



### **Senator Barbara Anne Washington's Legislative Column for May 16, 2025**

#### **Defensive Line Defeated**

The 2025 legislative session abruptly drew to a close on May 14, two days before the constitutional deadline. The Senate Minority Caucus held a strong defensive line as long as we possibly could to prolong the votes on [House Joint Resolution 73](#) and [House Bill 567](#). Both measures overturn what voters amended into the constitution and added to statute last November as Amendment 3 and Proposition A, respectively. Unfortunately, our line was defeated, and both bills were truly agreed to and finally passed in an infrequently used senatorial procedure.

The HJR will let voters decide at the ballot box whether or not to ban reproductive freedom for women, while HB 567 repeals the voter passed minimum wage increases and earned paid sick leave. While it's hard to describe how frustrated and disenchanted I am by these actions, I encourage you to get involved, now more than ever, in local and state advocacy efforts to help defend and restore these overwhelmingly approved initiatives.

I am also extremely disappointed the Senate didn't take up [Senate Bill 80](#) before adjournment. The bill included language to help fund Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums and keep the Chiefs and Royals, as well as the subsequent millions in revenue they generate, in Missouri. I defended both teams' significance to the state's bottom line and contributions to our district on the Senate floor.

[https://youtu.be/\\_jCwRsK5Eac?si=OcHKYsoD9A6xINK7](https://youtu.be/_jCwRsK5Eac?si=OcHKYsoD9A6xINK7) Link to Floor Debate

What is even more disheartening to me than the stadium funding impasse is the House's refusal to take up and pass [House Bill 19](#) before the constitutional deadline. Months of

negotiations, hours of listening to what Missouri communities need most and countless hearings to prioritize the capital improvement and construction projects contained in HB 19 were all for naught. I believe in the greater good, and the return on the investments listed in this bill could have had a generational impact on rural and urban expanses alike. A few initiatives in HB 19 that were not funded in the FY '26 budget include \$48 million to help build a new mental health hospital in Kansas City and \$50 million to construct a Radioisotope Science Center at Mizzou. I will continue to push for this critical funding in next year's budget.

On a positive note, I am relieved the rebooted Second Amendment Preservation Act (SAPA), or [House Bill 1175](#) did not pass this session. The original SAPA legislation, passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor in 2021, was deemed unconstitutional by the courts for attempting to preempt federal law. I will remain on the side of multiple law enforcement agencies and officers in opposition to this legislation. If the intent of SAPA was to make Missouri safer, I believe the body would have approved the amendments to ban kids from carrying handguns and prevent those convicted of domestic violence from possessing a firearm.

### **Legislation Crosses Finish Line**

I saved the best news for last! The Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, or CROWN Act, has crossed the legislative finish line and is now being considered by the governor. Language from my [Senate Bill 38](#) was amended onto [Senate Bill 160](#) during negotiations. Besides the CROWN Act, SB 160 ensures student associations aren't allowed to cause harm on campuses and enacts Danny's Law, which will strengthen hazing laws and commemorate the former Mizzou student who suffered life altering injuries from a hazing incident at his fraternity several years ago. Prohibiting hair-based discrimination in public schools has been a priority of mine since taking the oath of office, and I believe this ban will empower minority children, like my two grandsons, and encourage them to embrace their heritage.

My other three proposals that are now being considered by the governor are provisions of [Senate Bill 348](#). One of these designates every Feb. 20 as John Donaldson Day to memorialize this star from Negro Leagues Baseball. I am also thankful May 8 will be designated as Amyloidosis Awareness Day in Missouri and that the bridge on Interstate 70 at Van Burnt Boulevard will be named the Officer James Mulbauer K-9 Officer Champ Memorial Bridge.

The Legislature also passed [House Bill 737](#), which will ban child marriage and allow foster children to keep the survivor's benefits they're entitled to. Currently, these benefits can be retained by the Children's Division to help cover expenses pertaining to the caring for the child. The legislation also increases the tax credit for contributions made to youth violence prevention programs to 70% and creates the Child and Family Legal Representation Coordinating Commission within the judicial branch.

To view the other pieces of legislation now under the governor's consideration, select the "legislation" tab on the Senate website and click the "[Truly Agreed Bills](#)" link.

### **Black Legislative Caucus Honors a Former Chiefs Player**

On May 7, I was honored to meet with and introduce Alphonso Hodges to my colleagues on the floor. Drafted by the Chiefs in 2005, Alphonso enjoyed a successful career in professional football, owned a business and developed and mentored several youth sports leagues in the metro area. The Missouri Black Legislative Caucus honored Mr. Hodges for his incredible contributions to Kansas City and the state.



