

## HB 1384 testimony

I would like to express our opposition to HB 1384, that would require the county auditor to be elected instead of appointed. Our residents passed a home rule charter (by a wide margin) which allowed the auditor to be appointed instead of elected. This has served the residents of Richland County well. The working relationship between the elected commissioners and appointed Auditor has always been good. Certainly, there have been differences of opinion, but always resolved in the light of public meetings. Appointing the auditor allows the commission to provide direction and give advice, however if the auditor is appointed, they could very well take the attitude of: "I don't answer to you!" It could prevent the elected members of the commission from taking corrective or disciplinary action.

People may well be 'popular' and able to win an election, but have no understanding of the tax levy system, property valuations and mill levy calculations that are necessary for this position.

Furthermore, we could theoretically have someone new in this position every four years, which would create a very difficult situation, as continuity in this office provides stability. As you know, it takes time to become acquainted with a new position, especially one as complicated as auditor. I've seen examples of elected officials refusing to work with the commission and other departments. It creates unnecessary problems, cost and turmoil.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem that does not exist, and it takes away local control.

**Please do not pass HB 1384**