



Senator Barbara Anne Washington's Legislative Column for May 2, 2025

Stand up for your Rights!

By the time you are reading this column, there will be five legislative days remaining to pass a balanced state operating budget and ten days to pass a fraction of the thousands of legislative proposals filed since Dec. 1 of last year. My preference is to spend this precious time passing meaningful, substantive legislation that will help Missourians, but it seems like my colleagues in the Senate Minority Caucus have to repeatedly stand up for your rights. That has definitely been the case as the body debated efforts I believe are intended to undermine voters' decisions at the ballot box, defund diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and cut funding for public schools.

After successfully defending diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in public schools and stalling a vote last week to overturn the minimum wage increase and earned sick pay passed in Proposition A, it appears we will now have to do the defend the will of voters who spoke loud and clear at the ballot box last November, electing to restore reproductive freedom for women. The Senate Families, Seniors and Health Committee heard and passed [House Joint Resolution 73](#) on April 30, even though the legislation was opposed by more than a hundred witnesses and supporters in attendance. I presume HJR 73 will continue to be fast-tracked and brought up for debate in the chamber. When that happens, the Senate Minority Caucus will stand in solidarity to protect voters, respect their intelligence and defend their decision-making ability.

In addition to legislative actions to undo voters' wishes, the minority caucus had to unite to defend public schools and combat the "Public School Open Enrollment Act" proposed in [House Bill 711](#). The act will permit students to potentially attend a school outside the district of their residence. Luckily, the bill was laid over for future debate, but this topic will resurface. While the cost to orchestrate this policy is still unclear, I believe it will wreak

havoc on public school districts and place additional, expensive burdens district administrations, who will have to deal with student transfers, calculations, reporting and audits, instead of educating children.

Jackson County Assessor Legislation Passed

On April 29, the Senate passed [House Joint Resolution 23](#), a proposal to be put before voters that would require Jackson County to elect its assessor. During floor discussions, I added an amendment to ensure the candidates seeking that office have the proper training and credentials to be a qualified, fair assessor.

CROWN Act Nears Finish Line

I am pleased to report the progress of my Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, or CROWN, Act. [Senate Bill 38](#) was passed by the House Rules Committee on April 24, and its companion bill, [House Bill 937](#), advanced from the Senate General Laws Committee on April 29. Prohibiting hair-based discrimination in public schools and strengthening school districts' antisemitism policies will empower young people and encourage them to embrace their heritage.

Budget Bills in Conference

In the late hours of April 29, the Senate third read and passed the appropriations bills that make up the \$49.4 billion state operating budget for fiscal year 2026. Since changes were made to the version passed by the Missouri House of Representatives, the final numbers will be decided by bipartisan conference committees made up of members from both chambers. The "truly agreed to and finally passed" budget must be delivered to the governor by May 9.

News for the 9th

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!



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-Rosnoke Community Center
3601 Rosnoke 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.





COUNCILMAN CURLS PRESENTS: SENIOR & CAREGIVER WELLNESS & WEALTH FAIR

DARRELL CURLS
5TH DISTRICT AT LARGE COUNCILMAN

Saturday, July. 19

10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Memorial Church International
11424 Hickman Drive,
Kansas City, MO 64134

Register your senior group today by emailing
rita.berry@kcmo.org or calling 816-513-6519.
We will reserve parking spaces for vans
and busses.



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.
 - 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.
 - 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-b658-47aaac894f79>
 - 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!



