

Submitter: Joe Dabulskis  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB1576

Chair Prozanski  
Vice Chair Thatcher  
Committee Member

I am Joe Dabulskis, I am the Sherman County Judge and have been for the past 5 years. I am opposed to the proposed Amendment -4 (LC 228) SB 1576 as written. I have several concerns.

In his "Gettysburg Address" 160 years ago, President Lincoln spoke of " A government of the people, by the people, for the people". With this amendment as written, two people could change the form of government in which a county is governed. Two persons are not "The People". Regardless of what the voters desire, two people, a quorum of the county court could make the change. If a county needs or wants to change its structure of government, let the people express that desire in an election. This amendment does give counties local control, but to place it in the hands of just two persons is unjust.

I have been told, as have both my predecessors (combined this is over 31 years as Sherman County Judges), by State Judges that the County Judge provides a much needed service to the state courts. The County Judge handling of probate cases frees up Circuit Courts for more serious issues. County Judges handle these cases in a very efficient timely manner. Training is available and County Judges can reach out to County Council and Circuit Court Judges if needed.

Sherman County was not notified in any way what so ever about this amendment even though we were named in it. I was informed by three other county judges that they were not informed of this action either. All of the County Judges and County Commissioners that have reached out to me, both serving and retired, are opposed to this amendment.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Joe Dabulskis  
Sherman County Judge