**News for the 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Do You Have Unclaimed Property?**

According to the Unclaimed Property database, the Missouri treasurer's office is holding \$42.7 million belonging to approximately 400,214 residents in the 9th Senatorial District. Click the image above or visit [treasurer.mo.gov](https://treasurer.mo.gov) to search the database and claim your property!

### **Missouri Department of Revenue Alerts Citizens of Fraudulent Text Schemes**

The Department of Revenue is warning Missourians about scam texts that claim to be from the department and include threatening warnings. You are advised to delete the texts and do not respond or click on any links. Read the full report at [dor.mo.gov](https://dor.mo.gov).

### **Pawsitive Protection – KC Community Vaccine Day is May 17**

Calling all Kansas City pet parents! The second annual Pawsitive Protection – KC Community Vaccine Day is May 17 at Swope Park from 9:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. This is a free event to help keep your pets healthy, safe and well-cared for. No registration is required, but you must bring proof of your Kansas City residency. Call 816-513-6511 for more information.

### **DNR Photo Contest is Underway**

From April 1 – Sept. 1, 2025, the Department of Natural Resources will host its annual photo contest for amateur photographers of all ages. The categories are natural resources, unique places and people enjoying Missouri's outdoors. Visit [dnr.mo.gov/photo-contest](https://dnr.mo.gov/photo-contest) to see past winners and find more information.

### **Updates to Social Security Identity Requirements**

The Social Security Administration is taking a proactive steps to enhance the security of services by implementing stronger identify verification procedures. Under the updated policy, individuals who cannot use a personal “[My Social Security](#)” account to apply for benefits may complete their claim entirely over the telephone or schedule an appointment at a branch office. You will need to prove your identity at a Social Security office if applying for retirement, survivors or auxiliary benefits. Call 800-722-1213 to schedule an appointment.

**Please share the community event flyers below!**

Event & Film Showing

## Malcolm X: 100 Years of Malcolm X - A Tribute to His Life and Legacy

**Exhibition, Music, Poetry  
& Discussion**

**Sunday, May 18  
2 - 5 p.m.**

**Lucile H. Bluford Branch  
3050 Prospect Ave.**

Light refreshments will be provided.

**MALCOLM X** (1992 film  
featuring Denzel Washington)

**Monday, May 19  
1 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Southeast Branch  
6242 Swope Pkwy.**

Light refreshments will be provided.



**"My alma mater was books, a good library... I could spend  
the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity."  
- Malcolm X**

The program is cosponsored by the National Black  
United Front-KC Chapter, *Kansas City Defender*, and  
Community Movement Builders-ATL.



**Kansas City Public Library**  
#PA-42243-04.28.25

If you need ADA accommodation to use Library services or attend Library events and programs, please notify us at least 3 business days in advance at 816.701.3409 or [ADA@kcplibrary.org](mailto:ADA@kcplibrary.org) (TTY access available via 711 or 866.520.7309 for Spanish). Programs at the Kansas City Public Library are appropriate for all ages unless otherwise indicated.







Tuition only \$250  
Early Bird Registration Discounts

Five day camp for  
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Clarence Smith, Jazz Academy Manager,  
at [csmith@kcjazz.org](mailto:csmith@kcjazz.org) for questions.

# KANSAS CITY JAZZ ACADEMY

## INSTRUMENTAL COMBO CAMP 2025

### JULY 14-18



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1616 E. 18TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO, 64108

# HOME REPAIR PROGRAMS

City Home Repair Accepting Applications May 1st - June 3rd.

CITY HOME  
REPAIR PROGRAM

PAINT PROGRAM

TARGETED MINOR HOME  
REPAIR PROGRAM



Applications are paperless and can be found on  
**KCMO.GOV/HOUSING** (click on Home Repair Programs tab)  
or by scanning the QR code.

## NEED APPLICATION ASSISTANCE?

Application Assistance is available at the following locations and hours. All Required Documentation must be present at the time of Assistance.

**MAY 1 & 5-8**

9 am-4 pm (except noon - 1 pm)

Westport-Roanoke Community Center  
3601 Roanoke Ave  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**MAY 12-15**

9 am-4 pm (except noon - 1 pm)

Mary Williams Neal Community Center  
3801 Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd  
Kansas City, MO 64130

To make an appointment call **(816) 513-3025** or  
email us at **CHR@kcmo.org**.



### Platte County Senior Citizens - Property Tax Credit:

A property tax credit for qualifying senior citizens in Platte County.  
This program helps reduce the burden of real estate property taxes.