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

Sarah Hopkins, LMSW, Integrated Care Manager
sarah@kcshepherdscenter.org 816-293-9508

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 for assistance or
call 816-343-4899

Kansas City Public Defender's Office.   Kansas City
Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office School of Law 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 816.703.3409 or ADA@kclibrary.org. (TTY access available via 711 or 866.500.7809)
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 Workforce Development
Senate Bill 38	The Missouri CROWN Act prohibits hair-based discrimination in publicly-funded educational institutions.	Passed 4.23, House Rules
Senate Bill 39	Expands and diversifies the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board.	Referred to Government Efficiency

<u>Senate Bill 127</u>	Creates the offense of unlawful possession of a handgun for a minor.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 128</u>	Modifies provisions relating to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development	Passed 3.12 Economic and Workforce Development
<u>Senate Bill 129</u>	Authorizes a tax credit for qualified providers of employment, employment services or housing for homeless persons.	Referred to Economic and Workforce Development
<u>Senate Bill 205</u>	Authorizes a tax credit for providing housing assistance to victims of domestic violence.	Passed 2.25 Progress and Development Committee
<u>Senate Bill 206</u>	Modifies provisions relating to emergency medical services	Hearing conducted 3.25 Emerging Issues
<u>Senate Bill 207</u>	Creates the offense of community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 258</u>	Establishes the Cronkite New Voices Act to protect the freedom of press in school-sponsored media.	Referred to Education
<u>Senate Bill 259</u>	Modifies provisions relating to offenses against employees of election authorities.	Referred to Local Government, Elections and Pension.
<u>Senate Bill 260</u>	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, Passed on April 9, House Special Committee on Tourism
Senate Bill 304	Establishes May 8 each year as Amyloidosis Awareness Day in Missouri.	Added to SB 348, passed on 4.9, House Special Committee on Tourism
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

<u>Senate Bill 404</u>	Authorizes a tax credit for first time home buyers to purchase eligible blighted property.	Referred to Economic and Workforce Development
<u>Senate Bill 405</u>	Provides that no person, corporation, or other entity in Missouri shall manufacture, import, possess, purchase, sell or transfer any assault weapon or large capacity magazine.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 422</u>	Designates Officer James Muhlbauer K-9 Officer Champ Memorial Bridge in Jackson County.	Hearing conducted 3.4, Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 423</u>	Modifies provisions relating to closed criminal records.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 424</u>	Creates that eligible offenses be automatically expunged without petition.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 432</u>	Modifies provisions relating to earned discharge from probation.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 433</u>	Designates every Nov. 9 as Links, Incorporated Day in Missouri	Added to SB 348, passed on 4.9, House Special Committee on Tourism
<u>Senate Bill 434</u>	Creates a DWI diversion program.	Hearing conducted 2.26 Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 438</u>	Creates provisions relating to parole eligibility after serving 30 years or more of a sentence.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 439</u>	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

<u>Senate Bill 440</u>	Modifies provisions relating to legal representation for certain court proceedings involving children.	Referred to Families, Seniors and Health
<u>Senate Bill 444</u>	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
<u>Senate Bill 445</u>	Includes CLASS EA – esthetics and manicuring as a new classification for licensure for cosmetologists.	Referred to Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
<u>Senate Bill 446</u>	Creates new provisions relating to state contracts for minority and women’s business enterprises.	Referred to Government Efficiency
<u>Senate Bill 450</u>	Prohibits carrying concealed firearms in public libraries.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 818</u>	Modifies continuing education requirements for peace officers.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 819</u>	Authorizes a sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene product for all purchases made by qualifying organizations.	Referred Economic and Workforce Development
<u>Senate Bill 820</u>	Designates the Kansas City Chiefs as the official professional football team of Missouri.	Hearing conducted 4.1, Progress and Development
<u>Senate Bill 821</u>	Temporarily extends the hours which liquor may be sold by the drink during the 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament.	Referred to General Laws

<u>Senate Bill 822</u>	Establishes the Missouri Entertainment Facility – Capital Assistance Program	Referred Economic and Workforce Development
<u>Senate Bill 823</u>	Requires the agriculture education pilot program to be implemented at all elementary schools statewide	Referred to Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources
<u>Senate Joint Resolution 12</u>	Places limits on increases in the assessment of certain properties, pending voter approval.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Joint Resolution 13</u>	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. My team is here for you!

Brian Farmer

Chief of Staff

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Ninth Senatorial District

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