



Joe Warren, Director of Administrative Services

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To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

From: Joe Warren, Director of Administrative Services, City of Atchison

Date: February 10, 2020

Re: SB 338, Alternative Budget Procedure

Honorable Chairperson Bowers and fellow Committee Members,

The City of Atchison supports SB 338. This bill is common sense legislation that allows cities to be more efficient with taxpayer funds through more accurate budgeting practices.

The current budget adoption timeline imposes an August deadline for cities to submit all revenue and expenditure estimates for the following year. This creates a situation where cities are trying to project revenues and expenditures up to 16 months in advance.

Setting the ad valorem tax rate in August would follow the current timeline as it relates to county administration of the appropriate tax bills. But allowing more than three extra months for cities to gauge other revenue sources – such as highly volatile sales tax revenues – while at the same time giving cities the chance to consider expense trends for an additional quarter helps city leaders and ultimately benefits local taxpayers.

There is no downside to this legislation. There is no group negatively impacted by giving cities the option to adopt the budget timeline allowed by SB 338.

We ask that you support this bill and thank you for supporting local taxpayers.