

CITY OF EUDORA RESOLUTION 2019-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING KANSAS SENATE BILL 59 (2019) ESTABLISHING THE EUDORA COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT ACT.

WHEREAS, the City of Eudora, Kansas (the "City"), and the Eudora Township (the "Township") have previously established the Eudora Township Public Library (the "Library") pursuant to the provisions of the township library act, K.S.A. 12-1218 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, the Library is located within the City, and the Library has served the residents of both the Township and the City since at least 1968;

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Library, the Township and the City have jointly maintained the Library through the Eudora Township Public Library Board (the "Library Board");

WHEREAS, pursuant to K.S.A. 15-104, cities of the third class are a part of the corporate limits of the townships in which they are situated, whereas pursuant to K.S.A. 80-1404, cities of the first and second classes are excluded from townships;

WHEREAS, at the time the Library was established, the City was a city of the third class, but, in 2011, became a city of the second class and, therefore, is no longer considered within the corporate limits of the Township, such that the status of the Library is unclear;

WHEREAS, there has been introduced into the Kansas State Senate, Senate Bill No. 59 (2019), the Eudora Community Library District Act (the "Act"), which Act has been referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government; and

WHEREAS, SB 59 would provide clarity as to the legal status of the Library and help ensure the continued availability of the Library and its resources to the Eudora community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF EUDORA, KANSAS, as follows

Section 1. The above recitals are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. The City of Eudora, Kansas, supports Kansas Senate Bill No. 59 (2019) establishing the Eudora Community Library District Act, and recommends its passage as introduced.

Adopted this 11th day of February 2019, by the Governing Body of the City of Eudora, Kansas.

APPROVED:

By: _____

Tim Reazin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Schmeck
Pam Schmeck, City Clerk

EUDORA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 19-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING KANSAS SENATE BILL 59 (2019)
ESTABLISHING THE EUDORA COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT ACT.

WHEREAS, the City of Eudora, Kansas (the "City"), and the Eudora Township (the "Township") have previously established the Eudora Township Public Library (the "Library") pursuant to the provisions of the township library act, K.S.A. 12-1218 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, the Library is located within the City, and the Library has served the residents of both the Township and the City since at least 1968;

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Library, the Township and the City have jointly maintained the Library through the Eudora Township Public Library Board (the "Library Board");

WHEREAS, pursuant to K.S.A. 15-104, cities of the third class are a part of the corporate limits of the townships in which they are situated, whereas pursuant to K.S.A. 80-1404, cities of the first and second classes are excluded from townships;

WHEREAS, at the time the Library was established, the City was a city of the third class, but, in 2011, became a city of the second class and, therefore, is no longer considered within the corporate limits of the Township, such that the status of the Library is unclear;

WHEREAS, there has been introduced into the Kansas State Senate, Senate Bill No. 59 (2019), the Eudora Community Library District Act (the "Act"), which Act has been referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government; and

WHEREAS, SB 59 would provide clarity as to the legal status of the Library and help ensure the continued availability of the Library and its resources to the Eudora community.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE EUDORA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY, as follows

Section 1. The above recitals are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

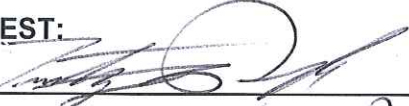
Section 2. The Eudora Township Public Library Board supports Kansas Senate Bill No. 59 (2019) establishing the Eudora Community Library District Act, and recommends its passage as introduced.

Adopted this 6th day of February 2019, by the Board of the Eudora Township Public Library.

APPROVED:

By: 
Printed Name: Eric Mazette
Title: ETPL Board President

ATTEST:

By: 
Printed Name: Timothy J. Pringle
Title: Board Member

EUDORA TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION NO. 1

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING KANSAS SENATE BILL 59 (2019)
ESTABLISHING THE EUDORA COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT ACT.

WHEREAS, the City of Eudora, Kansas (the "City"), and the Eudora Township (the "Township") have previously established the Eudora Township Public Library (the "Library") pursuant to the provisions of the township library act, K.S.A. 12-1218 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, the Library is located within the City, and the Library has served the residents of both the Township and the City since at least 1968;

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Library, the Township and the City have jointly maintained the Library through the Eudora Township Public Library Board (the "Library Board");

WHEREAS, pursuant to K.S.A. 15-104, cities of the third class are a part of the corporate limits of the townships in which they are situated, whereas pursuant to K.S.A. 80-1404, cities of the first and second classes are excluded from townships;

WHEREAS, at the time the Library was established, the City was a city of the third class, but, in 2011, became a city of the second class and, therefore, is no longer considered within the corporate limits of the Township, such that the status of the Library is unclear;

WHEREAS, there has been introduced into the Kansas State Senate, Senate Bill No. 59 (2019), the Eudora Community Library District Act (the "Act"), which Act has been referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government; and

WHEREAS, SB 59 would provide clarity as to the legal status of the Library and help ensure the continued availability of the Library and its resources to the Eudora community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE EUDORA TOWNSHIP, as follows

Section 1. The above recitals are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. The Eudora Township supports Kansas Senate Bill No. 59 (2019) establishing the Eudora Community Library District Act, and recommends its passage as introduced.

Adopted this 5 day of February 2019, by the governing body of the Eudora Township.

APPROVED:

By: Bob Rice

Printed Name: BOB RICE

Title: TRUSTEE - EUDORA TOWNSHIP

ATTEST:

By: Keith Kuabe

Printed Name: Keith Kuabe

Title: clerk - Eudora township



To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 59

Date: February 6, 2019

Honorable Chairperson Bowers and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tim Reazin, I am the Mayor of Eudora, Kansas. I am speaking on behalf of the Eudora City Commission and as a Eudora resident, in support of Senate Bill 59, an Act relating to Eudora Community Library. In 1968, both City and Township residents seeing a need for a library, voted to establish one that would serve the community. Prior to 2011, the City of Eudora was a third-class City thus part of the Eudora Township.

