



City of Leawood

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March 4, 2016

Chairman Les Donovan
Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
Kansas State Capital
300 SW 10th Street
Room 548-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 316

Dear Chairman Donovan and Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee:

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition and urge you to not support Senate Bill 316.

My primary opposition to Senate Bill No. 316 is the acceleration of the current effective date for the imposition of a property tax lid from January 2018 to July 2016. The current date of January 2018 provides ample time for the State's political subdivisions to adapt to the new revenue constraints. By accelerating the date to July 2016 means that property tax revenue available to a city or county will not be known until after July 1st of this year. The City of Leawood's 2017 annual budget process is currently scheduled to be completed during the first week of June. The proposed budget is scheduled to be published in July, with final approval scheduled for August.

If the July 2016 implementation date of the property tax lid goes into effect, the preliminary approval for publication will not take place until the County certifies the City's assessed valuation. This typically occurs during the first week of July, but it is not uncommon for the County to issue a recertification notice several days later. This means that the Governing Body will not be able to complete the 2017 budget process until mid-to-late July making it very difficult to meet the August 25th deadline.

It is my request that if you and members of your committee are insistent on accelerating the implementation date, that you consider the date of January 2017, to allow the current 2017 budget preparations to proceed without creating a significant disruption this year. While the January 2017 implementation date will result in the same problematic situation for the 2018 budget and beyond, the delay will provide time for city and county budget schedules to be adjusted to this new reality.

Thank you for your consideration of my position.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF LEAWOOD, KANSAS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy J. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PEGGY J. DUNN

Mayor

cc: Leawood City Councilmembers
Scott Lambers, City Administrator