



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

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## County Manager's Office

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Thomas J. Stolz  
County Manager

January 20, 2023

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the House Committee on Taxation,

Sedgwick County is submitting written testimony in support of House Bill 2002. State budget law changes enacted in 2021 now mandate that County Clerks send a specific style of mailer to all affected property owners if a governing body within the county is proposing to increase its property tax rate beyond a 'revenue neutral rate'. This mailer requirement went into effect for 2023 budgets, which were approved in late summer 2022.

Current law directs that County Clerks may submit reimbursement requests to the State for mailer costs associated with the 2023 and 2024 budgets. For mailer costs for 2025 budgets and beyond, County Clerks must pay for the mailer costs, but then can bill the various governing bodies for their proportional costs of the mailers. This is an administrative burden for the Clerk's Office and a budgetary challenge for governing bodies who will not be able to predict their costs because they will not be able to predict which governing bodies will be part of the mailer for any given year. In addition, this is a statutory mandate, where the form and format are not at the discretion of the County Clerk or local governing body.

Sedgwick County respectfully supports funding for this State-mandated action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TJ Stolz".

Thomas J. Stolz  
County Manager