The Eudora Township Public Library has passionately served people in my City. Over the years, I have watched the Library provide outstanding services to community members. They are no longer just checking out books, they are offering programs and events such as; Summer Reading, Adult Reading Classes, workshops, Story Time, Youth Programs, among others. They provide all these services to not only make Eudora a desirable place to live but to make our lives better.

About two years ago, the Library worked with community members to form a nonprofit organization called Feeding Eudora. This was an organization created to feed those children that need food during the summer time when the schools are closed yet they need food. Because of their effort, many children in my community will at least have a meal in the summer.

Our Library is innovative, progressive, adaptive and always there to fill gaps the City is not always equipped or resourced to fill. I believe because of their autonomy, they can rapidly respond to community needs. Senate Bill 59 will fortify the Library's independence and allow the Library Board to broaden their vision, expand programs, and continue with their effort to make the Library the place to go for services residents need to live a dignified life.

The Library is a critical partner in our quest to make Eudora the best place to live, work, play and raise a family. We cannot enhance the quality of life of all residents without the Library. We need to ensure its continued existence. Senate Bill 59 does this. I urge you to pass SB 59 as introduced.

Thank you for allowing me to address the Committee in support of SB 59.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Reazin", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Reazin
Mayor

Date: February 5th, 2019
To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government
From: Eudora Township Board
Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 59

Dear Chairperson Bower and Members of the Committee:

On February 5th, 2019 we passed Resolution No. 1. The resolution is in support of Senate Bill 59, an Act relating to Eudora Community Library. In addition to the resolution, please accept this letter as an indication of our unequivocal support of SB 59.


In 1968, residents of the Eudora Township voted to establish a Library that would provide a much-needed service. As the community has grown, we have witnessed the Library transform and respond to the many needs that come with growth. They have hired professional staff, developed summer programs, created opportunities for adults to learn and interact with their children, developed workshops, and created reading programs for children. The Library has also become a cybercafé for those without access to the internet.

Much of the Library's initiatives have happened with limited input from us. The Library Board members, their executive director and staff are and have been running the Library. They care about the community and are passionate about the Library and the services they offer. As the Library Board continues to do its work and strategically plan for the future, board members need certainty and independence. Senate Bill 59, as present, provides the much-needed certainty and autonomy.


Prior to 2011, the City of Eudora was part of the Eudora Township. Even after becoming a second-class city, the City of Eudora and its residents have continued to support the Library. Residents from both the City and the Township have always viewed this Library as a community Library; that is, a Library that serves all those who live in the City of Eudora and Eudora Township. It is time for the Library to formally be its own entity and represent our community as its founder envisioned. Senate Bill 59 will do this.

Again, we ask that you approve Senate Bill 59 as introduced.

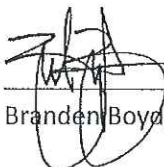
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address you in support of Senate Bill 59.



Bob Rice, Eudora Township Trustee



Keith Knabe, Clerk



Branden Boyd, Treasurer



To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
From: Barack Matite, City manager
Date: February 5th, 2019
Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 59

Honorable Chairperson Bowers and Members of the Committee:

In 1968, the Eudora Township Public Library was established to serve Township residents. At the time, the city of Eudora, as a third-class city, was part of the Eudora Township. The Library has been located within the corporate limits of the City since its inception and residents of both the City and the Township have jointly provided the revenue needed for its maintenance and operations.

In December 2010, the city of Eudora was declared a city of the second-class; thus, per state statute (K.S.A. 15-104), the City was no longer considered part of the Eudora Township. With this classification, the Township lost its authority to directly receive revenues from City residents, however, both the City and the Township entered into an interlocal agreement to allow this to continue. The interlocal agreement is only a temporary fix as it does not address issues such as:

- Governance (statutorily, who needs to be on the Library Board? How do they get to be on the board?)
- Funding (the interlocal agreement is renewed annually, what happens if it's not renewed?)
- Bonding (if the Library Board desires to issue bonds, who would participate in the ballot initiative?)
- Sustenance (the Library needs revenue from both the City and the Township, what happens if one of the two governing bodies decide not to fund it or limit its funding?)

The issues above, among others, can only be addressed by Senate Bill 59. Currently, no state statute exists that can address our situation in Eudora. If it did, we would not be before you. As presented, Senate Bill 59 is the only path forward for us to honor the founders of the Eudora Township Public Library and make sure it is sustainable moving forward. I urge you to pass SB 59 as introduced.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you in support of SB 59.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Barack Matite", is written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Barack Matite
City Manager

Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government
Room 142-S
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Honorable Senators:

Senate Bill 59, The Eudora Community Library District Act, is an important bill for the continued viability of a public library in the Eudora community, and I am here today to request your support for a bill that will allow our community to offer exceptional library services to residents of both the City of Eudora and the Eudora Township for generations to come.

The Eudora Township Public Library (ETPL) was established in 1968 by a vote of the residents of the Eudora Township, which at the time included the City of Eudora. For 50 years, our library has served both the City and Township of Eudora as a Township library in name, but as a community library in purpose. This community partnership has allowed our library to continually grow and expand the programs and services it offers, meeting the unique needs of children, teens, adults and senior citizens. The library also has served as a partner to the Feeding Eudora program, which provides free lunches to all residents during the summer months when our schools are closed.

