

House Committee on Local Government  
Room 218-N  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Honorable Representatives:

Senate Bill 59, The Eudora Community Library District Act, would allow the Eudora Township and the City of Eudora to establish, through joint resolution, a Community Library District. SB59 is important 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.

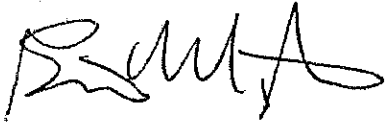
The Eudora Township Public Library (ETPL) was established in 1968 by a vote of the residents of the Eudora Township, which at the time included the City of Eudora. For 50 years, our library has served both the City and Township of Eudora as a Township library in name, but as a community library in purpose. 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

March 8, 2019

Kansas House of Representatives  
Committee on Local Government

Dear Committee Members.

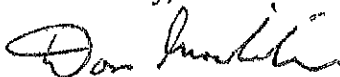
I would like to express my position as a proponent of Senate Bill 59: The Eudora Community Library Act. As a lifelong resident of the Eudora community I have witnessed the impact of the Eudora Township Library on the quality of life in our community. My family has supported the library since the day 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



To: House Local Government Committee  
From: Barack Matite, City Manager  
Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 59

Honorable Chairperson Thompson 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,

Barack Matite  
City Manager

6 March 2019  
1346 E. 2350 Road  
Eudora, Ks 66025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
KANSAS STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Dear Committee Members:

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

As with the Senate Committee I continue 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. Our Township Library is a vitally important institution of our community and we need it to continue.

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

Our Library 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.

you will learn that 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