

2023 Kansas Statutes

79-2988. Tax levy; approval to exceed revenue neutral rate by taxing subdivisions; requirements; notices and contents; public hearing; majority vote of governing body; requirements; duties of county clerk; costs; complaints; posting of budgets. (a) On or before June 15 each year, the county clerk shall calculate the revenue neutral rate for each taxing subdivision and include such revenue neutral rate on the notice of the estimated assessed valuation provided to each taxing subdivision for budget purposes. The director of accounts and reports shall modify the prescribed budget information form to show the revenue neutral rate.

(b) No tax rate in excess of the revenue neutral rate shall be levied by the governing body of any taxing subdivision unless a resolution or ordinance has been approved by the governing body according to the following procedure:

(1) At least 10 days in advance of the public hearing, the governing body shall publish notice of its proposed intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate by publishing notice: (A) On the website of the governing body, if the governing body maintains a website; and (B) in a weekly or daily newspaper of the county having a general circulation therein. The notice shall include, but not be limited to, its proposed tax rate, its revenue neutral rate and the date, time and location of the public hearing.

(2) On or before July 20, the governing body shall notify the county clerk of its proposed intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate and provide the date, time and location of the public hearing and its proposed tax rate. For all tax years commencing after December 31, 2021, the county clerk shall notify each taxpayer with property in the taxing subdivision, by mail directed to the taxpayer's last known address, of the proposed intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate at least 10 days in advance of the public hearing. Alternatively, the county clerk may transmit the notice to the taxpayer by electronic means at least 10 days in advance of the public hearing, if such taxpayer and county clerk have consented in writing to service by electronic means. The county clerk shall consolidate the required information for all taxing subdivisions relevant to the taxpayer's property on one notice. The notice shall be in a format prescribed by the director of accounts and reports. The notice shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) The revenue neutral rate of each taxing subdivision relevant to the taxpayer's property;

(B) the proposed property tax revenue needed to fund the proposed budget of the taxing subdivision, if the taxing subdivision notified the county clerk of its proposed intent to exceed its revenue neutral rate;

(C) the proposed tax rate based upon the proposed budget and the current year's total assessed valuation of the taxing subdivision, if the taxing subdivision notified the county clerk of its proposed intent to exceed its revenue neutral rate;

(D) the percentage by which the proposed tax rate exceeds the revenue neutral rate;

(E) the tax rate and property tax of each taxing subdivision on the taxpayer's property from the previous year's tax statement;

(F) the appraised value and assessed value of the taxpayer's property for the current year;

(G) the estimates of the tax for the current tax year on the taxpayer's property based on the revenue neutral rate of each taxing subdivision and any proposed tax rates that exceed the revenue neutral rates;

(H) the difference between the estimates of tax based on the proposed tax rate and the revenue neutral rate on the taxpayer's property described in subparagraph (G) for any taxing subdivision that has a proposed tax rate that exceeds its revenue neutral rate; and

(I) the date, time and location of the public hearing of the taxing subdivision, if the taxing subdivision notified the county clerk of its proposed intent to exceed its revenue neutral rate.

Although the state of Kansas is not a taxing subdivision for purposes of this section, the notice shall include a statement of the statutory mill levies imposed by the state and the estimate of the tax for the current year on the taxpayer's property based on such levies.

(3) The public hearing to consider exceeding the revenue neutral rate shall be held not sooner than August 20 and not later than September 20. The governing body shall provide interested taxpayers desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within reasonable time limits and without unreasonable restriction on the number of individuals allowed to make public comment. The public hearing may be conducted in conjunction with the proposed budget hearing pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2929, and amendments thereto, if the governing body otherwise complies with all requirements of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit additional public hearings that provide additional opportunities to present testimony or public comment prior to the public hearing required by this section.

(4) A majority vote of the governing body, by the adoption of a resolution or ordinance to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate, shall be required prior to adoption of a proposed budget that will result in a tax rate in excess of the revenue neutral rate. Such vote of the governing body shall be conducted at the public hearing after the governing body has heard from interested taxpayers and shall be a roll call vote. If the governing body approves exceeding the revenue neutral rate, the governing body shall not adopt a budget that results in a tax rate in excess of its proposed tax rate as stated in the notice provided pursuant to this section. A copy of the resolution or ordinance to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate and a certified copy of any roll call vote reporting, at a minimum, the name and vote of each member of the governing body related to exceeding the revenue neutral rate, whether approved or not, shall be included with the adopted budget, budget certificate and other budget forms filed with the county clerk and the director of accounts and reports and shall be published on the website of the department of administration.

