



City of Lawrence

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DIANE STODDARD
INTERIM CITY MANAGER

City Offices
PO Box 708 66044-0708
www.lawrenceks.org

6 East 6th St
785-832-3000
FAX 785-832-3405

CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR
MIKE AMYX

COMMISSIONERS
LESLIE SODEN
STUART BOLEY
MATTHEW J. HERBERT
LISA LARSEN

February 29, 2016

Senator Ty Masterson
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Room 548-S, Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Masterson and Senate Ways and Means Committee Members,

The City of Lawrence strongly opposes SB 403. It places a heavy administrative burden on cities, increases costs for cities in new tracking and reporting requirements, and sweeps municipal revenues to State coffers.

Under New Section 1 of the bill, it is highly unlikely the City of Lawrence will have to remit any revenue from traffic infractions to the State because the City's revenues from traffic infractions are well below the 10% threshold in the bill. Adding another annual report to the State will increase the workload of municipal employees and state employees, with no new revenues to the State from the City of Lawrence.

New Section 2 of the bill will require 70% of all revenue collected from traffic infractions on State or US highways to be submitted to the State of Kansas. This will cause our City to have to expend precious public resources to track the location of citations issued for the reporting requirements of this bill. We will incur costs associated with new software programming. There will be increased staff time to complete the reports, and will take already busy staff away from other important municipal duties. It is also unfair to transfer municipal revenues to the State. It is not the local governments, or its taxpayers that caused the State's fiscal crisis.

Finally, the penalties imposed by the bill on cities and counties that fail to submit the required financial reports or fail to timely remit the appropriate amounts to the State are deeply disturbing and do not make good public policy. To suspend a municipal court's jurisdiction will only harm the innocent victims of crimes who will be further inconvenienced by delays and a transfer to District Court. Withholding a municipality's sales tax disbursements from the State is unjust to the many citizens who rely upon critical municipal services. For these reasons, we ask that you reject Senate Bill 403.

Sincerely,

Mike Amyx
Mayor



We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence Community