

I have been the Pendleton Municipal Court Clerk for 30 years. I have been a part of many discussions on being a court of record. The option to be a court of record became available to Municipal and Justice Courts in 2007. Very few court (5 to my knowledge) have decided to do it. Because of that, legislators should already know that cities do not want this.

Cost is one reason not to be a court of record. It would require all cities, some who only handle traffic cases, to pay for a recording system and a copying system to provide audio records of hearings. If transcript service is also required, that would be an additional expense to our ever-decreasing budgets.

Staffing is another reason not to be a court of record. Most clerks I know already have their hands full with their current duties (preparing judgments, payment agreements, reading forms to our clients who cannot read). It would require additional staff to man the recording devices and make a record of where the individual hearings start and stop for the ability to copy or provide transcripts.

Cities do not want this. Cities cannot afford the expense. And it is just not necessary. Please vote NO on HB 3399.