In 2011, due to continued population growth, the City of Eudora changed from being classified as a city of the third class to a city of the second class. One of the unintended consequences of this change was that the City of Eudora was legally removed from the Eudora Township municipality. This left the future of the library in question, as neither the Township nor the City has the tax base on its own to continue to appropriately fund a community library without imposing a substantial tax burden on their residents. As a temporary solution to this issue, the City and Township have entered into a series of annual agreements to jointly fund the continued operation of the library. Since city residents are no longer eligible to sit on the library board, however, these agreements do not constitute a long-term solution.

Senate Bill 59 is the result of a multi-year, collaborative effort between the Eudora Township, the ETPL board of trustees, and the City of Eudora to find a meaningful resolution to this problem. SB59 will allow our community library to continue to thrive in its service to our community by clarifying its governance, simplifying the funding mechanisms for it, and ensuring equal and adequate representation for all citizens on the library board of directors -- all while holding our taxpayers harmless.

The Eudora Township Public Library is our community library, and our hope is that it can continue to operate as it has for the past 50 years: as a partnership between the Eudora City and Township. Senate Bill 59 makes this possible. This bill is important for not just to our library, but more importantly to our community. I encourage you to vote in favor of it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Magette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "M".

Eric Magette, President
ETPL Board of Trustees

To: Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: February 12, 2019

RE: Support for SB 59, Written Only

I want to thank Chairwoman Bowers and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 59.

The League of Kansas Municipalities has been working with the City of Eudora to find a solution to what appears to have been an unanticipated consequence of being declared a city of the second class in 2010. When Eudora transitioned to a city of the second class, statutorily it was no longer considered part of the library district. Cities of the third class remain a part of the territorial jurisdiction limits of the township under K.S.A. 15-104; however, cities of the first and second class are specifically excluded from the corporate limits of any township under K.S.A. 80-1404. Under K.S.A. 12-1231, a city of the third class can form a library district with its territorial township. Despite no longer being a city of the third class, the citizens of Eudora desire to continue to be part of the library district that has existed for fifty years with equal representation with the Eudora township. Because of the taxing authority, governance representation, and bonding issues involved, the only way to accomplish this goal is legislatively with SB 59. There is no way statutorily for a township to form a library district with a city of the 2nd class.

We believe this bill represents the will of the local community and ask that you pass SB 59 favorably to the full Senate for its consideration.

Dear Senators:

As a member of the Eudora library board, I am writing to ask for your support for a bill that will make a very big difference in our community. Senate Bill 59 is the result of work between leaders from the city, the township, and the library board, and it reflects a solution that will allow our growing community to enjoy a wide range of services and programs, in the years to come.

One of the main reasons I serve on the Eudora library board is because I believe, as a teacher and as a mother, in the value this library brings to our community. There are services and programs that enrich the lives of so many people, from toddlers to senior citizens. And the library's community involvement hardly stops at the library doors. The programs are found across the community, all year long.

Our community is served well by our library, and SB 59 will allow us to continue these services and programs -- and ultimately grow as our community grows. Without passage of SB 59, the future of our library and its capacity to serve Eudora is much more uncertain.

Thank you for supporting this bill with your vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Amber Jackson
ETPL Board Member

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 59

The Eudora Community Library District Act

Monday, February 4th, 2019

Dear Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 59, which will allow for the creation of a library district.

Our Eudora community continues to grow each year. The Eudora Township Library, in its current location, is not able to accommodate this growth and serve our community to it's full potential. In order to provide for the needs of our town, a larger building is required. Not only are we very limited on the space available for our kids to enjoy story time, but the building itself is in poor condition.

Before we are able to move forward with the necessary actions for funding a new building, we must finalize the current state of the Eudora Library. This bill is an approach to allow the City of Eudora, after becoming a city of the 2nd class, to continue being a part of the library district, along with the Eudora Township. We would appreciate your support of Bill 59.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Eisenhour



Eudora Library Board Member & Local Business Owner



EUDORA SCHOOLS
1310 Winchester Rd., P.O. Box 500
Eudora, KS 66025
785-542-4910
785-542-4909 (fax)
www.eudoraschools.org

February 6th, 2019

Testimony on: SB 59 - Eudora Community Library District Act

Before: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

By Steve Splichal, Superintendent of Schools, Eudora, KS

Dear Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the families of the Eudora community, I would like to extend a sincere thanks for the opportunity to provide my support for SB 59. We value the committee's effort to solicit input throughout the legislative process.

I am providing this written testimony in support of this bill. Our library has played a valued role in our community since being approved by our patrons in 1968. Since its inception, the Eudora Township Public Library has provided countless learning opportunities for patrons of all ages. Located in the heart of Eudora, it is an integral part of our community. I have witnessed first hand the important role that our library plays in offering important reading programs throughout the year and especially in the summer months when students are often left with unstructured time. The Eudora Township Public Library has also been a critical partner in the Feeding Eudora summer food program.

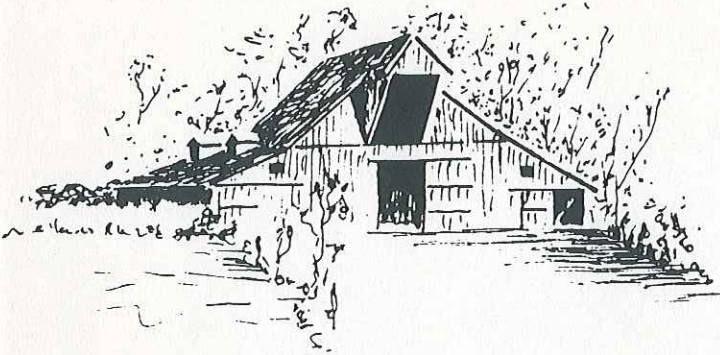
I strongly support the ability of the city of Eudora to continue to be part of the township library district. The relationship between the city of Eudora and the Eudora Township is important to the overall success and growth of our community. I believe that the governing bodies from the city and township have worked closely together to provide the important leadership structures necessary to ensure the continued long-term success of the library. This bill also provides the board of directors with the autonomy needed to provide for the sustainability and growth of the library into the future.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for the work done by the city of Eudora and the Eudora Township to build what has become an important staple in our community - our library. I commend the members of this committee for their work and ask that you support the passage of SB 59.

