

STATE OF KANSAS

TOM HAWK
STATE SENATOR, 22ND DISTRICT
2600 WOODHAVEN CT.
MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66502
(785) 537-8000
tom@tomhawk.com

STATE CAPITOL 135-E
300 S.W. 10TH AVENUE
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7360
tom.hawk@senate.ks.gov



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
WAYS & MEANS (RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)
UTILITIES
TRANSPORTATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

February 5, 2020

Proponent Testimony for SB299

Chair Bowers, Vice Chair Hardy, Ranking Member Haley, and fellow committee members,

I am here to share my thinking about SB299, a transparency bill regarding campaign finance for board candidates in community colleges and certain school districts.

Currently, cities of the first class are required to comply with the laws, rules and regulations of the campaign finance act. In that compliance, candidates must turn in their financial contributors prior to the election. School district and community college candidates are not required to make those reports prior to the election, only after the election.

A newspaper in my Senate district, the Manhattan Mercury, recognized that this procedure did not give the voters full information prior to the election and expressed that sentiment in an editorial after the last school board election. I agree with them.

SB299 is an attempt to bring similar transparency requirements to the campaign finance rules between city elections of the first class, school board elections for school districts over 5,000 students, and all community colleges. Currently, there are 24 cities of the first class and there are 20 school districts with enrollments over 5,000 students. Attached to my testimony is a listing of school districts with enrollments over 5,000 students as well as those districts with enrollments over 3,000 students, should the committee wish to consider enlarging the scope of this bill. There is also a listing of the Kansas community colleges and their enrollments from the 2019 Community College Data Book. And finally, a listing of "cities of the first class" from the League of Kansas Municipalities (2018).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hawk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Tom Hawk

Community Colleges
Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment*
Academic Year 2013 - 2018

Table 3.2

Institution	AY 2013	AY 2014	AY 2015	AY 2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	% Change AY 13 - 18
Allen Community College	2,054	1,892	1,790	1,630	1,579	1,542	-24.9%
Barton Community College	4,079	4,257	4,291	4,252	3,849	3,812	-6.5%
Butler Community College	6,676	6,201	6,053	6,053	6,049	5,855	-12.3%
Cloud County Community College	1,612	1,463	1,397	1,344	1,321	1,276	-20.8%
Coffeyville Community College	1,307	1,375	1,269	1,279	1,288	1,296	-0.9%
Colby Community College	1,066	1,015	1,030	1,009	980	1,058	-0.7%
Cowley Community College	3,199	2,911	2,537	2,361	2,026	2,002	-37.4%
Dodge City Community College	1,398	1,371	1,349	1,337	1,337	1,312	-6.1%
Fort Scott Community College	1,517	1,527	1,407	1,326	1,295	1,280	-15.6%
Garden City Community College	1,485	1,498	1,553	1,625	1,613	1,669	12.4%
Highland Community College	1,968	2,078	2,093	2,161	2,088	1,970	0.1%
Hutchinson Community College	4,174	3,961	3,887	3,750	3,913	3,896	-6.7%
Independence Community College	853	777	719	761	826	710	-16.8%
Johnson County Community College	12,006	11,498	11,510	11,179	11,180	10,965	-8.7%
Kansas City Kansas Community College	4,721	4,309	4,019	3,619	3,593	3,660	-22.5%
Labette Community College	1,174	1,078	1,027	997	1,037	1,159	-1.3%
Neosho County Community College	1,668	1,579	1,392	1,295	1,325	1,262	-24.3%
Pratt Community College	1,130	1,109	1,039	881	895	872	-22.9%
Seward County Community College	1,326	1,267	1,294	1,306	1,262	1,180	-11.0%
Total FTE**	53,415	51,164	49,655	48,165	47,456	46,776	-12.4%

*Full-time equivalent is rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Due to rounding, the total FTE for community colleges may vary slightly from the sum of the individual totals.

Notes for this section begin on page 53.

