



Testimony to the House Local Government Committee  
on HB 2247

KAC supports HB 2247. We believe the bill accomplishes two key points: 1. Reducing the costs of publication for tax-supported governmental entities, and 2. Recognizing that the internet is advancing as the modern mode of communication.

Our county members support this bill in order to save money during these tight budgetary times. I have attached a spreadsheet of publication costs from our counties. Although the spreadsheet is not complete with all 105 counties, it does give you a view towards the costs across the state.

We have discussed compromise with the Kansas Press Association on previous attempts at this legislation, as we recognize the importance of local newspapers in our communities and their role in notifying citizens of governmental actions. We support compromise legislation with the press to address publication costs and we hope the introduction of HB 2247 opens up that discussion.

In the past, KPA has offered use of the kansas-public-notice website as a means to advertise notices. KAC is not opposed to newspapers submitting their publications to the kansas-public-notice website, but counties would see no reduced costs from this singular change. Reducing any publication that requires multiple runs to just one run in the newspaper might be one compromise that moves us forward on this issue. In combination with the kansas-public-notice website's display of the legal notice, that would mean the notice would run one time in a Kansas newspaper, and then be uploaded and displayed on the kansas-public-notice website. We believe this satisfies two interests; providing notice to the public and reducing costs. It should be noted that reducing the frequency of publications provides relief to counties, but we understand that this proposal may not assist cities and schools because they do not have the repetitive legal notices that we have.

Another idea is to return to the idea reflected in HB 2091 from the 2013 session (which passed the House). That bill was a joint product of KAC and KPA, and addressed the statute on delinquent tax publications. Current law sets a fee of \$15 to be assessed on the delinquent taxpayer to cover the costs of publishing notice of the delinquency. HB 2091 raised that amount to \$30. While that approach does recapture costs for counties, it only does so if the taxpayer ever pays his taxes. KAC is open to further discussion on revisiting HB 2091; however, it is not as helpful in reducing costs as HB 2247 in its current form.

We appreciate the opportunity for the parties to discuss this matter, and are available to answer any questions.

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Annual Amount Counties Spent on Publishing Information in Newspapers*			
County	2014	2016	
Allen	\$ 15,850.14	\$21,014.40	
Anderson	\$ 4,541.00		
Atchison	\$ 16,706.86		
Barber	\$ 4,890.00		
Barton	\$ 38,858.24	\$41,797.17	(1)
Bourbon	\$ 10,828.88		
Brown			
Butler	\$ 65,114.73	\$51,062.00	
Chase	\$ 6,054.17		
Chautauqua			
Cherokee			
Cheyenne	\$ 9,000.00		
Clark	\$ 5,756.85		
Clay			
Cloud			
Coffey	\$ 37,982.89		
Comanche			
Cowley	\$ 27,118.42	\$22,729.67	
Crawford	\$ 40,000.00		
Decatur	\$ 18,064.37		
Dickinson	\$ 13,838.89		
Doniphan	\$ 15,598.00	\$15,596.94	
Douglas	\$ 53,358.00		
Edwards	\$ 1,900.00		
Elk	\$ 5,000.00		
Ellis	\$ 25,986.17		
Ellsworth	\$ 10,397.00		
Finney	\$ 21,670.65		
Ford	\$ 131.30		
Franklin	\$ 48,270.39		
Geary	\$ 52,000.00		
Gove			
Graham	\$ 9,295.40	\$ 6,869.10	
Grant	\$ 13,480.44		
Gray	\$ 10,734.96		
Greeley			
Greenwood			
Hamilton	\$ 3,901.44		
Harper	\$ 5,000.00	\$36,000.00	(1)
Harvey	\$ 19,026.00	\$ 8,784.00	(2)
Haskell	\$ 2,113.20		
Hodgeman	\$ 6,000.00		
Jackson	\$ 22,662.00		
Jefferson	\$ 19,384.26	\$37,308.10	
Jewell		\$ 4,044.48	
Johnson	\$152,853.00		

County	2014	2016	
Kearny		\$ 2,344.67	
Kingman			
Kiowa			
Labette	\$ 33,114.59		
Lane			
Leavenworth	\$ 12,048.22		
Lincoln			
Linn			
Logan	\$ 6,500.00		
Lyon	\$ 24,000.00		
Marion		\$26,354.75	(3)
Marshall			
McPherson	\$ 6,400.00		
Meade	\$ 9,050.00		
Miami	\$ 37,824.62	\$31,545.81	
Mitchell	\$ 7,957.22	\$ 6,632.36	
Montgomery			
Morris			
Morton	\$ 5,914.93		
Nemaha	\$ 9,957.63		
Neosho	\$ 27,328.69		
Ness	\$ 7,000.00		
Norton		\$10,883.55	
Osage	\$ 21,280.00		
Osborne	\$ 9,267.93		
Ottawa		\$ 3,758.65	
Pawnee	\$ 21,466.13		
Phillips	\$ 4,500.00		
Pottawatomie	\$ 22,276.95	\$21,056.92	
Pratt			
Rawlins			
Reno			
Republic		\$ 8,631.00	(3)
Rice	\$ 17,758.30	\$17,567.17	(3)
Riley	\$ 49,440.56	\$58,782.00	
Rooks	\$ 17,933.76		
Rush			
Russell	\$ 8,759.20	\$23,050.29	
Saline	\$ 84,712.00		
Scott	\$ 5,335.35		
Sedgwick	\$125,361.00		
Seward		\$14,134.01	
Shawnee	\$ 63,024.00	\$59,514.87	(4)
Sheridan			
Sherman	\$ 20,145.05	\$ 14,890.38	(1)
Smith		\$ 8,405.49	

County	2014	2016	
Stafford	\$ 3,480.92		
Stanton			
Stevens			
Sumner		\$10,533.00	(4)
Thomas	\$ 13,440.89		
Trego			
Wabaunsee	\$ 3,825.00		
Wallace			
Washington			
Wichita	\$ 4,500.00		
Wilson			
Woodson		\$ 7,498.90	(3)
Wyandotte	\$ 169,000.00	\$12,112.25	(5)

- \*The information provided by the 33 responding counties for 2016 was not consistently reported. Please see footnotes below for known differences.
- (1) County's amount includes both legally required publications and publications such as position announcements.
- (2) County noted its figure does not include the costs of legal publications for the 9th District Court.
- (3) County noted it reported legal notices cost only.
- (4) County noted its amount included filing publication cost for the courts.
- (5) Not all county departments reported.

Sources
2014-Testimony on 2015 HB 2237, Kansas Association of Counties, March 16, 2015, to House Committee on Local Government.
2016-Reported by county officials to the Kansas Association of Counties, in January 2017, and forwarded to KLRD.