

Written Testimony for the
House Political Subdivisions

January 24, 2025

Jaden Schmidt, Oliver County Auditor

RE: SUPPORT for HB 1380

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee.

My name is Jaden Schmidt and I am the Auditor for Oliver County. I would like to express my support of House Bill 1380.

In 2023, Oliver County spent a total of \$5,263.50 with our official newspaper, the Center Republican. In 2024, that number increased to \$10,552.74. This increase is largely due to the election printing and publishing but also includes commission meeting minutes, legal notices for Planning & Zoning, notices for bid opportunities, job listings, newspaper subscriptions as well as other printing needs.

Last year, Oliver County spent \$3,827.51 for the publication of our meeting minutes, an increase from \$1467.80 that was spent specifically for minute publication in 2023. Our minutes are also published to our website, approximately one week prior to their publication in the newspaper.

To some, the amount is not staggering, but for a small county like mine, that is an amount that could be allocated towards other services for our county residents. Where the public accesses information has shifted from printed paper to digital and continues to do so. Having our minutes published to the website becomes directly available to the public, often in a manner quicker than waiting for the newspaper to publish them.

Thank you for your time today and I urge a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1380.