



To: Committee on House Taxation

FROM: The City of Olathe

DATE: March 16, 2017

SUBJECT: Written Support of SB 167

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The City of Olathe stands in support of SB 167 as an effort to improve the current tax lid.

The City opposes the lid for a number of reasons, most importantly including loss of local control. The City believes local voters expect and deserve local issues debated, discussed and determined at the local level, just as state and federal issues should be addressed at those respective levels. The City consistently opposes efforts to undermine that locally elected voice, just as our state legislators oppose federal efforts to undermine theirs.

Also of concern is the cost associated with elections. Depending on the ballot, elections can cost taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. If there is not opposition to a local government accepting certain revenue associated with assessed valuation growth, that money would simply be wasted.

The City believes a protest petition requirement rather than a mandatory vote would address that potential waste. A protest petition is a reasonable safeguard to ensure a public vote would occur if there is a reasonable amount of opposition.

As such, the City believes SB 167 is an improvement to current law.