Respectfully,

Steve Splichal, Superintendent of Schools
Eudora Unified School District #491

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Eric Votaw, President
Joe Hurla, Vice President
Lynn Reazin
Joe Pyle
Bryan Maring
Mark Chrislip
Mike Kelso



5 February 2019

Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
Kansas Senate
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Committee Members:

In 1968 members of our community voted to approve a library. That library has been a vital part of our community since that vote. The library has grown, expanded and offered programs to our community for over fifty years!

The librarians started a children's hour once a week - now there are daily story hours and often with more children in attendance than our space allows. A summer reading program was started for young people in the summer. Our caring and astute librarians realized children weren't going home for lunch, so Feeding Eudora began. That program completely outgrew the library and this summer over 4000 lunches were served in the park.

A teen reading program was started. The first year about 30 teens participated, then 100, then over 100! The library became a safe gathering place for teens and they were being encouraged to read and learn.

Our library is a vital part of our community, loved and supported by the community. Please support SB 59. This will establish a library district as requested by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board. The library district will be governed by community members appointed to a Board of Directors.

We are a small and very diverse community. Please help us maintain this wonderful library that means so much to so many people - young and old!

Respectfully,

Vestana von Achen Ahlen

Michael C. Ahlen

40555 West 103rd Street

Eudora, Kansas 66025

785.766.0224

TanaAhlen@gmail.com

February 4, 2019

Kansas Senate
Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government

Dear Committee Members.

I would like to express my position as a proponent of Senate Bill 59: The Eudora Community Library Act. As a lifelong resident of the Eudora community I have witnessed the impact of the Eudora Township Library on the quality of life in our community. My family has supported the library since the day it was first established by a community vote in 1968. In fact my mother, Helen L. Grosdidier, was a member of the first library board.

Throughout the years our library has provided services such as Summer reading, adult reading, and numerous workshops and events that my family has benefited from. In my mind a strong public library is a major factor in providing a strong quality of life in any community, and that has definitely been the case in Eudora.

Senate Bill 59 will allow the library services we have come to expect to continue for both the residents of the City of Eudora, and the residents of the Eudora Township. These residents created a successful library community in 1968 and this legislation will allow that tradition to continue. I am in particular support of allowing the establishment of the Library District by joint resolution of the two local governing bodies, the Eudora City Commission, and the Eudora Township Board. I believe this validates the work of these bodies in bringing this to a public vote in 1968.

I am asking the members of the Committee to support SB 59 and would be very grateful to the committee for that support.

Sincerely,



Don Grosdidier
Resident
1319 Hickory Street
Eudora, Kansas 66025

Committee Members
Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
Kansas State Senate
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas
February 5, 2019

Dear Committee Members,

For fifty years the Eudora Township Public Library has served the people of the Eudora community. It has been the hub of activities for preschoolers through retirees. Then we became a second class city.

Once we reached the size to be designated a second class city, we were no longer part of the Eudora Township and that creates a real problem for our township library. However, sb59 addresses this problem by allowing the establishment of a Eudora Community Library District, thereby saving our library.

Our small community would be greatly diminished without our library. Please support sb59 and save our library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pennie von Achen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pennie von Achen

February 6, 2019

Ethics, Elections and Local
Government Committee,
Kansas Senate

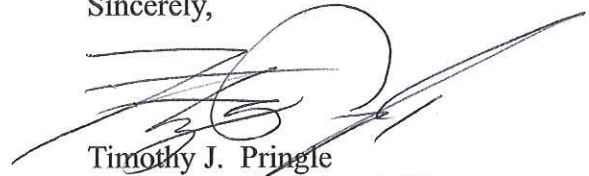
Re: Eudora Library District

Dear Committee Members:

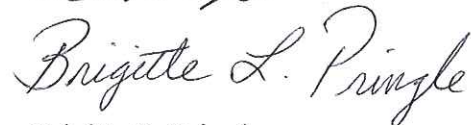
Over 50 years ago, the Eudora Township voted to establish the Eudora library. In conjunction with the City of Eudora a library was established, a building was built to house the library. We have been residents of the Eudora community for 35+ years and 60+ years, respectively. We actually live in the Eudora Township and not within the City of Eudora. During this time we both have recognized the importance of the Eudora library. The library has been there for us when we wanted to check out books. The library has been there for our children when they wanted to check out books, movies, or participate in the numerous activities sponsored by the library, in particular "story time" and the summer reading programs. In addition to our family, most if not all of our friends and their families have similar opinions and experiences.

Unfortunately, as the City of Eudora has grown in population, the current laws of the State of Kansas do not take into consideration the unique circumstances that exist in the Eudora community. The laws do not allow for a library district for a City of the second class and a Township. We hope this Committee recognizes the importance of the library for our community and approves Senate Bill 59.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Pringle



Brigitte L. Pringle
1477 E 2300 Road
Eudora, KS 66025

February 5, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

Please accept this statement of support for the passage of SB 49, the Eudora community library act.

