

Date: February 11, 2019
To: Chairman Thompson and the House Committee on Local Government
From: City of Eudora
Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2135

Dear Chairman Thompson and the House Committee on Local Government:

The City of Eudora strongly supports HB 2135 to repeal K.S.A. 25-2711 relating to the placement of political signs. It is extremely difficult for us to reconcile and comply with both K.S.A. 25-2711 and the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Ariz.*, 135 S. Ct. 2218 (2015). As the former apparently seeks to add protections for the placement of political candidates' campaign signs and the latter renders unconstitutional sign restrictions that make distinctions in reference to a sign's message/ content. To enforce K.S.A. 25-2711, our staff must review the content of every temporary sign to determine if it qualifies for the protection from local sign regulations. On its face, the Kansas statute protects specific signs based on their message and appears to be in violation of the Supreme Court ruling in *Reed*.

The only way for a city to comply with *both* K.S.A. 25-2711 *and* the ruling in *Reed* is to allow all signs to be placed in the public right-of-way. This would result in not only safety issues relating to distracted driving but also an undue burden on private businesses/utilities and municipal utilities and departments that require unfettered access to the right-of-way to perform their work efficiently and without concern of potential legal trouble resulting from pulling and [attempting] replacing signs as they were found.

Thank you for considering the position of the City of Eudora and for your thoughtful review of HB 2135 to repeal K.S.A. 25-2711. We urge you to vote yes to repeal K.S.A. 25-2711.

Kind regards,



Tim Reazin
Mayor