

Sheridan County Auditor's Office

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Senate Political Subdivision Committee

Prepared March 10, 2021

By: Shirley A. Murray, Sheridan County Auditor

RE: Opposition to House Bill 1445

Chairman Burckhard and committee members. I am Shirley A. Murray, Sheridan County Auditor. I am in opposition of HB 1445. Section 57-09-01 and 57-09-06 should not be changed.

The County Auditor's office in Sheridan County posts the assessment changes in the County tax system as received from the assessors. It takes a lot of time to post the changes and equal out. At this same time period we have many other duties and deadlines to take care of and also on Election years it is twice as cumbersome to get assessment changes done by the County equalization meeting within the first 10 days of June.

Therefore, by allowing the Assessors to return the books two weeks later to the 2nd Monday in May would stress our office even more to get the assessment changes done in time for the County Equalization meeting. The budget process starts in June and July with meetings held. The assessment timeline can't be moved further out due to the estimated budgets need to be finalized by August 10th so the estimated tax statements can be sent out by August 31st. The budgets are based off what the mill levy will generate according to what the assessment values are.

Also I would like to point out that the township boards are made up of mostly farmers and I don't think they would like pushing the Township Equalization meeting to later April due to they are busy getting in the fields to get their spring's work done. This timeline has been working as is for a long time so no need to change anything now.

Please give a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1445