



House Committee on Taxation

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2345

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2345, which adds another exemption to the public vote requirement for property tax increases beyond the rate of inflation.

HB 2345 states that the public vote requirement does not apply if the amount of funding for the budget does not exceed the highest level of funding for such appropriation or budget for any of the next preceding seven calendar years.

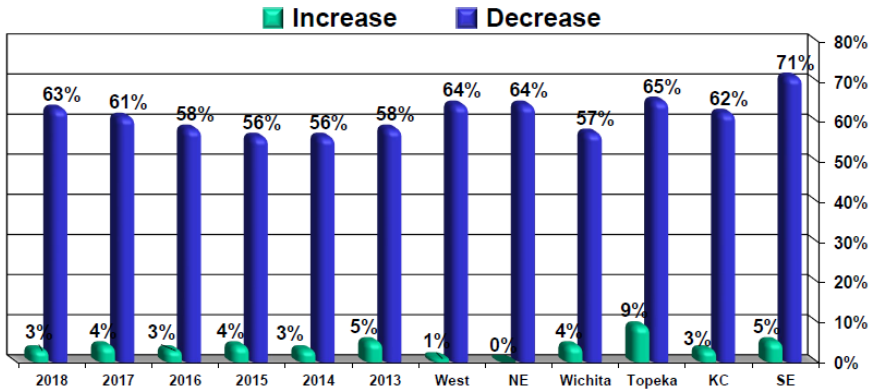
Our objection to HB 2345 is rather simple- the public vote requirement required when property taxes increase beyond the rate of inflation already features 16 exemptions to accommodate the needs of local government. Adding another exemption is simply unjustified. We have worked with supporters of this legislation on other efforts to add exemptions when a legitimate concern arises. However, this new seven-year budget window is unexplainable, and in our view is simply an effort to circumvent the public vote requirement.

Property taxes are the least popular tax, and the sentiment of Kansas businesses continues to support the need for reductions in property taxes. Before the most recent reiteration of the tax lid went into effect, Kansas property tax revenues increased at a pace far exceeding the rate of inflation. We ask that we let the public vote requirement do its job and hold elected officials accountable if they believe property tax revenues must increase beyond the rate of inflation (plus the 16 exceptions) and hold a vote of the people they represent to determine if constituents support the need for extra revenue.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2345, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.

Change Property Tax?

3% Increase; 63% Decrease, 32% Stay the Same; 2% Undecided



Desire to decrease property taxes continues to increase.

How Does Your State Rank on Property Taxes?

Property Tax Component Rankings, 2019 State Business Tax Climate Index