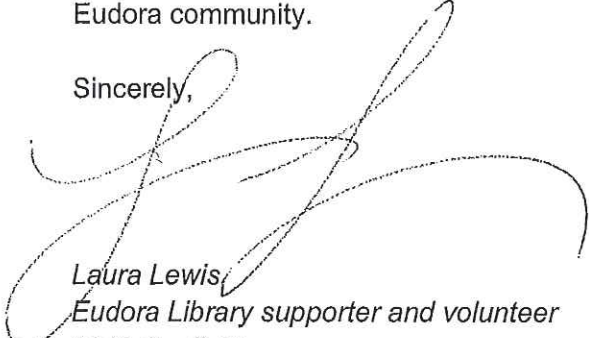
An average of 150 people check out books from the Eudora Library every day. Patrons are checking out more than 44,000 items annually, more than doubling the library's circulation in the last decade. The library's children and teen programming serves more than 450 youth annually with special events, story time and literacy programming.

The library is also much more than a brick-and-mortar library. It administers a free food program, Feeding Eudora, during the summer months for the entire community, reaching all marginalized children and residents. In the summer of 2018, Feeding Eudora served 4,331 free lunches. The library also just launched a book delivery service for Eudora area seniors who are not able to get out to visit the library. As a library supporter, I am proud of the great impact our library has on the community.

Our library has existed since being approved by a vote of the people in 1968. SB 59 would keep our tradition of great library service for 50 years going. The establishment of an autonomous district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board will bring together a greater representation of our community and increase access to vital resources and partnerships in order to expand our library and programs in the future.

Thank you for considering this bill and how the outcome will improve the quality of life for the Eudora community.

Sincerely,



Laura Lewis
Eudora Library supporter and volunteer
2218 Quail Ct.
Eudora, KS 66025
785-865-6084

Date: February 5, 2019

Memo to: Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee of the Kansas Senate

Regarding: SB 59

One of the most appealing things we found in the Eudora Community when we moved here 5 years ago was the Public Library. Not only is the local staff welcoming and helpful but the library is connected to a network of surrounding communities that share books as needed. From the comfort of my home I "order" books I want to read and via email I know that the book requested will be available for me in the Eudora Library. What a treasure! This encourages senior persons to stay engaged. Many times when I visit the Library there are many children happily engaged in activities provided by the library staff. These two examples demonstrate the value to our community from both ends of the life span. A Library is one of the corner stones of community.

I encourage the passage of SB 59 to establish a district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board, the appointment of a Board of Directors, and the establishment of a library district to become its own taxing entity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Nancy F. Winslow

5 February 2019
1346 E. 2350 Road
Eudora, Ks 66025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ETHICS, ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
KANSAS STATE SENATE
STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Dear Committee Members:

Please vote YES on sb59, Eudora Community Library District Act.

I write in support of this issue that is very important to the community of Eudora. Our Public Library was established fifty (50) years ago by a vote of the community.

I was privileged to support our Public Library in 1968 and am still happy to support it.

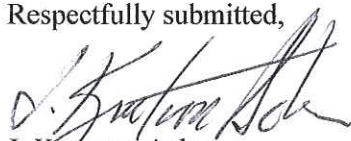
The Eudora Township Public Library has been an important part of our community. It was endangered by the statutory rules governing Second Class Cities. We are happy that the City of Eudora reached the size that it could be a Second Class City. It is a wonderful community. However, because it is now a Second Class City it is no longer part of the Eudora Township and, therefore, our Public library is in danger unless you support sb59.

I believe you will find the Eudora City Commission and the Eudora Township Board are in support of sb59 as is the Eudora Library Board. In fact you will find wide community support for this vital institution that provides the Eudora Community with important services related to a contemporary Public Library.

Sb59 truly fits the needs and desires of the Eudora community. By allowing the establishment of the Library District, by joint resolution of the City Council and the Township Board, it continues the system that has survived and prospered for fifty (50) years. Establishing the Library District as its own taxing authority and giving it the right to hold elections for bonds provides it with the tools needed for growth that will allow the library to continue to serve the growing community of Eudora.

I am confident that each of you is aware of the importance of a thriving public library to a community. Please help us keep our library.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Kurt von Achen
Eudora Township Resident
Member of the Library Steering Committee

5 February 2019

Dear members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee;

I'm writing in support of a new library building for the City of Eudora. As a mother of six avid readers, we use the library several times a week. I have told our librarians many times, that our family would be lost without the Eudora Library.

My children each read several books a week, and my family takes advantage of many of the wonderful programs offered by our library – teen and tween programming, adult programming, story time, and the summer reading program, just to name a few. Our librarians do a fantastic job of providing as many programs as they can for our community but are always limited by space. Eudora is a small town, with a wide range of socio-economic status among our residents, and many children in our community need a place to go after school and on the weekends, to work on homework, to socialize and even to feel safe. Our library needs to be able to serve these students and can only do that if they have a place for them to be. Eudora is also looking for ways to reach our senior population, through social activities and other events. The library would be the perfect location for these activities, if we had more space. In summary, our community is growing far beyond the capacity of our current building.

Our library has been in existence since being approved by a vote of the people in 1968, but the needs of our community are much different than they were 50 years ago. Our community needs this new library building and I ask that you support SB 59 and the creation of the Eudora Library District. Our Capital Campaign Steering Committee has worked diligently to get us to this place, and the passage of this bill will help tremendously. An independent Board of Directors would ensure that the Eudora Library will be able to serve the needs of our community for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote yes on SB 59.

Sincerely,

Molly Pratt
1313 Fir Street
Eudora KS 66025

February 6, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

Please accept this statement of support for the passage of SB 49, the Eudora community library act.

The three public pillars that affect much of our community include Eudora Public Library, Parks and Rec and our public schools. Our town lacks a newspaper, a radio station and any entertainment venues such as a movie theatre or bowling alley. We depend on these Eudora pillars, especially the library, for local information, entertainment, supplemental education, and even food as it provides free summer lunches through its Feeding Eudora program. It is a local hub for all ages and a supervised haven for children when school is not in session.

