

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 <u>House Joint Resolution 73</u> and <u>House Bill 567</u>. 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 <u>Senate Bill 80</u> 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 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 <u>House Bill 19</u> 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 <u>House Bill 1175</u> 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.

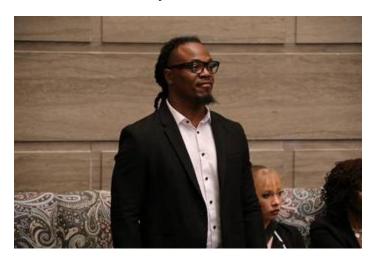
My other three proposals that are now being considered by the governor are provisions of Senate Bill 348. One of these designates every Feb. 20 as John Donaldson Day to memorialize this star from Negro Leagues Baseball. I am also thankful May 8 will be designated as Amyloidosis Awareness Day in Missouri 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 <u>House Bill 737</u>, 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 9th

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 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.

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 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 auxillary 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 #70 #PA-42243-04.28.25

If you need ADA accommodation to use Library services or attend Library events and programs, picese notify us at least 3 business days in advance at 816.701.3409 or ADA(\$6x86rary.org (TTY access auxiliable via 711 or 866.520.7309 for Spaniatio. Programs





Tuition only \$250 Early Bird Registration Discounts

Five day camp for middle & high school musicians

Learn in the heart of the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District!

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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)

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.

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 claycountyms_80x/523/Senior Adjustment in the American Adjustment in the American American American American Information of the American Information Form Submit completed forms by the deadline.

How to Apply:
 Visit 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

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

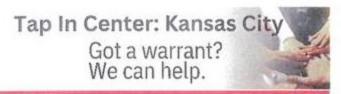
• What Documents Do You Need? KCshepherd's

You'll need proof of eligibility, such as: Proof of Residency Driver's license, voter registration card, or utility bill

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-b658-47aaac894f79 Submit your documents following the instructions on the website

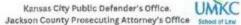
If you need help gathering documents or completing the application, please contact:
Sarah Hopkins, LMSW, Integrated Care Manager
Charaholtershepher/scenter.org. 1, 816-293-9608



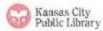
A community-based center offering a convenient space to get legal assistance and connect with local support services.

- · 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 for assistance or call 816-343-4899







If you need ADA accommodation to use Library services or attend Library events and programs, please notify us at least 3 business days in activities at \$10,701,3409 or AbAgkestbrary.org. (TY access available via 733 or \$66,500,7909 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
Senate Bill 37	Authorizes a sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene products.	Hearing conducted 3.4, Economic and
	Torrining Hygierie producto.	Workforce
		Development
Senate Bill 38	The Missouri CROWN Act prohibits hair-	Truly Agreed as
	based discrimination in publicly-funded	provision of SB 160.
	educational institutions.	
Senate Bill 39	Expands and diversifies the Pregnancy-	Referred to
	Associated Mortality Review Board.	Government
		Efficiency

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

Senate Bill 303	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
Senate Bill 304	Establishes May 8 each year as Amyloidosis Awareness Day in Missouri.	Truly agreed and finally passed
Senate Bill 305	Modifies provisions relating to the offense of filing false documents.	Referred to Judiciary
Senate Bill 342	Requires public and charter schools to provide free feminine hygiene products to female students in grades 4-12.	Referred to Education
Senate Bill 343	Creates provisions relating to lactating public and charter school students.	Referred to Education
Senate Bill 344	Requires schools that receive state funds to give excused absences for attending scheduled elections with their parents.	Hearing conducted 3.4 Education
Senate Bill 375	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
Senate Bill 376	Creates a health advocate program at the Department of Health and Senior Services for eligible pregnant patients.	Referred to Families, Seniors and Health
Senate Bill 377	Modifies provisions relating to restitution for individuals who are actually innocent and exonerated based on evidence other than DNA.	Referred to Judiciary
Senate Bill 403	Modifies provisions relating to use of marijuana by family court participants.	Referred to Families, Seniors and Health
Senate Bill 404	Authorizes a tax credit for first time home buyers to purchase eligible blighted property.	Referred to Economic and Workforce Development
Senate Bill 405	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
Senate Bill 422	Designates Officer James Muhlbauer K-9 Officer Champ Memorial Bridge in Jackson County.	Truly agreed and finally passed
Senate Bill 423	Modifies provisions relating to closed criminal records.	Referred to Judiciary
Senate Bill 424	Creates that eligible offenses be automatically expunged without petition.	Referred to Judiciary
Senate Bill 432	Modifies provisions relating to earned discharge from probation.	Referred to Judiciary
Senate Bill 433	Designates every Nov. 9 as Links, Incorporated Day in Missouri	Truly agreed and finally passed
Senate Bill 434	Creates a DWI diversion program.	Hearing conducted 2.26 Judiciary
Senate Bill 438	Creates provisions relating to parole eligibility after serving 30 years or more of a sentence.	Referred to Judiciary
Senate Bill 439	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
Senate Bill 440	Modifies provisions relating to legal representation for certain court proceedings involving children.	Referred to Families, Seniors and Health
Senate Bill 444	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

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

Senate Joint	Places limits on increases in the	Referred to Judiciary
Resolution 12	assessment of certain properties, pending	
	voter approval.	
Senate Joint	Eliminates the statute of limitations for civil	Referred to Judiciary
Resolution 13	actions based on certain sexual offenses.	

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. My team is here for you!

Brian Farmer

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