

To: House Tax Committee

From: Clair Donnelly, Mayor
Richard LaMunyon, City Administrator
City of Maize

Date: March 14, 2017

Subject: House Bill 2376 - Tax Lid Legislation

The City of Maize is on record, along with the overwhelming majority of all Kansas cities and counties, in opposing the current legislation. The existing law was ill conceived, lacked proper planning, and was enacted without input from those most greatly impacted. As a result we now have a law that is unworkable, confusing and places unreasonable and unnecessary burdens on the governing entities closest to the people they serve.

The City of Maize recommendation is to repeal the current law immediately. It was not broken to begin with.

After the law is repealed, if it is the desire of the legislature to attempt to put a form of this law back in place, then follow the proper legislative process, allowing input and recommendation for all parties. Not just special interest groups.

However, in the interim, if it's the desire of the Tax Committee to simply "attempt to repair" the current law, by including a "protest petition" election, the City of Maize is in support of this change.

Notwithstanding the fact, the current law is both impractical and operationally feeble; the City of Maize is in support of changing the tax lid election process to a protest petition election.

The reasoning for this support is practical:

- Special Elections cost our Citizens money and requires City staff time and effort.
- Cities, specifically smaller ones, have neither the staffing nor money to put toward this effort. The money that is available can be better utilized.
- The election provisions of the law are incomplete and ambiguous.
- There is little to no direction regarding how to handle the election and its timing.
- The formula for a tax increase based on the KSA 79-2925c will be inconsistent year-to-year and will require an educational process for citizens. The protest petition would allow for this.
- A protest driven petition does not change the law just the election process.
- In summary, the current tax lid law costs money, staff time, lacks direction, is operationally unworkable and decreases overall efficiency.

While the City of Maize continues to be in opposition to the current law, we will support changing the legislation to allow a protest petition election process. It would be more efficient and provides some structure to the current ambiguous law.