Since its establishment in 1968 Eudora Library has served our citizens well. However, Eudora has tripled in size since 1968 and our library needs as much support as it can get to meet the needs of our growing community. The establishment of an autonomous district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board will provide a better representation of the community that uses the library and allow supportive resources and partnerships to be better accessed.

On a personal note we frequently use the library in a variety of ways. In addition to checking out books and movies at the library, our family has utilized the library for its children's and teen programs. These programs provide fun, educational and social activities during the summer and the school year. Additionally, one of my children attends a virtual school and the Eudora library has been supportive by helping him find additional resources for his school work.

We are proud of our local library and how it has taken a leadership role in our community. We would like it to be around for many years to come. Thank you for considering SB 49.

Sincerely,



Cass Steinlage
Eudora Library patron
2318 Country Circle
Eudora, KS 66025
785-542-3447

February 6, 2019

**Letter of Support
for a Proposed 2019 Legislative Action
for the Eudora Public Library**

The purpose of this letter is to support the Eudora Public Library (EPL), the Eudora Township, and the City of Eudora in the pursuit of specific State of Kansas Legislative action. This special bill presented to the Legislature would allow the Eudora Public Library to legally transition from a Township Library to a de-facto District Library. The proposed Library District would include the Eudora Township and the City of Eudora who have strongly supported the existing community library for over 50 years.

It is understood by elected Officials of the above parties that this course of action is desired and necessary in order to unify and simplify on-going joint Mill Levy funding, joint governance and future bond election powers of the library as the greater community's only public library. The Library's survival may depend on this major transition. Representatives and varied community advisors served as a working Legislative Committee engaged in preparation of the bill with the cooperation of the North East Kansas Library System, the Kansas Legislative Revisor, and current and former State Legislators who have generously advised the Committee.

Note that under current Kansas Statute, only *3rd* class cities and townships can partner to form a district library, making a Legislative bill necessary for any exception. Already operating in many ways as a District Library, EPL should be declared such and expected to comply with all other statutory requirements for governance normally required in the State of Kansas for District Libraries.

The existing library, located within the Eudora city limits, was incorporated in 1968 as a Township Library when the city of Eudora was a small *3rd* class city included within the municipal taxing authority of the Eudora Township. During the 50-year history of mill-levy funding, operation, and use of the library by the greater Eudora community, the sense of partnership has remained strong. Currently, City taxpayers provide an approximate 60%+ share of Mill Levy support for the library's total operation. Approximately 80%+ of the library users are now City residents. But Township Mill-Levy, grants and public donations are also necessary for the continued adequate funding, growth and survival of the library.

Currently the Eudora Public Library is still classified by law as a Township Library, and the City of Eudora has become a separate municipality. However, the 50-year Mill Levy partnership has continued via an awkward Interlocal Agreement between the City and Township approved by the State Attorneys General Office in December of 2017. The Agreement allows Douglas County to continue to assess the same mill-levy rate on both municipalities in support of the Eudora Public Library, but KS Library Statute prohibits 2nd Class City residents/voters from serving on a Township Library Board. The smoothest fix of our dilemma is to become a Library District--thereby offering a single solution to most or all short and long-term governance, funding and development difficulties.

The current sitting Eudora Public Library Board is a provisional board made up of both City and Township residents, some whose whose terms began prior to the understanding that the city of Eudora and the township were separated as municipalities in 2010-11. As such, City residents are no longer eligible to serve on the library board. Also prior to the awareness of this change in funding and governance requirements, the library board and greater Eudora community (City and Township) were already engaged in a capital campaign towards a new facility that will require unified community support and bonding authority.

The quest for a more professional library facility adds urgency to the need for unifying the governance and funding of the Library. The Greater Eudora Community *wants* its Library to survive and develop further. Great strides have been made in the last 10 years to professionalize the library. It has great programs, great staff and supportive patrons—but a very small and aging facility. Private donations from this small community towards a new facility are nearing \$500,000. The proposed new facility's cost is estimated at \$4 million and it may be possible to break ground within 2-3 years. For many of us, it is the appropriate time for the Library to transition to a District Library in order to maintain continued development, sound unified governance, funding authority, and to meet the growing needs of the Greater Eudora Community.

Your interest, assistance and support for this transition will be greatly appreciated!

Michael G. Braa

Eudora Public Library Board, 2010-2018 (President 2016-18)

Legislative Committee 2016-18

1032 E. 2100 Rd.

Eudora KS 66025

785-542-3829

braahaus@gmail.com

February 6, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

We submit this letter to request your support for the passage of SB 59, the Eudora community library act.

Our family has lived in Eudora since we finished college and began our careers and family in Eudora. As a teacher in the Eudora school district and nurse in the Eudora area, we have experienced many different programming options and service opportunities that the Eudora Community Library makes available, from children's story time to the Feeding Eudora food program during the summer months to utilizing inter-library loan options so that we can access materials not available at our own library at that time. Our three daughters have grown up with access to reading materials and activities that the library has made available for each of them, as well as staffing the library with people who recognize their interests and maintain a running list of items that they might enjoy.

The sense of community and personal relationships that our library presents are important to all members of our family. Beyond just the two of us and our three daughters, our family members have chosen to not only make Eudora their home, but also take advantage of all the services our community library has available, for my parents who recently retired from careers in education as well as my wife's brother and his family with his wife and two young daughters.

This goes to show that our community library is indeed utilized by the community—young, old, new Eudora residents, and lifelong Eudora residents. Our library has existed since being approved by a vote of the people in 1968. Since that time, our community has offered support to our school district by building new elementary, middle, high school, and technical education campuses as well as a new public safety building and recreation and aquatic center.

As provided by SB 59, the establishment of an autonomous district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board will bring together a greater representation of our community and increase access to vital resources and partnerships in order to expand our library and programs in the future.

