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Coffeyville, Kansas 67337-0949

March 8, 2017

To: Chairman Steven Johnson and House Taxation Committee:
From: Kendal Francis, City Manager
Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2376

Dear Chairman Johnson:

As you are aware, current law (KSA 79-2925c) caps cities' and counties' ability to raise property tax revenue above the "tax Lid", which is defined as the five-year rolling average of the Consumer Price Index, without a vote by the public to exceed the statutory limit. While I vehemently oppose the entirety of the laws, the public vote requirement is at best flawed, and incomplete. Other than stating an election can be held at the August primary, November general election, special election or by mail-in ballot election to be completed on or before September 15, there is little direction. Additionally, an election costs the City of Coffeyville Approximately \$3,100. While that is not a tremendously large amount of money, it is counterintuitive to mandate that money be spent to hold an election to ask the public's permission to spend more money.

Therefore, I would wholeheartedly support replacing the flawed and incomplete mandatory election process with a protest petition driven election with a structured process that is discretionary with the electors.

I believe local government leaders to be excellent stewards of the public's money and do not arbitrarily choose to raise the mill levy. Cost drivers such as health care increase, pension costs and commodity increases necessitate increase. The protest petition election would allow local leaders an opportunity to educate its taxpayers regarding the need to increase the budget beyond the tax lid limit. Furthermore, the cost of holding an election, simply because the proposed budget exceeds the tax lid limit is avoided.

Finally, it is important to understand the tax the protest petition election does not alter the tax lid law, but merely addresses the election process making it more functional for local governments while ensuring the public has a voice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kendal Francis", is written over a printed name and title.

Kendal Francis
City Manager