- **Who Qualifies?**  
Must be 65 years or older.  
Homeowners in Platte County.  
Additional income and residency qualifications apply.
- **How to Apply:**  
Visit the Platte County website: [co.platte.mo.us/tax-credit](http://co.platte.mo.us/tax-credit).  
Download the application form.  
Submit completed forms by the deadline.

### Clay County Senior Citizens - Real Estate Property Tax Relief:

A tax relief program designed for senior citizens in Clay County to  
reduce property tax burdens.

- **Who Qualifies?**  
Must be 62 years or older.  
Homeowners in Clay County.  
Income and residency restrictions apply.
- **How to Apply:**  
Visit [claycountymo.gov/523/Senior-Real-Estate-Property-Tax-Relief](http://claycountymo.gov/523/Senior-Real-Estate-Property-Tax-Relief).  
Fill out the online form or download an application.  
Submit all required documentation before the deadline.

### Senior Property Tax Freeze in Jackson County:

This program helps stabilize your property taxes and protects you from  
rising costs. Don't miss this opportunity to secure financial  
peace of mind!

- **Who Qualifies?**  
Be a Jackson County resident  
62 years of age or older  
Be the property owner or have a legal interest in the home  
Be liable for property taxes on the home  
Occupy the property as your primary residence
- **What Documents Do You Need?**  
You'll need proof of eligibility, such as:  
Proof of Residency  
Driver's license, voter registration card, or utility bill  
Proof of Age (62+)  
Government-issued ID, military ID, or birth certificate  
Proof of Property Interest (if not on the deed)  
Trust agreement or other legal documentation
- **How to Apply?**  
Access the application online:  
<https://us.openforms.com/Form/99a61fae-0c0e-4a65-b658-47aac884f79>.  
Submit your documents following the instructions on the website

KC Shepherd's Center  
advocates for policies  
that support older adults  
and empower self-  
advocacy.

This week, we're sharing  
an important update  
about Tax Relief in Platte  
and Clay Counties and the  
Senior Property Tax  
Freeze in Jackson County

Still need assistance? KC  
Shepherd's Center can  
help!



**KC shepherd's  
center**

If you need help gathering documents or completing the application, please contact:

Sarah Hopkins, LMSW, Integrated Care Manager  
[sarahh@kcshepherdscenter.org](mailto:sarahh@kcshepherdscenter.org) ☎ 816-203-0616

## Tap In Center: Kansas City

Got a warrant?  
We can help.

April 9 | May 14 | July 9

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Lucile H. Bluford Branch | 3050 Prospect Ave, KCMO

A community-based center offering a convenient space to get legal assistance and connect with local support services.

- Meet with an attorney about your criminal case
- Check for outstanding warrants
- Learn your case status and court date information
- Apply for a public defender
- Enroll in a program to receive court reminders
- Get assistance navigating the court process

Questions? Email [KCTapIn@gmail.com](mailto:KCTapIn@gmail.com) for assistance or  
call 816-343-4899

Kansas City Public Defender's Office  
Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office



Kansas City  
Public Library

If you need ADA accommodation to use Library services or attend Library events and programs, please notify us at least 3 business days in advance at 816.201.3409 or [ADA@kcpblibrary.org](mailto:ADA@kcpblibrary.org). (TTY access available via 711 or 866.520.7309 for Spanish.) Programs at the Library are appropriate for all ages unless otherwise indicated.

### Senator Washington's Sponsored Legislation for 2025

Bill Number	Description	Status
<a href="#">Senate Bill 37</a>	Authorizes a sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene products.	Hearing conducted 3.4, Economic and Workforce Development
<a href="#">Senate Bill 38</a>	The Missouri CROWN Act prohibits hair-based discrimination in publicly-funded educational institutions.	Truly Agreed as provision of SB 160.
<a href="#">Senate Bill 39</a>	Expands and diversifies the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board.	Referred to Government Efficiency



<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 127</b></a>	Creates the offense of unlawful possession of a handgun for a minor.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 128</b></a>	Modifies provisions relating to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development	Passed 3.12 Economic and Workforce Development
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 129</b></a>	Authorizes a tax credit for qualified providers of employment, employment services or housing for homeless persons.	Referred to Economic and Workforce Development
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 205</b></a>	Authorizes a tax credit for providing housing assistance to victims of domestic violence.	Passed 2.25 Progress and Development Committee
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 206</b></a>	Modifies provisions relating to emergency medical services	Hearing conducted 3.25 Emerging Issues
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 207</b></a>	Creates the offense of community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 258</b></a>	Establishes the Cronkite New Voices Act to protect the freedom of press in school-sponsored media.	Referred to Education
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 259</b></a>	Modifies provisions relating to offenses against employees of election authorities.	Referred to Local Government, Elections and Pension.
<a href="#"><b>Senate Bill 260</b></a>	Enacts provisions relating to health insurance coverage of maternity services to include midwifery.	Referred to Insurance and Banking

