

March 26, 2019

Re: HB 76

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to address you concerning HB 76.

I speak in favor of HB 76 because the bill will help voters and taxpayers to understand what is being asked of them. The bill clarifies a property tax levy ballot so that the average person can understand it. For example, the terms “taxable value” and “fair market value” are more understandable than the terms “valuation,” “tax valuation,” “assessed,” and “appraised.”

With the bill, the ballot clearly explains the cost of a levy in terms of dollars per \$100,000 of fair market value. The voter will no longer need to convert taxable value to fair market value and then to today’s more realistic property value. More likely, the voter currently doesn’t even attempt to do the calculations because he doesn’t understand the current confusing terms.

Also with this bill, the revenue that a tax levy produces is shown on the ballot. This important information is not on current ballots.

I ask you to support this bill because it is a reasonable step toward being fair and respectful toward voters and taxpayers.

Last week I sent each of you evidence of the very unfair ballots for replacement levies. I ask that replacements also be addressed either with this bill or in a near-future bill.

Thank you for your attention, and if you have any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

Respectfully,

Carolyn J. Blow