

To: Senate Assessment and Taxation

From: Trey Cocking, Deputy Director

Date: January 22, 2020

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 263

Good Morning Madam Chair and Committee Members and thank you for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to testify in support of SB 263.

SB 263 adds mill levy and tax information to the annual valuation statement that is sent on or before March 1, each year. The League believes that inclusion of this information will give taxpayers additional information as they review their tax statement to ensure that it accurately values their property.

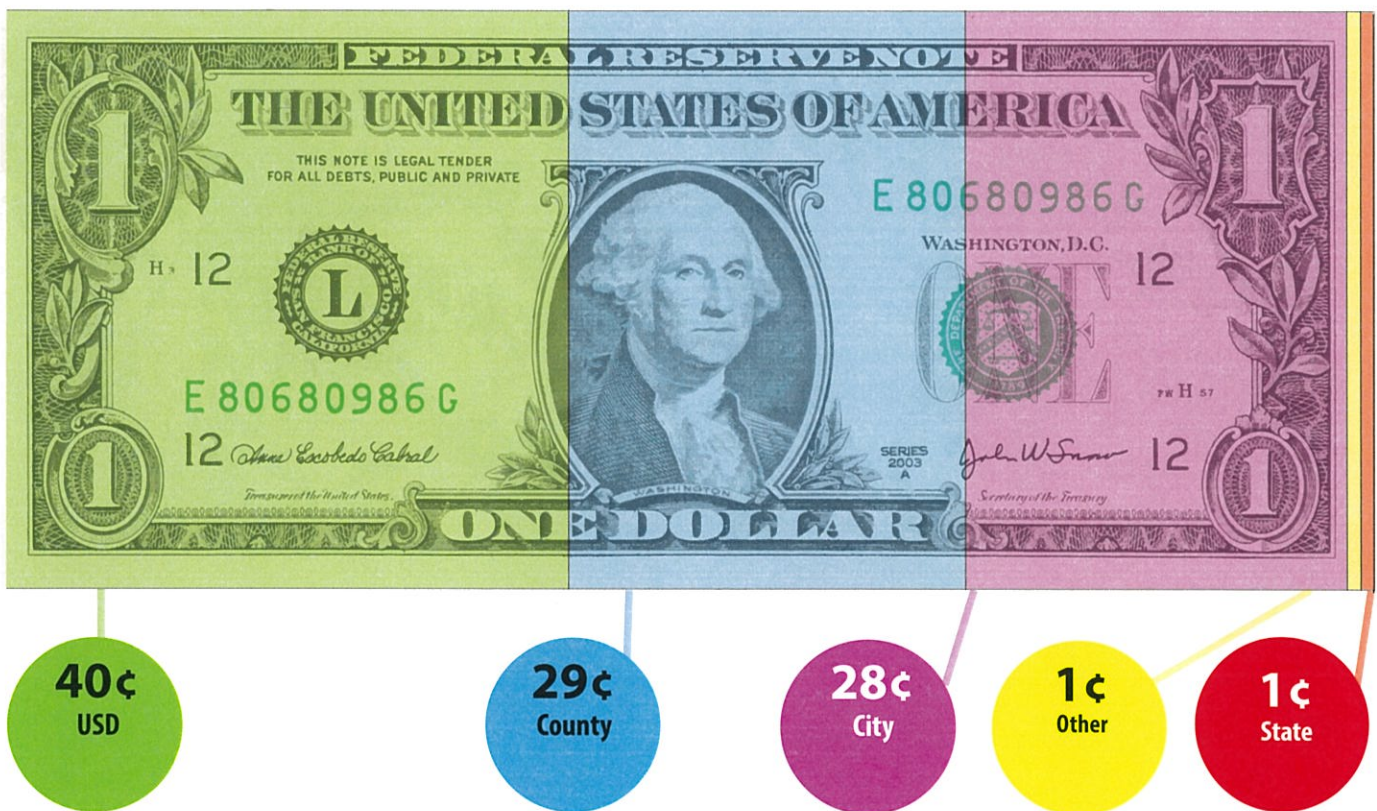
In addition, we would ask that the notice include a breakdown of property tax by entity and how they can contact each taxing jurisdiction as they plan their annual budget and set their tax levy.