We have both been on the steering committee to help rally financial support for construction of this new community library, but now need your help in taking the next steps to making this new, modern community space into a reality. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of supporting SB 49, the Eudora community library act.

Sincerely,

Scott and Jody Keltner
Eudora Library supporters and steering committee members
1302 West 13th Terrace
Eudora, KS 66025
785-542-3584

Legislature of the state of Kansas
Committee on Ethics, Election and Local Government
February 6th, 2019

Dear Senators,

The legislation addressing senate bill No. 59 to create the Eudora community library district act is of importance to me and because it will allow our local library to continue to provide services to the town of Eudora, its surrounding communities and rural populations. Furthermore, it can expand its services by allowing residents to vote on bonds to build a new larger more modern facility.

The Eudora township library's classification was not updated when the city of Eudora became a city of the second class in 2010. This has caused considerable distress for our city and township leaders since they became aware of this oversight. It is everyone's greatest hope that the library (the only public library in our area) be able to continue to function in the same manner it has for the past 50 years.

Whatever you call it, the Eudora township library, Eudora library district library or something else, it will simply be THE LIBRARY to those of us who live in and around Eudora. Our library does not discriminate based on where its patrons live. If a child comes in after school to hang out until his/her parents get home from work, the librarian doesn't ask whether he/she lives in the township or city, the librarian simply asks if they need any help or how they are that day.

This discovery of this township/library district complication has come at a very inopportune time as the library is in desperate need of expansion and hopes to pass some bonds in the relatively near future. The library building itself is not large enough for many of the functions and activities it would like to host. The librarians try to limit the size of the book /audio book/movies collections to maintain an open area and therefore can't offer the variety of books we could otherwise have. Even with limiting the size of the collection, the children's room is so small we have to turn away children during book readings. A newer program, Feeding Eudora, helps facilitate the distribution of meals to children during the summer months who might not typically have one. These are held outside and have to be canceled if the weather turns bad or it is dangerously hot out.

In addition to being too small the current building is severely outdated. As we all know, technology has advanced very quickly over the last 20 years and the electrical, internet needs can't be met in the current facility without significant investment which isn't practical given the space limitations the building has.

The Eudora library is a significant part of our community and it is very important to many of our residents from the youngest to the oldest. Please help pass this bill so the Eudora Township Library/Eudora library district library may continue to provide these services to our community.

Sincerely,



Amy Jankowski 2111 North 1000th Road, Eudora, KS 66025 pajankowski0@gmail.com

Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
Kansas Senate
Room 142 - S
Topeka, KS 66606

February 5, 2019

Honorable Senators:

I write to the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee on behalf of the community of Eudora Kansas and Senate Bill 59. Your committee voting favorably to move SB 59 forward to the full Senate would be greatly appreciated.

As a seventh generation member of the community of Eudora, a public library has been an asset for the town. Early library history shows that a library was staffed as early as the 1920s for book borrowing and exchanges. Since that time, the library mission has grown and expanded to reflect the changing times and needs of patrons. The current library building was constructed after a vote was held and was dedicated in 1968. The current library strives to offer programming needed for 21st Century and includes the always favorite children's story time and programming to Internet access and availability, which is critical in an area that has limited options for reliable, fast internet connectivity. The current age of the existing structure, along with lack of space hinders the delivery of 21st century programming the library staff would be in favor of providing.

Further, as a social studies educator, libraries are a great example of democracy in action - all people are welcome to enjoy the services provided. No other company that I am aware provides services for communities that a library does. Fitzgibbon (2000) noted that community libraries provide so much more - from access to materials for home schooled students, serve as an educational support center just to name a few. Libraries are gateways for students to establish and nurture life long learning.

The changes proposed by SB 59 would allow the library to move forward into the 21st century to serve the City of Eudora and Eudora Township communities with the needs their demographics demand, including expanding programming for children and adding in classes for senior citizens.

I encourage your favorable vote on Senate Bill 59 and would be happy to provide any follow up or additional information.

Sincerely -



Dr. Robyn McCabria Kelso
2174 N. 900 Rd
Eudora KS 66025
robynelso@eudoraschools.org



Kaw Valley State Bank

ESTABLISHED 1899 MEMBER FDIC

Jason Hoover
2206 Country DR
Eudora, KS 66025
(785) 423-2865
jhoover@kawvalleystatebank.com

February 6, 2019

Kansas State Capital
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee,

I am writing you today to show my support for bill SB 59 – Eudora community library district act. The Eudora public library has been in our town for over 50 years and is a vital part of our community. They have several programs such as children's story hour, young adult classes and the summer lunch program that my kids attend and the bank supports financially. Bill SB 59 will allow the City of Eudora to continue to be part of the library district and work with the Eudora Township to expand and improve our library which is a critical need.

I would appreciate your support of bill SB 59 and thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Jason Hoover
President & CEO

Diane Chrislip
1117 E. 2135th Road
Eudora, KS 66025

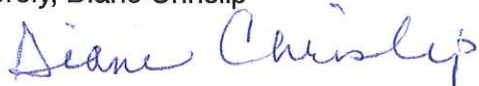
To the Ethics, Election and Local Government Committee of the Kansas Senate:

I am writing in regards to Bill SB 59, and asking for your support. I believe that a public library is an important part of a community. It's a place that promotes learning, growing and a sense of community.

The Eudora library has existed for over 50 years. My children grew up attending programs, and developed a love for reading through that very library. Now my grandchildren are using it. Though it is small, it is a hub for much activity. I never step inside that there aren't people using the computers, children enjoying story hour, or teenagers congregating for study for conversation. It has a warm and caring staff that makes every person that steps through the door feel welcome.

Please vote to pass Bill SB 59 so that our community can continue to enjoy the treasure of a local library.