Source: KHEDS AY Collection

**School District Headcount Enrollment
SY 2019-2020**

Total Statewide Enrollment: 492,102

USDs with 3,000 to 4,999 Students

<u>USD</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>District Name</u>	<u>Headcount Enrollment</u>
480	Seward	Liberal	4,727
253	Lyon	Emporia	4,691
230	Johnson	Spring Hill	4,427
308	Reno	Hutchinson Public Schools	4,405
202	Wyandotte	Turner-Kansas City	3,996
345	Shawnee	Seaman	3,886
453	Leavenworth	Leavenworth	3,793
450	Shawnee	Shawnee Heights	3,738
373	Harvey	Newton	3,506
250	Crawford	Pittsburg	3,241
489	Ellis	Hays	3,210
262	Sedgwick	Valley Center Public Schools	3,136

Total Enrollment in USDs with 3,000-4,999 Students 46,756
Percent of Total Statewide Enrollment 9.5%

USDs with Greater than 5,000 Students

<u>USD</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>District Name</u>	<u>Headcount Enrollment</u>
259	Sedgwick	Wichita	49,375
233	Johnson	Olathe	29,773
512	Johnson	Shawnee Mission Public Schools	27,345
500	Wyandotte	Kansas City	23,470
229	Johnson	Blue Valley	23,026
501	Shawnee	Topeka	13,004
497	Douglas	Lawrence	11,879
385	Butler	Andover	9,250
266	Sedgwick	Maize	7,678
457	Finney	Garden City	7,433
260	Sedgwick	Derby	7,416
232	Johnson	De Soto	7,409
475	Geary	Geary County Schools	7,228
305	Saline	Salina	7,156
443	Ford	Dodge City	7,077
383	Riley	Manhattan-Ogden	6,836
437	Shawnee	Auburn Washburn	6,313
265	Sedgwick	Goddard	6,087
231	Johnson	Gardner Edgerton	6,033
261	Sedgwick	Haysville	5,879

Total Enrollment in USDs with 5,000+ Students 269,667
Percent of Total Statewide Enrollment 54.8%

Enrollment in Johnson Co. USDs with 5,000+ Students 93,586
Percent of Total Statewide Enrollment 19.0%

Enrollment in Sedgwick Co. USDs with 5,000+ Students 76,435
Percent of Total Statewide Enrollment 15.5%

Enrollment in Shawnee Co. USDs with 5,000+ Students 19,317
Percent of Total Statewide Enrollment 3.9%

Cities of the First Class

City	Population	Class	Form of Government
Atchison	10,560	1	Commission/Manager
Coffeyville	9,366		Commission/Manager
Dodge City	27,329		Commission/Manager
Emporia	24,765		Commission/Manager
Fort Scott	7,765		Commission/Manager
Garden City	26,546		Commission/Manager
Hutchinson	40,623		Mayor/Council/Manager
Junction City	22,120		Commission/Manager
Lawrence	97,286		Commission/Manager
Leavenworth	36,062		Commission/Manager
Leawood	34,689		Mayor/Council
Lenexa	55,294		Mayor/Council/Manager
Liberal	19,495		Commission/Manager
Manhattan	54,959		Commission/Manager
Newton	18,746		Commission/Manager
Olathe	139,605		Mayor/Council/Manager
Overland Park	192,536		Mayor/Council/Manager
Parsons	9,665		Commission/Manager
Pittsburg	20,178		Commission/Manager
Prairie Village	22,389		Mayor/Council
Salina	46,716		Commission/Manager
Shawnee	65,845		Mayor/Council/Manager
Topeka	125,904		Mayor/Council/Manager
Wichita	389,255		Mayor/Council/Manager

https://themercury.com/opinion/school-board-elections-rule-doesn-t-make-sense/article_10c5c72e-5d55-5ec5-b224-ba9890d22677.html

School board elections rule doesn't make sense

Aug 14, 2019

*Sen Tom Hawth #22
2-6-20*

For every election, we gather campaign finance reports of candidates in local races, which are an important public record. We typically share who raised the most money for a given race and who gave money to whom. We shared the reports for city commission candidates on Tuesday.

We were surprised to learn, though, that in another local race, the one for USD 383 school board, candidates don't have to file campaign finance reports until after the race.

Riley County elections supervisor Susan Boller confirmed the state law, which provides an exception for unified school districts.

The candidates for those offices file campaign finance reports annually on or before Dec. 31, which of course is after Election Day in November. (If there were a primary, candidates would have to file a report 30 days after that election.)

So we see that this is the rule, but it's a flawed one to say the least.

How can you not know who is spending money and how?

Campaign finance reports are an important component of democratic elections, and keeping them public ensures a level of transparency. But if voters can't see them until after the race, who does that help?

The truth is that school board races are often pretty low-wattage. USD 383 has just passed a big, \$129.5 million bond issue, but the school board isn't likely to see a measure with that much money riding on it anytime soon.

But there will be some day when there's a big, divisive issue. A candidate will be running big ads, and we'll wonder who's backing that person. The fact that we can't know for school board members is a problem.