



March 8, 2016

To: Chairman Les Donovan, Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Laurie Dove, Mayor of Valley Center, Kansas
Subject: Written Testimony Opposing SB 316

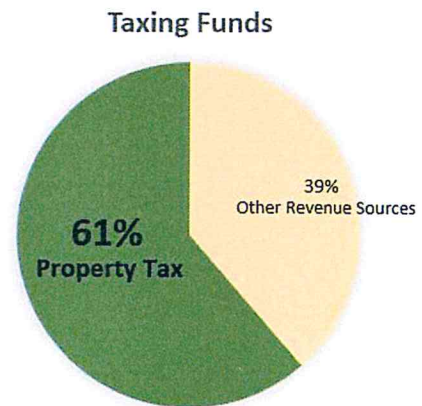
The City of Valley Center Kansas, considers fiscal management a top priority and opposes SB316 which makes a bad situation (current tax lid law passed in the 2015 Legislative Session) worse. SB316 not only moves up the effective date for implementation but measures inflation based on eggs and milk when the City of Valley Center buys concrete and fuel.

Valley Center seeks to provide high-quality public services that meet citizen expectations. Local governments are responsible for financing and providing an array of public services ranging from police and fire to streets, parks and personnel. These types of expenditures are 61% funded by property taxes.

SB316 is in direct conflict with our long-range planning for growth and expanded infrastructure. In recent years, our residents have invested in major storm water projects on arterial streets. These projects have improved drainage for the city and have created numerous economic development opportunities. This is only our first step in improving services to the community and as our city grows so does our responsibilities to the public.

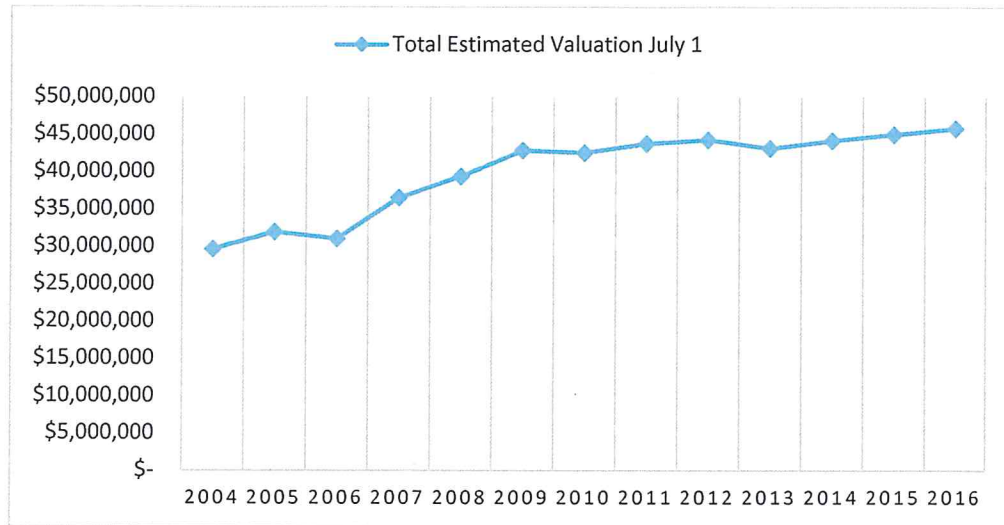
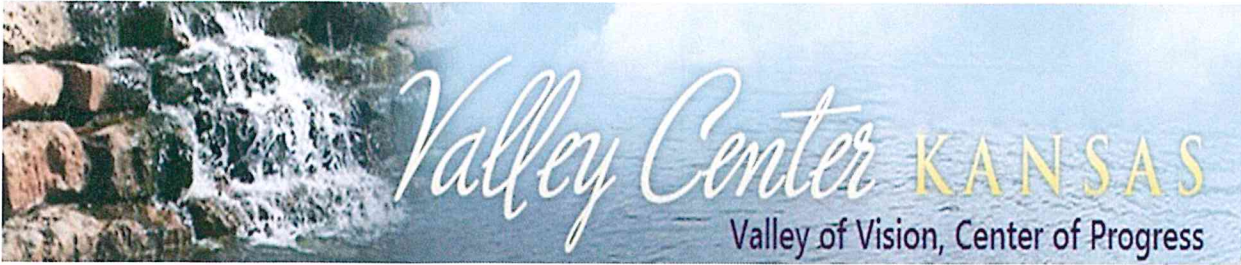
These types of infrastructure projects, sidewalk improvements and park renovations have led to an increase in our assessed valuation over the years. This increase in valuation has allowed us to make improvements to the city without a sharp increase to the mill levy rate. Putting a lid on the assessed valuation increases in Kansas resembles rent control measures in New York. Please allow the market and local control to run our cities and oppose SB316.

The City of Valley Center supports HB2609 because it corrects some of the unnecessary burden imposed on local governments in 2015. Thank you for your time and we appreciate your consideration in this matter.



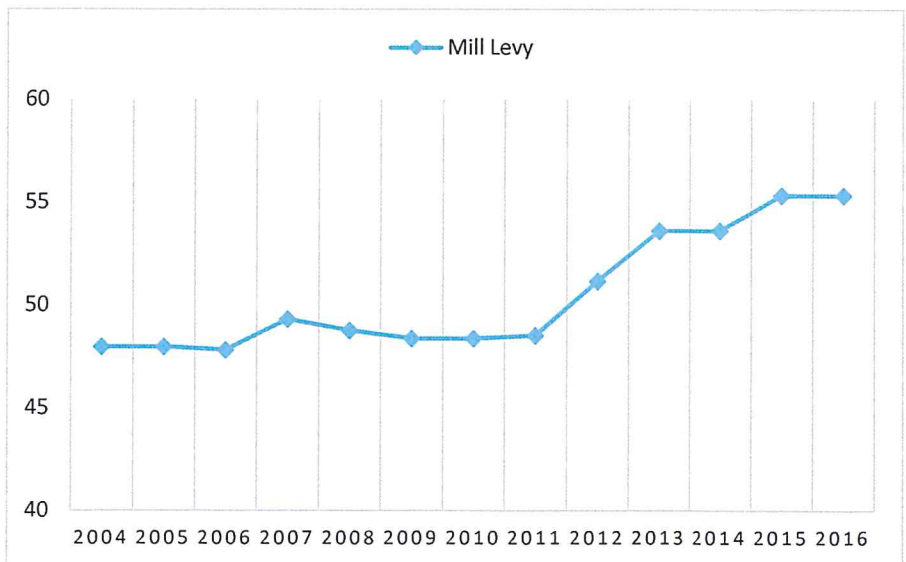
Sincerely,

Laurie Dove
Mayor City of Valley Center, Kansas



Valley Center Budget Documents 2004-2016

Budget Year	Mill Levy	% Change
2004	47.969	
2005	47.969	0%
2006	47.813	-0.30%
2007	49.310	3.13%
2008	48.761	-1.11%
2009	48.367	-0.81%
2010	48.367	0%
2011	48.516	0.31%
2012	51.168	5.47%
2013	53.609	4.77%
2014	53.621	0.02%
2015	55.337	3.20%
2016	55.337	0%



Valley Center Budget Documents 2004-2016