Sincerely, Diane Chrislip



February 7, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

Please accept this statement of support for the passage of SB 49, the Eudora community library act.

I grew up in Shawnee, Kansas and every Wednesday afternoon the public library's book mobile would park across the street from my father's grocery store. It was there that I discovered my love for reading as I was introduced to Joe and Frank Hardy, the Hardy Boys. I tore through Fenton Dixon's series of books and haven't stopped reading since.

I currently am a member of the Heartland Committee to Promote Lifelong Readers. Each committee member reads nearly thirty books a year to construct a list of top ten new books for young adults. I am fortunate to live in Eudora because our library staff does an outstanding job of supplying the youth of Eudora with current YA novels. Teens have a lot of choices today to occupy their leisure time. It's important that Eudora provides our youth with viable alternatives to video games and the Eudora Library does just that.

Our library has existed since being approved by a vote of the people in 1968. SB 59 would keep our tradition of great library service for 50 years going. The establishment of an autonomous district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board will bring together a greater representation of our community and increase access to vital resources and partnerships in order to expand our library and programs in the future.

Thank you for considering this bill and how the outcome will improve the quality of life for the Eudora community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Sailer".

Robert Sailer

Heartland Committee Member

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of SB 59 for the Eudora Library.

This library is of utmost importance to our growing community.

The Eudora Library has been a TREMENDOUS blessing to our family. We moved here 5 and a half years ago and have since had three children. Participating in library activities is a weekly or sometimes even more often activity for us.

We attend children's storytime weekly all year round and absolutely love the "Feeding Eudora" summer lunch program.

As an adult in the community, I enjoy participating in the library reading challenges and incentives for my age too. They are always coming up with all sorts of fun ways to encourage reading in our community.

I fully support establishment of the district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board, the appointment of the Board of Directors, and the library district being autonomous.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelsea L Pratt".

Chelsea Pratt
202 w 13th St
Eudora, KS 66025



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1100 Massachusetts Street
Lawrence, KS 66044-3064
(785) 832-5268 Fax (785) 832-5148
www.douglascountyks.org

February 7, 2019

Re: Letter of Support for SB 59

To: The Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

From: Nancy Thellman, County Commissioner, Douglas County, 2nd District

Honorable Committee Members,

I write in support of the City of Eudora's efforts to fund and build a new, 21st century library for their rapidly growing community. I am well familiar with this project as I have been the county commissioner for Eudora and Eudora Township for over ten years. I enthusiastically support Eudora's sincere efforts to make their new public library a reality.

I have witnessed the power of a modern public library in my own community, Lawrence, where an ambitious renovation of an under-utilized and outdated facility was completed a few years ago. That library is now the heart of Lawrence, a public place where people of all ages, races, socio-economic classes and abilities enjoy a phenomenal variety of books, of course, but also educational programs, public gatherings, creative projects, not to mention the highly utilized free public access to high speed internet for those who would otherwise go without. Eudora wants and deserves the same for its citizens: a place for education, empowerment, cultural enrichment and an increasing sense of the commons.

A library has existed in Eudora since 1968 and during that time many good programs have been offered like a story hour for children, youth programs, summer lunch programs and a senior reading program. But Eudora could do and wants to do so much more. They are ready for a public library that will meet their needs now and for the future; a library designed with 21st century services in mind. There is great community support for this project. My hope is there will be legislative support from you as well as you take up Senate Bill 59.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Nancy Thellman
1547 N. 2000 Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66044



The Hammert Building - Michael & Mary Kirkendoll, owners
706 Main Street
Eudora, KS 66025

February 7, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this statement of support for the passage of SB 49, the Eudora Community Library Act.

The library is key player in the success of our downtown and our community. It elevates the lives of children and adults on a daily basis.

The library continues to grow its offerings with programs for children, young adults, and seniors and seeks to partner with other Eudora organizations to reach as many citizens as possible.

The Hammert Building has partnered with the library for many events including hosting informational sessions about Medicare enrollment and participating in their annual art walk down Main St.

One of the greatest efforts they continue to grow is the Feeding Eudora project which has already served over 4,000 free lunches to our community.

The establishment of an autonomous district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board will bring together a greater representation of our community and continue to increase the quality of life for our Eudora community.

I offer my highest support for the passage of SB 49.

Sincerely,

Mary Kirkendoll

Presented by the:
International Foundation for Contemporary Music
PO Box 36 | Eudora, KS 66025
www.ifoundcm.org
info@ifoundcm.org

The Hammert Building
706 Main Street
Eudora, KS 66025
www.hammertbuilding.org
info@hammerbuilding.org

February 5, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

Please accept this statement of support for the passage of SB 49, the Eudora community library act.

The Eudora Library has become an important part of our town. This little library does so much more than it size should allow. On average 150 people check out books from the Eudora Library each day. That equates to over 44,000 items a year, this is double the amount from 10 years ago. Not to be forgotten is the library's children and teen programming that serves over 450 yearly with literacy programs and special programs.

The Eudora library is so much more than just an old library especially in the summer. They host a free food program, Feeding Eudora, during the summer months for the entire community, reaching all marginalized children and residents. Last summer, Feeding Eudora served 4,331 free lunches. For Eudora senior citizens unable to visit the library they have just launched a book delivery service. The impact the Library has on our town is why I'm proud to be a supporter.

Our library has existed since being approved by a vote of the people in 1968. SB 59 would keep our tradition of great library service for 50 years going. The establishment of an autonomous district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board will bring together a greater representation of our community and increase access to vital resources and partnerships in order to expand our library and programs in the future.

Thank you for considering this bill and how the outcome will improve the quality of life for the Eudora community.

Sincerely,

Danny Lewis
Eudora Library supporter and volunteer
2218 Quail Ct
Eudora, KS 66025