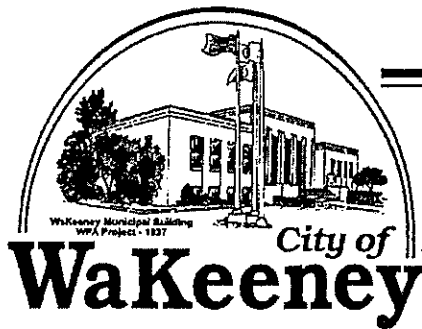




408 Russell Ave.
P.O. Box 157
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785-743-5791
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Kenneth Roy, Mayor
Hardy Howard, City Administrator/Clerk

March 4, 2016

To: Chairman Marvin KleeB, House Taxation Committee
From: Hardy D. Howard, City Administrator, City of WaKeeney
RE: Written Testimony Supporting HB 2609

Dear Chairman KleeB & Committee Members:

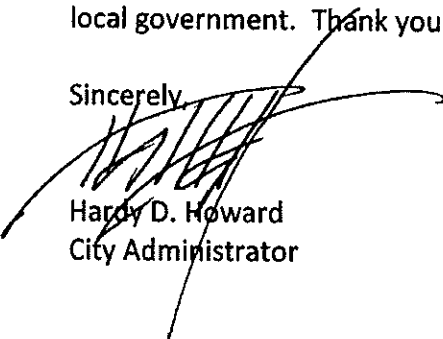
Thank you for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities and their member cities to support HB 2609.

The law that created this tax lid in the 2015 legislative session was done with no bill, no hearing, and most importantly no input from city officials. Does anyone in this room really think that makes good public policy? Many of you in the state legislature rail about the intrusion of the federal government into state rights or state issues. Well, now I know how you feel.

Cities need the ability to generate new revenues from property taxes to provide essential public services like streets, fire and police protection. I have attached a spreadsheet detailing the City of WaKeeney's mill levy and associated property tax that has been generated since 1996 along with the Consumer Price Index for that same time period. Clearly, over the years our elected officials have been responsible in their use of property tax dollars. I see no need for the Kansas Legislature to intervene in an obvious local issue.

We oppose any tax lid but we support the sensible options that HB 2609 provides to local government. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Hardy D. Howard
City Administrator

**City of WaKeeney
Property Tax History**

YEAR	MILL LEVY	VALUATION	PROPERTY TAX	YEARLY % CHANGE
1996	71.008	\$ 6,233,788	\$ 442,648	-
1997	69.010	\$ 6,590,591	\$ 454,819	2.75%
1998	68.701	\$ 6,751,214	\$ 463,811	1.98%
1999	72.292	\$ 6,605,404	\$ 477,502	2.95%
2000	65.258	\$ 7,539,116	\$ 491,988	3.03%
2001	62.808	\$ 7,550,642	\$ 474,244	-3.61%
2002	64.275	\$ 7,793,796	\$ 500,951	5.63%
2003	66.088	\$ 8,027,059	\$ 530,494	5.90%
2004	68.508	\$ 8,374,688	\$ 573,731	8.15%
2005	67.747	\$ 8,376,813	\$ 567,330	-1.12%
2006	67.523	\$ 8,462,411	\$ 571,226	0.69%
2007	64.328	\$ 9,194,932	\$ 591,571	3.56%
2008	58.085	\$ 9,436,739	\$ 547,968	-7.37%
2009	60.250	\$ 9,458,535	\$ 569,877	4.00%
2010	60.146	\$ 9,860,368	\$ 593,071	4.07%
2011	60.440	\$ 10,234,511	\$ 618,572	4.30%
2012	59.178	\$ 10,447,578	\$ 618,268	-0.05%
2013	59.667	\$ 10,374,756	\$ 619,027	0.12%
2014	61.121	\$ 10,697,074	\$ 653,088	5.50%
2015	60.536	\$ 11,069,186	\$ 670,106	2.61%
AVG	64.35	3.88%	2.57%	2.27%

Year	Average CPI
2014	1.60%
2013	1.50%
2012	2.10%
2011	3.20%
2010	1.60%
2009	-0.40%
2008	3.80%
2007	2.80%
2006	3.20%
2005	3.40%
2004	2.68%
2003	2.27%
2002	1.59%
2001	2.83%
2000	3.38%
1999	2.19%
1998	1.55%
1997	2.34%
1996	2.93%
1995	2.81%
AVERAGE CPI	2.37%

Updated 6/10/15