

Kansas Republicans' Home Assessed Value Cap May — Or May Not — Reduce Property Taxes

By Anna Kaminski
Kansas Reflector

A group of GOP senators want to amend the Kansas Constitution to establish an annual cap on a home's taxable assessed value, but opinions are split on whether it will provide real relief.

The proposal, called the Cap Assessed Valuation Protection amendment, confines a county appraiser's annual home value assessments to a 3% increase or less compared to the previous year's assessed value.

However, the proposal does not change a local taxing entity's ability to impose mill levy increases or decreases.

Proponents said during committee hearings the resolution will produce lower residential property taxes. Opponents said the resolution, as written, is likely to shift the tax burden to other property types, such as agricultural land, and create an illusion of residential property tax relief.

Some people could see a lower property

tax amount with a cap in place compared to previous years. But because local governments still retain the authority to set tax rates, lower property taxes are not a given.

Despite differing opinions on the potential outcomes of the cap, nearly everyone agreed on one thing: Property taxes are a problem.

Legislators have repeatedly described property tax relief as a major policy deliverable for their constituents.

The Legislature during the 2025 session nixed a combined 1.5 mills that funded the Kansas educational building and state institutional building funds. Tyson promised more tax relief efforts as the 2026 session progresses.

Establishing a constitutional amendment capping final taxable assessed

value increases would be among the most substantial in a string of tax legislation in recent years. Taxable assessed valuation is one of many variables, he said, and without a corresponding cap on taxing entities' budgets or mill levies, the resolution only shifts around those variables.

Opponents said the resolution, as written, is likely to shift the tax burden to other property types, such as agricultural land, and create an illusion of residential property tax relief.

There were differing opinions on how the agriculture community viewed the bill.

Eric Estes of the Kansas Deere Dealers Association

argued a 3% cap would be good for farm and agriculture operators. He backed that up by presenting 20 years' worth of projections, applying Oklahoma's 3% cap. The data from the Kansas Policy Institute, which was not verified by the committee or Kansas Reflector, showed farm and agriculture operators could have saved \$1 billion

in taxes over 10 years.

Matt Teagarden, CEO of the Kansas Livestock Association, said its members continue to oppose a valuation cap. The topic has been on association agendas at roundtables, meetings and conventions since the fall of 2024.

Teagarden and association members worry establishing a cap will shift the tax burden to agricultural property owners, resulting in them paying more for land, home improvements, commercial property and vehicles.

Many of the same associations, organizations and figures testified Tuesday and Wednesday as in January 2024. Lobbyists for the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Association of School Boards returned to express opposition. Mark Tomb, vice president of governmental affairs for the Kansas Realtors Association, also opposed the resolution, worrying a cap could pressure local governments into raising their budgets. He favored voter-driven constraints on local entities and levies.

Belleville Library To Host Herbal Knowledge Workshop

Do-It-Yourself remedies.

The Belleville Public Library will be hosting a "Roots and Remedies" workshop on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 1-3 p.m. The event is open to the public.

The event is a hands-on, earth-inspired tutorial, designed to explore traditional herbal knowledge and create simple, natural DIY remedies.

Nine Young Corn Growers Begin Kansas Corn Corps Program

Kansas Corn kicked off the first session of the Kansas Corn Corps Class 7 in December at Salina. Nine young growers were selected to participate the seventh class of Kansas Corn Corps. Kansas Corn created the program in 2016 as a way for young farmers to network, learn more about the corn industry and develop new business skills that can benefit their own operations in the future.

"Kansas Corn Corps is about investing in our young farmers and the future of the corn industry," says Nicki Fisher, Kansas Corn Programs Manager, Western Kansas Grower Services and coordinator of the Kansas Corn Corps program. "Our goal is for participants to walk away from our program with skills they can put back into their farms and experiences that help them move the corn industry forward."

The focus of the two-day session was welcoming the new participants, understanding their roles as young farmers and learning more about the corn industry on the state, national and international levels.

During the session, participants toured Beck's Hybrids and Great Plains Manufacturing. Participants also received media training from WIBW 580AM Radio Ag Director Greg Akagi.