The League has also included graphical information showing a breakdown of each committee member's property taxes.

On behalf of the cities of Kansas, we thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee today. We look forward to working with you to address this issue and to continue to make government more transparent and open.

# BREAKING DOWN THE PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR

From police officers who protect and serve to overseeing snow removal on roads and bridges, property taxes are a necessary investment for all Kansas communities. Here's a breakdown of how property taxes are distributed in Baldwin City.



**Maintaining a Qualified Workforce:** Local government is a hands-on industry, requiring cities to deal with common concerns of retained qualified employees to serve as code enforcers, engineers, and laborers. Oftentimes, municipal employees earn less than their private sector counterparts. Cities may struggle in retaining needed and qualified employees.

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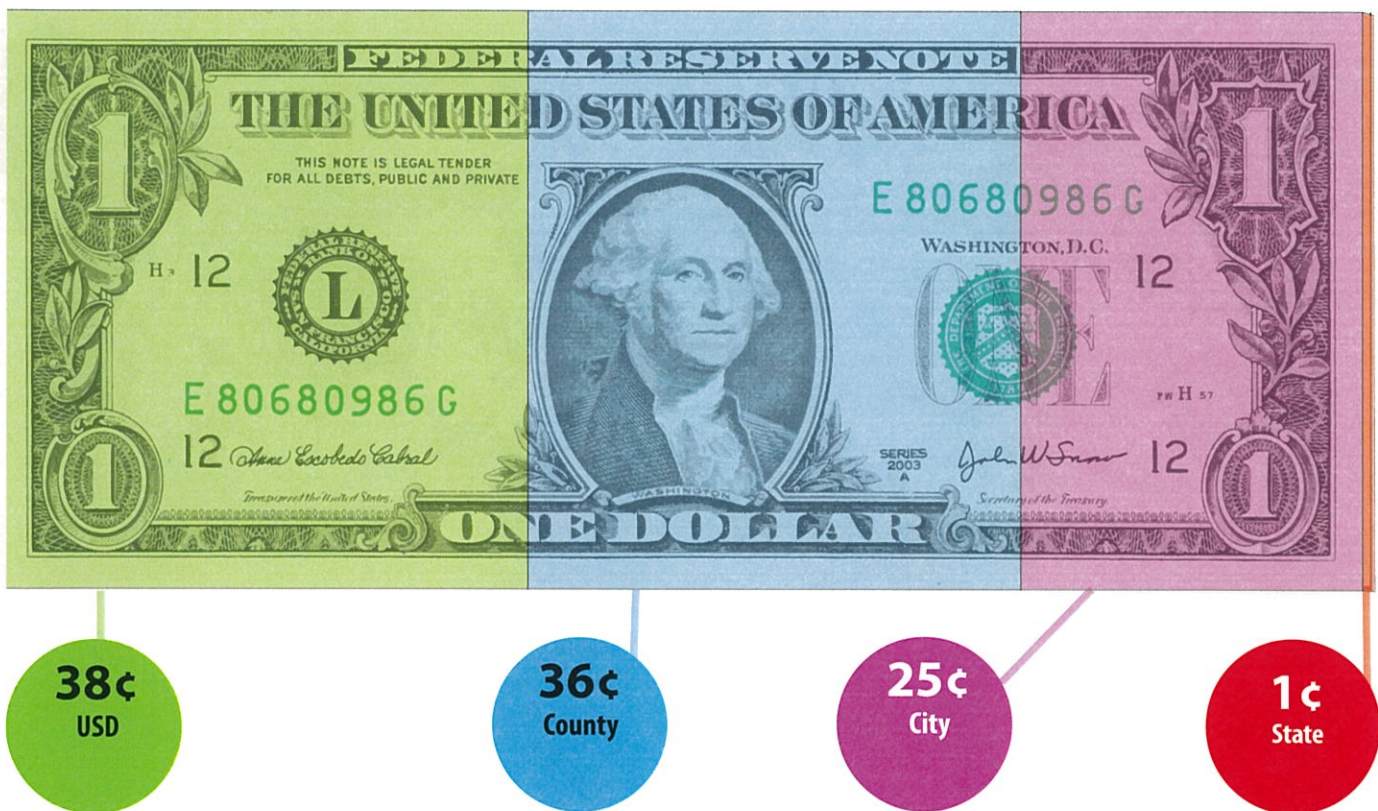
**Emergency Response:** New fire trucks can cost anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1.2 million, which in some communities would be most of the property tax revenue collected by the city. Alternatively, the cost of a new police car could range anywhere, on average, from \$30,000 to \$50,000 depending on the emergency response and communication technology that is incorporated within the vehicle.

