

**SB 263 Proponent Testimony - in person  
 Requiring property tax estimate on annual notices  
 Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee  
 Dave Trabert - CEO  
 January 22, 2020**



Chairwoman Tyson and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of SB 263, which requires a current year property tax estimate on annual notices of valuation.

Lack of transparency is a constant complaint from taxpayers, and notifying taxpayers of the potential financial impact of valuation changes is one step in the right direction.

Voters are often told by cities and counties that they're 'holding the line' on property taxes, but only referring to the mill rate change. The actual tax increases are much higher due to valuation change, and that difference is 'the honesty gap.'

Johnson County, for example, raised its mill rate 24% since 1997 but tax collections jumped 244%; that's an honesty gap of 22%.

Sumner County lost over 14% of its population since 1997 but property tax still increased 108%; the mill rate declined 4%, leaving an honesty gap of 112%.

Cities also have large honesty gaps. A few examples from the adjacent table include Topeka at 84%, Wichita at 111%, Lawrence at 218%, Overland Park at 235%, Olathe at 273%, and Gardner at 525%.

1997 to 2018 Honesty Gap - the Difference Between the Total Tax Increase and the Mill Rate Change			
Jurisdiction	Property Tax Increase	Mill Rate Change	Honesty Gap
Wyandotte County	186%	42%	144%
Johnson County	244%	24%	220%
Sedgwick County	103%	-3%	105%
Shawnee County	131%	30%	101%
Reno County	216%	89%	127%
Lyon County	177%	37%	141%
Labette County	171%	76%	95%
Sumner County	108%	-4%	112%
Linn County	208%	70%	138%
Mitchell County	402%	120%	282%
Topeka	106%	22%	84%
Lawrence	265%	47%	218%
Wichita	116%	5%	111%
Overland Park	281%	46%	235%
Olathe	270%	-2%	273%
Prairie Village	164%	18%	146%
Dodge City	101%	15%	86%
Gardner	510%	-14%	525%

*Source: Kansas Dept. of Revenue*

Taxpayers deserve honesty and transparency, and we encourage the committee to approve SB 263.

Thank you for your consideration.