

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-14

**RESOLUTION TO URGE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PRESERVE
THE PRACTICE OF SHARING CERTAIN STATE REVENUES
WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS, county governments in Tennessee are fundamental political subdivisions of our state and are the primary providers of numerous essential governments services including, but not limited to, public K-12 education, jails and law enforcement, road building and maintenance, election administration and voter registration, property assessment, solid waste disposal, record keeping and administration for the various state courts, and the many services provided by the offices of County Clerk, Circuit Court Clerk, Clerk and Master, Register of Deeds, Property Assessor, Elections Administrator, Trustee, Sheriff, and Highway Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, county governments are limited by state law regarding the forms of taxation and revenue generation which they are authorized to use and have been unable to convince the General Assembly to expand this legislative authorization, leaving many counties overly dependent on the property tax as a primary source of revenue; and

WHEREAS, counties are suffering, together with the State, from decreased growth in sales tax revenue or even diminishing revenue collections from this revenue source; and

WHEREAS, many counties in the State of Tennessee have been struggling to find sufficient revenue sources in order to meet the growing demands of their citizens for services which are vital to the health, welfare, and safety of the people of this state, to provide improvements to infrastructure required by population and economic growth, and to meet constitutional responsibilities and state legislative mandates such as those required by the Basic Education Program; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Constitution, in Article II, Section 24, provides that "no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost;" and

WHEREAS, although significant State funds have been provided for local roads and streets and for public education, the percentage of funding provided by the State to local government to fund essential services has continued to diminish even as new legislative mandates for spending had been imposed on cities and counties without a corresponding increase in state-shared funding; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in state-shared revenues to local governments will likely result in either a reduction of services to citizens, an increase in property tax rates in order to maintain current levels of services or both;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the county legislative body of Weakley County, Tennessee assembled in special session on this the 23rd day of October, 2001 in Dresden, Tennessee that the Tennessee General Assembly is strongly urged to preserve the existing system of sharing certain portions of state tax revenues with county and municipal governments in order to fulfill the state's constitutional and moral responsibility to share in funding the essential services provided by city and county governments of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county clerk shall mail copies of this Resolution to State Senator Roy Herron and State Representative Mark Maddox.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions of the Board of County Commissioners of Weakley County, Tennessee, which are in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it. This resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Pursuant To The Rules Of The Commission, This Resolution Is Sponsored By The Following Members Of The Weakley County Board Of County Commissioners:

SPONSORED BY:

Boez Stewart

ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:

Boez Stewart

Chairman, Legislative Committee

SPONSORED BY:

James H. Wallbrook, Jr.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:

Bill Phebus

Chairman, Finance, Ways, & Means Committee

Motion made by Commissioner Phebus that the foregoing resolution be adopted:

Motion seconded by Commissioner Buckley.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, Motion Carried by a vote of 19 Yeas, 0 Nays,
0 Passed and 1 Absent.

Attested:

Pat Scarbrough
Pat Scarbrough, County Clerk

Approved:

Ron Gifford
Ron Gifford, County Executive

THIS THE 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001.