Source:

<sup>1</sup> [www.ksdot.org/Assets/wwwksdotorg/pdf/QuickFacts.pdf](http://www.ksdot.org/Assets/wwwksdotorg/pdf/QuickFacts.pdf)

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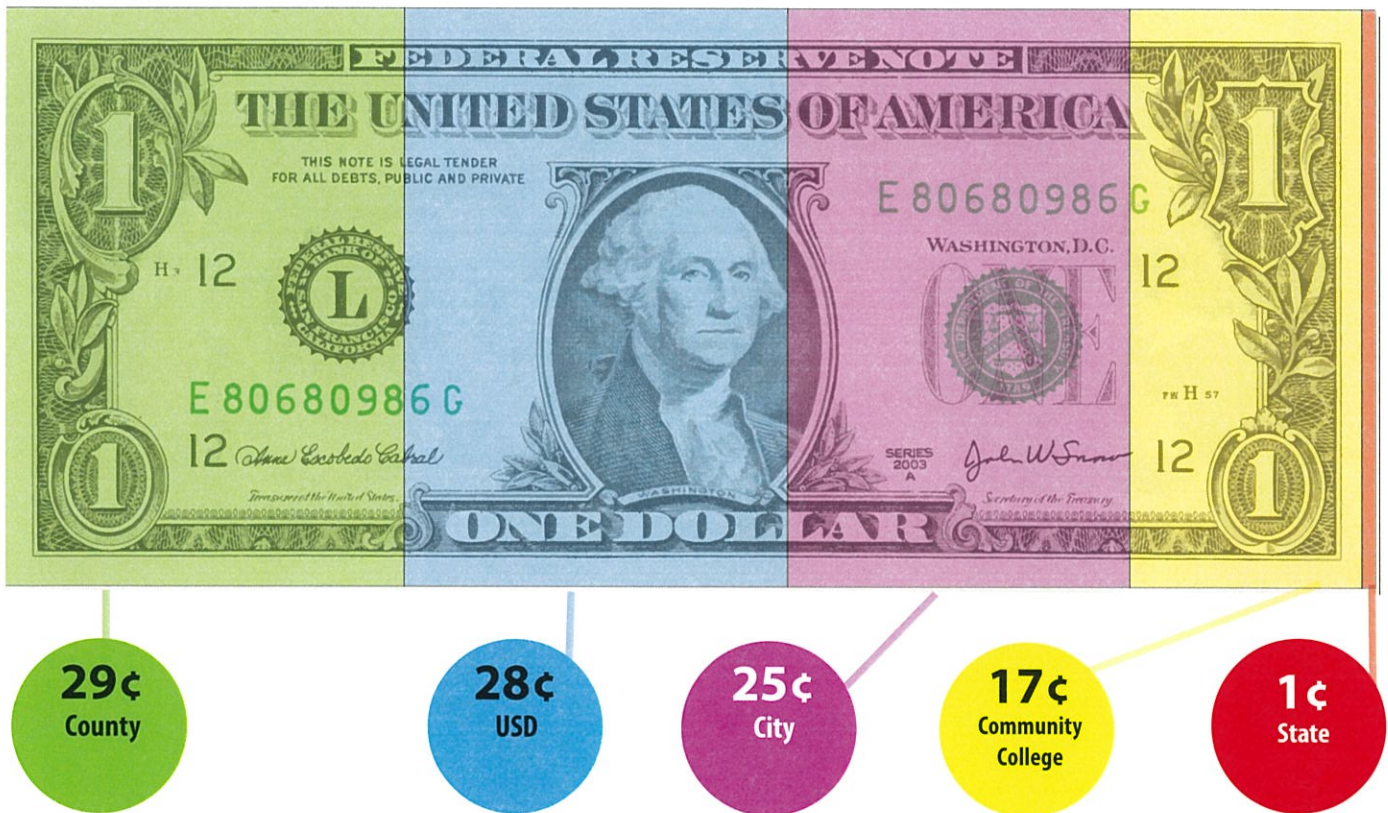
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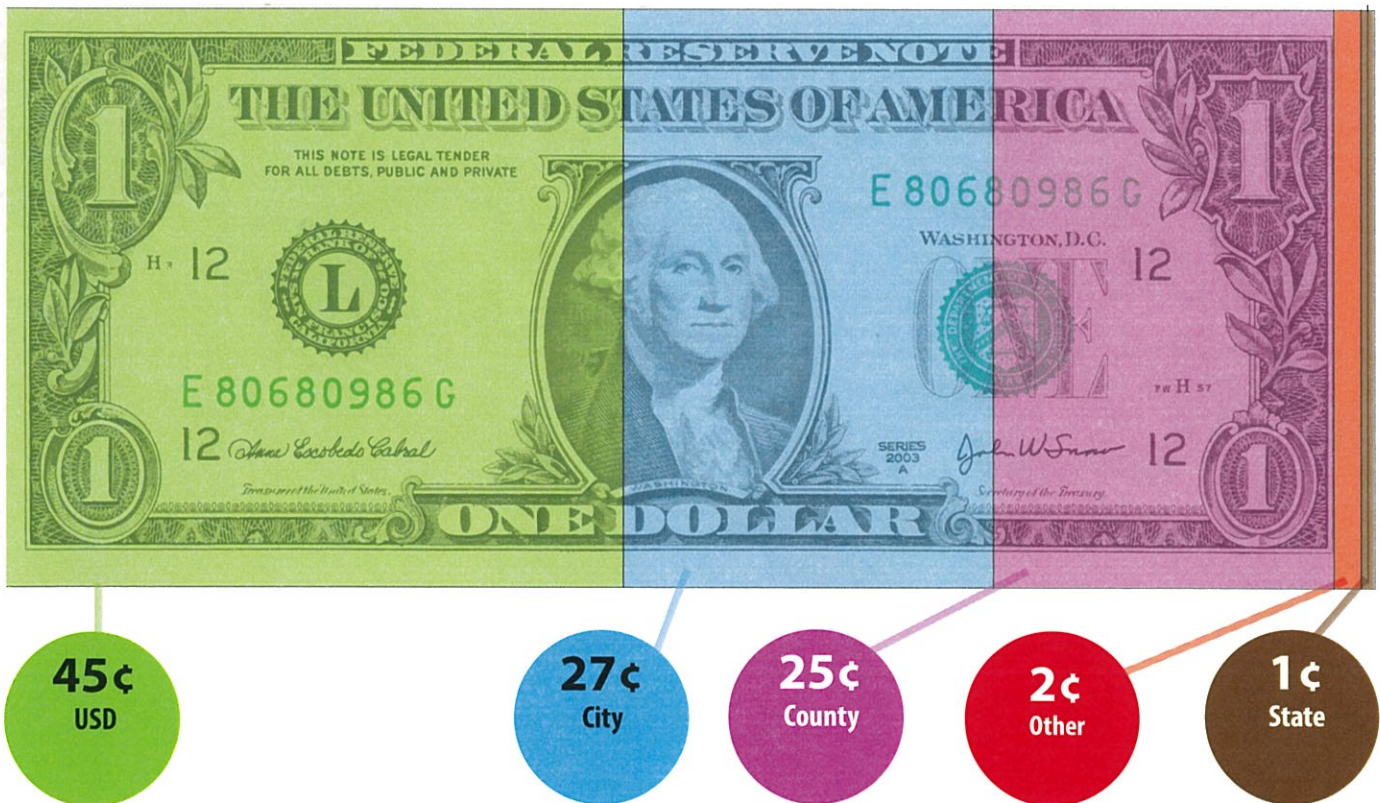
