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City Hall
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Overland Park, Kansas 66212
www.opkansas.org

Date: February 13, 2024
To: Chairwoman Tyson and the Senate Committee on Assessment & Taxation
From: City of Overland Park
Re: SB 332 – Written Proponent Testimony

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in support of SB 332. The proposed legislation would fulfill the state's statutory obligation to fund the Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction (LAVTR) program and provide meaningful property tax relief to our residents in the form of a state rebate.

From 1937 to 2003, the Legislature agreed to share sales tax dollars with local governments with the express purpose of reducing reliance on property taxes to pay for such services as police and fire protection, parks, streets, and many other services local governments are required to provide. LAVTR (established in 1965) and predecessor programs provided dollar for dollar reductions in property tax bills, and meaningful property tax relief to Kansas residents. Restoring LAVTR (including in the form of rebates) would be one of the best strategies for providing local property tax relief to Kansans, especially compared to other policies like caps on assessed valuations or tax and spending lids, which create inequitable tax burdens and harm local government's ability to adequately fund public services.

Over the last 20 years, the state has failed to transfer about \$20 million dollars in LAVTR funds to the City of Overland Park. It is past time for the state to fulfill its obligation to fund LAVTR and provide Overland Park residents with meaningful property tax relief.

Thank you for allowing the City to testify in support of SB 332. We respectfully request that the Committee advance this legislation to the full Senate for approval.