(c) (1) Any governing body subject to the provisions of this section that does not comply with subsection (b) shall refund to taxpayers any property taxes over-collected based on the amount of the levy that was in excess of the revenue neutral rate.

(2) Any taxpayer of the taxing subdivision that is the subject of the complaint or such taxpayer's duly authorized representative may file a complaint with the state board of tax appeals by filing a written complaint, on a form prescribed by the board, that contains the facts that the complaining party believes show that a governing body of a taxing subdivision did not comply with the provisions of subsection (b) and that a reduction or refund of taxes is appropriate. The complaining party shall provide a copy of such complaint to the governing body of the taxing subdivision making the levy that is the subject of the complaint. Notwithstanding K.S.A. 74-2438a, and amendments thereto, no filing fee shall be charged by the executive director of the state board of tax appeals for a complaint filed pursuant to this paragraph. The governing body of the taxing subdivision making the levy that is the subject of the complaint shall be a party to the proceeding. Notice of any summary proceeding or hearing shall be served upon such governing body, the county clerk, the director of accounts and reports and the complaining party. It shall be the duty of the governing body to initiate the production of evidence to demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, the validity of such levy. If upon a summary proceeding or hearing, it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the board that the governing body of the taxing subdivision did not comply with subsection (b), the state board of tax appeals shall order such governing body to refund to taxpayers the amount of property taxes over collected or reduce the taxes levied, if uncollected. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed as prohibiting any other remedies available under the law.

(d) On and after January 1, 2022, in the event that the 20 mills levied by a school district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5142, and amendments thereto, increases the property tax revenue generated for the purpose of calculating the revenue neutral rate from the previous tax year and such amount of increase in revenue generated from the 20 mills is the only reason the school district would exceed the total property tax revenue from the prior year, the school district shall be deemed to not have exceeded the revenue neutral rate in levying a tax rate in excess of the revenue neutral rate to take into account the increase in revenue from only the 20 mills.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if the governing body of a taxing subdivision must conduct a public hearing to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate under this section, the governing body of the taxing subdivision

shall certify, on or before October 1, to the proper county clerk the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied.

(2) If a governing body of a taxing subdivision did not comply with the provisions of subsection (b) and certifies to the county clerk an amount of ad valorem tax to be levied that would result in a tax rate in excess of its revenue neutral rate, the county clerk shall reduce the ad valorem tax to be levied to the amount resulting from such taxing subdivision's revenue neutral rate.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Taxing subdivision" means any political subdivision of the state that levies an ad valorem tax on property.

(2) "Revenue neutral rate" means the tax rate for the current tax year that would generate the same property tax revenue as levied the previous tax year using the current tax year's total assessed valuation. To calculate the revenue neutral rate, the county clerk shall divide the property tax revenue for such taxing subdivision levied for the previous tax year by the total of all taxable assessed valuation in such taxing subdivision for the current tax year, and then multiply the quotient by 1,000 to express the rate in mills. The revenue neutral rate shall be expressed to the third decimal place.

(g) In the event that a county clerk incurred costs of printing and postage that were not reimbursed pursuant to K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 79-2989, and amendments thereto, such county clerk may seek reimbursement from all taxing subdivisions required to send the notice. Such costs shall be shared proportionately by all taxing subdivisions that were included on the same notice based on the total property tax levied by each taxing subdivision. Payment of such costs shall be due to the county clerk by December 31.

(h) The department of administration or the director of accounts and reports shall make copies of adopted budgets, budget certificates, other budget documents and revenue neutral rate documents available to the public on the department of administration's website on a permanently accessible web page that may be accessed via a conspicuous link to that web page placed on the front page of the department's website. The department of administration or the director of accounts and reports shall also make the following information for each tax year available on such website:

(1) A list of taxing subdivisions by county;

(2) whether each taxing subdivision conducted a hearing to consider exceeding its revenue neutral rate;

(3) the revenue neutral rate of each taxing subdivision;

(4) the tax rate resulting from the adopted budget of each taxing subdivision; and

(5) the percent change between the revenue neutral rate and the tax rate for each taxing subdivision.

History: L. 2021, ch. 9, § 1; L. 2021, ch. 58, § 11; L. 2022, ch. 63, § 37; July 1.