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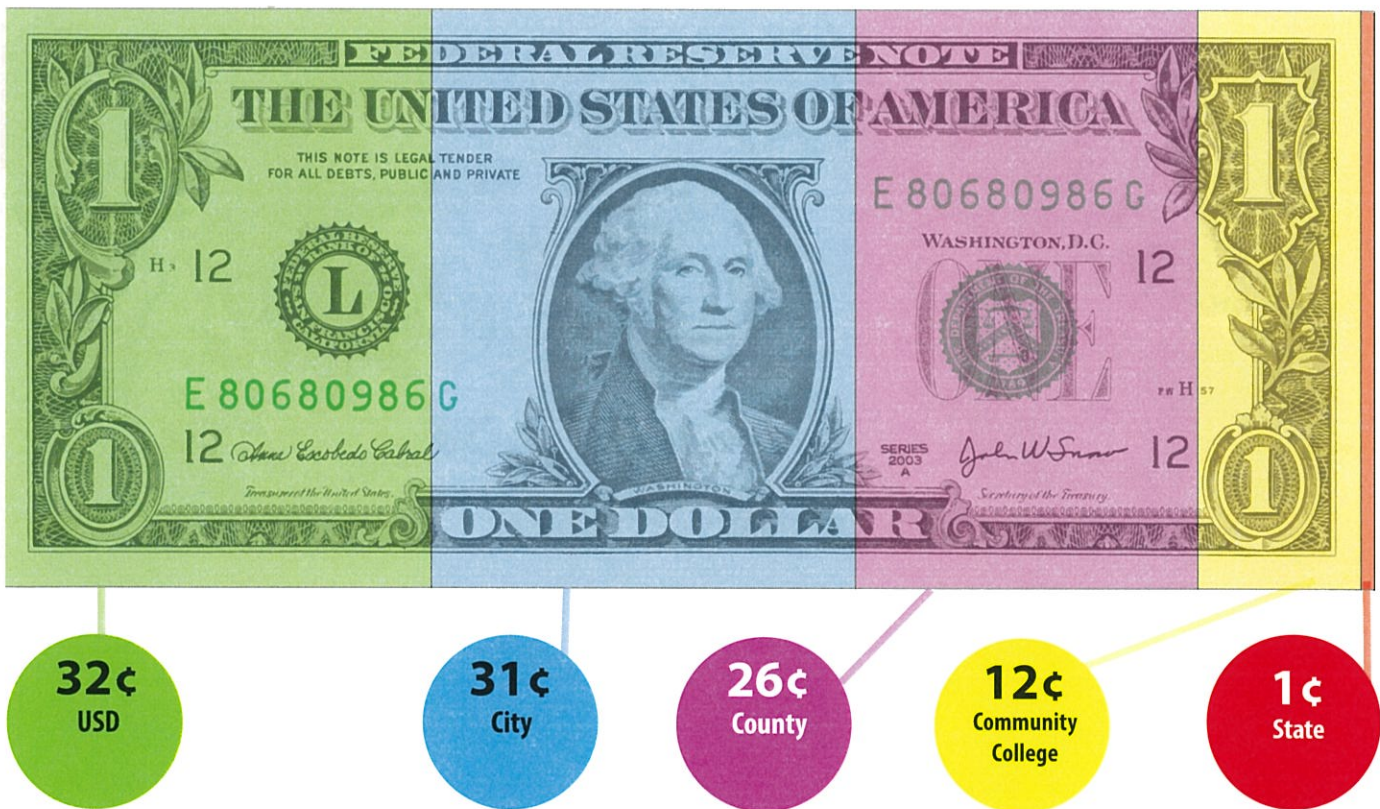
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