



Shawnee County
Office of County Clerk
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Topeka, Kansas 66603-3963

February 4, 2020

Re: SB 294

Senate Taxation Committee
Caryn Tyson, Chair

Madam Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing my testimony, as a member of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, regarding SB 294.

As local elected officials, all County Clerks and Election Officials take pride in the service we provide for our citizens. We are one of the county offices who interact with our constituents and we strive to be accurate and transparent in all that we do for them.

My concern with SB 294 is the cost of time and money to our taxpayers. In Shawnee County we have 49 separate taxing entities, 50 if you include the State of Kansas. If they each chose to exceed their tax rate, my office would be required to prepare a notice to be mailed out to all the taxpayers within the boundaries of each taxing entity. As an example, the cost estimate for mailing notices just for Shawnee County is \$41,000. No matter how this is approached, the final cost for this will fall back on the taxpayer.

The information required on these notices could not be provided by the individual taxing entities. The County Clerk would have this information and would be asked to prepare it for them. If every taxing entity requested this information, my staff would have to work over-time and I would most likely need to hire several temporary staff to get this accomplished. This translates to time and tax dollars.

Allowing the officials elected by their constituents to make decisions on how to spend the tax dollars of the people they represent would seem a far better choice. Having a mandate forced upon these taxpayers by the Legislature does not seem in the best interest of those at the local level.

Thank you for your consideration in allowing me to voice my opposition to SB 294.

Respectfully,

Cynthia A. Beck
Shawnee County Clerk