



Testimony Before The
HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

In Support of House Bill 2376

Submitted on Behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County

By Ed Eilert, Chairman

March 16, 2017

Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee:

Johnson County supports reasonable modifications to the “tax lid” legislation, initially adopted in 2015.

Changing the tax election requirement in this legislation to a protest petition provision, is one such reasonable modification.

The current statute requires that a tax election must be held when locally elected representatives deem a budget increase necessary, if that need exceeds a Consumer Price Index. However, increases in local government budgets are most often the result of expenses beyond government’s control, such as healthcare and unfunded mandates. This tax election requirement unnecessarily imposes cost on taxpayers. In Johnson County the cost for such a tax election is estimated at approximately one million dollars.

Like the current tax election requirement, a protest petition allows taxpayers to directly petition their locally elected representatives regarding budgetary decisions they do not support.

I urge the Committee to report favorably House Bill 2376, as a “common-sense” solution – balancing taxpayer’s rights with the need for local government to responsibly address increasing need and costs of critical services, such as mental health and intellectual and developmental disabilities.