

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

RESOLVED

WHEREAS, each year, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners prepares a set of initial legislative priorities; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to these priorities, the County Board formally considers supporting or opposing bills throughout the legislative session, consistent with the County's initial legislative priorities, or those that should be incorporated as a new priority or policy; and,

WHEREAS, this Board supports the following priorities as on-going, long-standing items, which we share in common with the other large urban counties of our state:

1. Support criminal justice reform, address rising jail costs, and mitigate the fiscal impact to county jails as of result of LB605 [104th].
2. Eliminate unfunded/underfunded mandates on Counties by the State; examples: eliminate the responsibility of counties to pay HHS office space(s) [proposed LB61-Bolz, 104th], Probation office space(s) [proposed LB427-Groene, 104th] and/or if legislation is introduced regarding the provision of crime lab services.
3. Counties to share proportionally in the automotive sales tax revenue collected by County Treasurers [proposed LB391-Crawford, 104th]; and,

WHEREAS, this Board supports the following items as the County's initial primary legislative priorities for 2017:

1. **SUPPORT** a legislative effort to provide statewide uniformity in the collection of 911 surcharges; allow counties containing a city of the metropolitan class the ability to collect the same surcharge amount per active telephone number as those counties not containing a city of the metropolitan class.
2. **SUPPORT** a legislative initiative to continue Medicaid coverage to eligible individuals in the County's jail custody until their sentencing and/or post-adjudication; **SUPPORT** requiring private health insurers in Nebraska be required to continue to provide health coverage to insured individuals in the County's jail custody until their sentencing and/or post-adjudication (applicable to individuals who enter the County's custody covered by a private health insurance policy).
3. **SUPPORT** a study ~~legislation~~ to expand Counties' ordinance making authority (grant 'home-rule' authority); allow counties containing a city of the metropolitan class, the ability to pass laws and ordinances to appropriately address their own unique needs and to more efficiently provide services to residents.
4. **SUPPORT** revisions to Chapter §77 pertaining to Board of Equalization (BOE) / Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC):
 - TERC appeal hearings to be held in Omaha in addition to Lincoln
 - Require TERC to implement a 'progression calendar-type' docket
 - Require one TERC Commissioner to be a licensed real-estate broker

- Require TERC to grant a re-hearing, if requested, on any decision or order made by the commission
- Consider raising TERC filing fees
- Prohibit County Assessors from appealing directly to TERC without local BOE approval
- Better define the type of relief/discretion that a BOE may or may not exercise when reviewing a property owners' (appellants') appeals of denied property tax exemptions/homestead exemptions, when the reason for the denial is due to a late filing
- Prohibit an appeal to TERC without a property owner's express permission
- Allow TERC to utilize mass appraisal to assist in the appropriate increase/decrease of the value of a class/subclass of property in order to ensure that all classes/subclasses of property across the state fall into acceptable assessed ranges
- Require TERC to have the approval of the Governor and/or State Tax Commissioner in order to decree 'blanket-type' re-equalized assessments of property that affect multiple properties located a specific district/neighborhood-area; and,

5. **SUPPORT** all mail in elections.

WHEREAS, this legislation will result in a beneficial impact on Douglas County and is in the best interest of our residents to support these legislative priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, that this Board hereby supports the legislative priorities stated above, or similar/related legislation, and directs the County's lobbyists to pursue support of these priorities during the 105th Nebraska Unicameral, 1st Session.

DATED this 20th day of December, 2016

Motion by Boyle, second by Morgan to approve with amendments. I move the adoption of the resolution as amended.

Adopted: December 20, 2016

Yeas: Boyle, Cavanaugh, Duda, Kraft, Morgan, Rodgers, Borgeson

(CERTIFIED COPY)



Daniel A. Esch
Douglas County Clerk

Resolution No: 877
ADOPTED: December 20, 2016