The 16-month program consists of three learning sessions in Kansas and a domestic ag tour that will take place in another region of the U.S.

This program is funded by the Kansas Corn Growers Association and the Kansas Corn Commission. It is free to KCGA members who are under the age of 45 and have active roles in their farming operations. Learn more at kscorn.com/corncorps.

The Kansas Corn Corps Class 7 participants are listed below:

Katie Dolzer, Agenda
Trey Fisher, St. John
Carlee Norris, St. John
Lane Klepper, Ellinwood
Hannah Lang, Overbrook
Chase Regehr, Iola
Camron Shay, Healy
Casey & Julie Willyard, Atchison



The Ink Is Dry

Members of the Belleville City Council signed a lease last week for a newly constructed hangar at The Belleville Municipal Airport with Boettcher Aerial Spraying of Beloit.

According to Belleville City Manger Adam Anderson, the lease has been signed for a 30 year period with the commercial sprayer. The new hangar was constructed at a cost of \$345,000. The City's portion was \$110,000 with the aerial sprayer paying the remainder. The City of Belleville will retain ownership of the facility.

Anderson said in addition to crop dusting, Boettcher officials say they may offer repair services to planes as well as flight instruction in the future.

-Telescope photos by Fred Arnold

Game Report: PVJH Girls BB at Sylvan Grove vs. Lucas/Sylvan JH

January 15, 2026

B-team game: Lucas/Sylvan JH 0-4-3-2= 9

PVJH 0-12-2-2= 16

In the B game, the girls had a great defensive game and that really pumped up our scoring. Spencer Payne had 4 points, Liliana Mejias had 4 points, and Kennedy Clark had 4 points. Lexi Kraus had two points, and Jaxi Clark had two points. The B-Girls record is now 6-3 on the season.

A-team game: Lucas/Sylvan JH 3-0-3-0= 6

PVJH 6-4-9-11=30

In the A game, we defended well all game, but missed some free throws and short shots in the first half. We put things together well in the second half and outscored them 20-3 for a 30-6 victory! Lily Garman had 2 points, Kennedy Clark had 3 points, Karsyn Loring had 4 points, Madly Hanel had 17 points, Nora May had 2 points, and Kohlee White had two points. The A-Girls record is now 7-2 on the season.

Coach's Comments:

Coach Callaway and I were very pleased with how the girls played tonight. We must continue to improve our rebounding, ball-handling, and finishing through contact.

Our next game is Thursday, January 22, at Courtland vs. the Rock Hills Grizzlies. The first game is the **C-team girls at 3:00 PM**. It will be one 20-minute quarter with a running clock. We hope to see a lot of you there!

Yours in hoops!
Coach Cox

Toy Bank Donations Helped Nearly 200 Kids

The holiday season has come to an end, it was certainly a busy one for the Republic County Toy Bank.

In 2025 the bank supported over 65 Republic County families and ensured almost 200 children had presents under the tree this past Christmas.

"We would not have been able to provide these gifts without the generous support of our fellow community members," toy bank chair Tyler Ottensmeier said.

"For those of you who donated gifts or monetarily, adopted a family or wrapped the presents, all your efforts were greatly appreciated," he added. "Your generosity enabled many in our community to experience a happier holiday. It was encouraging to see the number of individuals and community groups that assisted the Toy Bank this year."

Ottensmeier said a special thank you goes to Golden Bell Haven, area schools and churches, local businesses, private donors and people who just like to wrap gifts. Local media

are especially appreciated including KR-92, **The Belleville Telescope**, and Cunningham Communications for promoting the Republic County Toy Bank.

"As we look ahead, we encourage you to continue supporting our mission

throughout the year. A great way to help is by picking up wrapping paper, gift bags, and other supplies during the post-holiday sales—every little bit makes a big difference," he said.



Discussing HVAC

The Republic County Board of Education met last week, and the topic of discussions was the update of the HVAC system at the Jr./Sr. High School.

-Telescope photo by Katy Duryea



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