

To: Chairman Steven Johnson
House Taxation Committee
From: Board of Finney County Commissioners
Subject: Written Testimony Supporting **HB 2376**

The Board of Finney County Commissioners are in support of the House Bill which allows citizens for a city or county to provide a protest petition election regarding the right to vote on a property tax increase, an amendment to KSA 79-2925c. The following are reasons why we support this bill.

1. A protest petition still gives the taxpayers a right to protest an increase in taxes without automatically assuming that the majority of citizens do not support a tax increases for easily justifiable reasons.
2. Would allow for education of the citizens during a protest period instead of not allowing us time to justify any tax increase with an automatic election. The following examples are where additional property taxes may be needed and explained in during the public hearing process for citizens.
 - To meet unfunded mandates by federal or state laws.
 - To fund employer contributions for Social Security, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, health care costs, and employee retirement and pension program costs.
 - To fund expenses incurred by the county for district court operations and detention of juveniles.

We take very seriously our responsibility to the taxpayers. We develop sustainable budgets that provide the best service possible with limited financial resources. Historically, operating and capital improvement budgets adopted by Finney County budgets have shown a yearly increase that is less than the municipal price index.

For these reasons, we support **HB 2376**. Thank you for considering our written testimony.



Lon E. Pishny, Commission Chair