



City of Lawrence

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

THOMAS M. MARKUS
CITY MANAGER

City Offices
PO Box 708 66044-0708
www.lawrenceks.org

6 East 6th St
785-832-3000
FAX 785-832-3405

CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR
LESLIE SODEN

COMMISSIONERS
STUART BOLEY
MATTHEW J. HERBERT
LISA LARSEN
MIKE AMYX

March 16, 2017

Representative Steven Johnson
Chairman Johnson, House Taxation Committee
Room 346-S, Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Support of House Bill 2376

Dear Chairman Johnson and House Taxation Committee members,

The tax lid measures adopted during the 2015 legislative session and the revisions adopted during the 2016 session limit local elected officials' ability to determine the appropriate spending and taxing policies in their community. It restricts the City's ability to increase ad valorem property taxes more than the consumer price index, unless such action was first approved by voters in a special election.

While the City of Lawrence urges the Legislature to remove the tax lid imposed on municipalities, the City recognizes that House Bill 2376 appears to be a good compromise absent complete repeal of the tax lid law.

The City of Lawrence joins the Kansas League of Municipalities and a host of other communities in support of House Bill 2376 to change the provision from a special election to a protest petition driven election. In cases where a protest petition was not submitted, a mandated and costly special election could be avoided.

The City of Lawrence supports House Bill 2376 and encourages the House Taxation Committee to support passage of this bill as currently written.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Markus
City Manager

c: Lawrence Mayor and City Commission