<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 303</u></a>	Designates every Feb. 20 as John Donaldson Day to honor Missouri native and Negro Leagues Baseball star pitcher.	Added to SB 348, truly agreed and finally passed
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 304</u></a>	Establishes May 8 each year as Amyloidosis Awareness Day in Missouri.	Truly agreed and finally passed
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 305</u></a>	Modifies provisions relating to the offense of filing false documents.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 342</u></a>	Requires public and charter schools to provide free feminine hygiene products to female students in grades 4-12.	Referred to Education
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 343</u></a>	Creates provisions relating to lactating public and charter school students.	Referred to Education
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 344</u></a>	Requires schools that receive state funds to give excused absences for attending scheduled elections with their parents.	Hearing conducted 3.4 Education
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 375</u></a>	Requires school districts and charter schools to offer students who are 17 and ½ years the opportunity to register to vote.	Hearing conducted 3.4 Education
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 376</u></a>	Creates a health advocate program at the Department of Health and Senior Services for eligible pregnant patients.	Referred to Families, Seniors and Health
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 377</u></a>	Modifies provisions relating to restitution for individuals who are actually innocent and exonerated based on evidence other than DNA.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 403</u></a>	Modifies provisions relating to use of marijuana by family court participants.	Referred to Families, Seniors and Health
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 404</u></a>	Authorizes a tax credit for first time home buyers to purchase eligible blighted property.	Referred to Economic and Workforce Development
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 405</u></a>	Provides that no person, corporation, or other entity in Missouri shall manufacture,	Referred to Transportation,

	import, possess, purchase, sell or transfer any assault weapon or large capacity magazine.	Infrastructure and Public Safety
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 422</u></a>	Designates Officer James Muhlbauer K-9 Officer Champ Memorial Bridge in Jackson County.	Truly agreed and finally passed
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 423</u></a>	Modifies provisions relating to closed criminal records.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 424</u></a>	Creates that eligible offenses be automatically expunged without petition.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 432</u></a>	Modifies provisions relating to earned discharge from probation.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 433</u></a>	Designates every Nov. 9 as Links, Incorporated Day in Missouri	Truly agreed and finally passed
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 434</u></a>	Creates a DWI diversion program.	Hearing conducted 2.26 Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 438</u></a>	Creates provisions relating to parole eligibility after serving 30 years or more of a sentence.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 439</u></a>	Reduces the term of probation for a misdemeanor violation from 2 years to 18 months and removes the drug and alcohol screening for certain offenses.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 440</u></a>	Modifies provisions relating to legal representation for certain court proceedings involving children.	Referred to Families, Seniors and Health
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 444</u></a>	Prohibits removing registered voters from the Missouri Voter Registration System unless the voter has not voted in the previous five calendar years or met other criteria.	Referred to Local Government, Elections and Pensions

<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 445</u></a>	Includes CLASS EA – esthetics and manicuring as a new classification for licensure for cosmetologists.	Referred to Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 446</u></a>	Creates new provisions relating to state contracts for minority and women’s business enterprises.	Referred to Government Efficiency
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 450</u></a>	Prohibits carrying concealed firearms in public libraries.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 818</u></a>	Modifies continuing education requirements for peace officers.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 819</u></a>	Authorizes a sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene product for all purchases made by qualifying organizations.	Referred Economic and Workforce Development
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 820</u></a>	Designates the Kansas City Chiefs as the official professional football team of Missouri.	Hearing conducted 4.1, Progress and Development
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 821</u></a>	Temporarily extends the hours which liquor may be sold by the drink during the 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament.	Referred to General Laws
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 822</u></a>	Establishes the Missouri Entertainment Facility – Capital Assistance Program	Referred Economic and Workforce Development
<a href="#"><u>Senate Bill 823</u></a>	Requires the agriculture education pilot program to be implemented at all elementary schools statewide	Referred to Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources

<a href="#"><u>Senate Joint Resolution 12</u></a>	Places limits on increases in the assessment of certain properties, pending voter approval.	Referred to Judiciary
<a href="#"><u>Senate Joint Resolution 13</u></a>	Eliminates the statute of limitations for civil actions based on certain sexual offenses.	Referred to Judiciary

It is an honor representing the great people of Jackson County's 9th Senatorial District. If you need assistance navigating state government or understanding the legislative process, please contact me by calling 573-751-3158 or emailing [Barbara.Washington@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Barbara.Washington@senate.mo.gov). My team is here for you!

Brian Farmer

Chief of Staff

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Ninth Senatorial District

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