't go back. As an elected official for the entire county, I represent 100% of the citizens, not just a percentage. I have a vested interest in citizen service and feel compelled to provide solutions to the problems brought to me, regardless of the department responsible for providing the answer sought by the citizen. I believe this results in better citizen service. The more levels of supervision between the customer and the decision maker, the longer it takes to respond to customer need. The fewer levels of supervision between the decision maker the more collaboration, flexibility and effectiveness can be provided. Creating a bureaucracy will not provide good customer service. Leading by example and encouraging the "we are here to help you" attitude goes a long way toward satisfying citizen requests.