

Dave Jones, Chair
Lon E. Pishny
Bill Clifford, MD
Larry Jones
Duane Drees

March 7, 2016

To: Chairman Les Donovan
Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Finney County Commissioners
Subject: Written Testimony Opposing SB 316

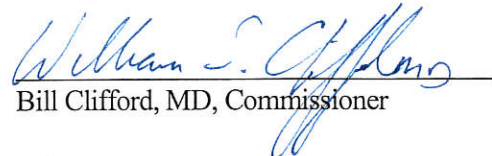
The Finney County Commissioners are in opposition of Senate Bill 316.

Senate Bill 316 goes against the intent of local control. All county commissions are elected by citizens/voters of their respective County. There is no policy and/or legislation approved by the county commissioners that is more important than the annual operating budget and capital improvement program. Finney County has historically approved budgets that have shown a yearly tax revenue increase slower than the consumer price index. To require the county government to spend \$10,000-15,000 on a special election if a tax increase is higher than the CPI undermines the role of an elected governing body.

Having an election between the July 1st date of assessed valuation notices and the August 25th date to turn in adopted budgets to the County Clerk is unrealistic. Along with the July 1st date, the State of Kansas does not send counties their State Assessed Valuations until June 15th, so changing the valuation and budget timeline would need to be considered before an election for tax increases would be workable.

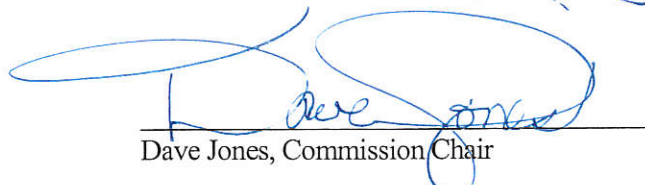
Sincerely,


Lon E. Pishny, Commissioner


Bill Clifford, MD, Commissioner


Duane Drees, Commissioner


Larry Jones, Commissioner


Dave Jones, Commission Chair