



Office of
Mary Jo Spino
Clerk of the County Legislature

Jackson County Missouri

JOURNAL

Jackson County Courthouse
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County Legislature

*DaRon McGee (4th) Chairman,
Donna Peyton (2nd AL) Vice Chairman,
Jalen Anderson (1st AL), Megan L. Smith (3rd AL),
Manuel Abarca IV (1st), Venessa Huskey (2nd),
Charlie Franklin (3rd), Jeanie Lauer (5th)
Sean E. Smith (6th)*

Monday, August 4, 2025

3:00 PM

Thirty-second Regular Meeting

K.C. Legislative Assembly Area, Kansas City, Missouri

DaRon McGee, Chairman, called the meeting of the Jackson County Legislature to order.

1 ROLL CALL

Present 8 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Megan L. Smith,
Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Sean E.
Smith

Absent 1 - Jeanie Lauer

2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited.

3 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Venessa Huskey, seconded by Sean E. Smith to
approve the journal of the previous meeting held on July 28, 2025. The
motion passed by a voice vote.

4 HEARINGS

Presentation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by
Allen, Gibbs & Houlik. Cheryl Colter with the Finance Department introduced
Jonathan Nibarger and Brian Holst to present the ACFR.

For a copy of the presentation please see the attachment under Meeting
details for the August 4, 2025 legislative meeting.

(<https://jacksonco.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>)

Upon the completion of the presentation, there were questions from
legislators.

Sean E. Smith County Legislator, said on page 5 and 6 the auditors
recommended a comprehensive audit of policies and procedures related to
the internal controls. He asked if there were specific reasons or concerns
that triggered this statement. Brian Holst said nothing specific to Jackson

County but all of the letters from their group contain these items.

Mr. Smith said on page 4-5 the description of those responsible as the approvers of transactions, which effectively roll up to the Director of Finance and Purchasing; the list includes the Director of Purchasing, Deputy Director of Accounting, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. He said there is no mention of the County Legislature or the Legislative Auditor. Mr. Smith asked the auditor's opinion about having all the authority for procurement and payment vested in one management person, he asked if this is normally a sufficient internal control or best practice for the segregation of duties perspective. Mr. Holst responded he does not know if it is right or wrong. He said their focus is on the process that has been approved by the body and are the employees following it. Mr. Smith responded that the process has not been approved by the County Legislature.

He said, in fact, efforts by the Legislative Auditor to gain transparency have been thwarted. Mr. Smith asked if the auditors spoke to members of the Legislative Auditor's staff as part of their annual comprehensive audit. Mr. Holst said they did. Mr. Smith asked if staff expressed any concerns to the auditors. Mr. Holst said the conversations are typically confidential but if they do have concerns they follow up on the issues. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Holst as part of his follow up to provide dates and times his team spoke with the Legislative Auditor's staff. Mr. Holst said he is not sure if he can. Mr. Smith said Mr. Holst's response is interesting. Mr. Smith said with regards to the quality of this work product (ACFR), mid page 4 under "Internal Control Matters" it refers to the client (Jackson County, Missouri) as a "city", and this is not the first time in the report. In addition, it specifies our fiscal year ends September 30, 2024, both statements are erroneous. Mr. Smith said it appears Allen, Gibbs & Houlik took a letter from another client and put Jackson County's name on the top with a couple other modifications. He said this is an extreme concern for him and he wants to emphasize this to other members of the County Legislature. Sean E. Smith said he wants to dive deeper into the activities taken by this auditing team to complete the (ACFR).

Mr. Smith said he sees on page 3 under the County's responsibilities, changes in reporting in compliance and oversight, which goes to his questions of if and when they spoke with the Legislative Auditor, including any disclosure that took place that would need to be brought to the attention of the County Legislature. Under the section of the report where they describe new affiliates, directors, officers and persons, Mr. Smith asked them to provide a list of who that is in Jackson County, Missouri so he can understand how deeply they dug into the County's business practices as opposed to the client that this letter was first drafted. He asked Mr. Holst and Mr. Nibarger to follow up with information to address his questions and concerns.

Megan L. Smith, County Legislator, referred to page 3 where Jackson County elected to use current year expenses versus adjustments, she asked if there is any benefits to do this either way. Mr. Holst said it is just a preference issue for management.

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, asked about missing contributions of dollars. He said it is not common practice to not recognize amounts of money such as opioid, ARPA and marijuana funds in the budget process. He said these are kept out of the budget and was asking if they had any understanding of this review process. Mr. Holst said Mr. Abarca's statement is generic and he does not know enough about this to respond. Mr. Abarca said allegedly there is between \$10-\$12 million in opioid fund settlements that are never published in the budget documents, equally marijuana sales tax money collected has never been recorded. These funds are missing from public records. He wants to understand how these funds are being recognized in any budget process with only the Administration having the knowledge because the County Legislature does not have this information. He said the willingness of the Administration to give the County Legislature a complete budget book has been less than forthcoming which is difficult as a fiduciary. He said the budget book was not completed until July 2025. He agreed with Mr. Smith that the audit team should reach out to the Legislative Auditor and his staff. He agrees follow up is necessary.

5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND REPORTS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Frank White Jr., County Executive, was not present.

6 PERFECTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

[5904](#) AN ORDINANCE repealing Section 5577., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to possession of firearms and age restriction, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections, Sections 5577. and 5578., relating to the same subject, with a severability clause and a penalty provision.

(Legislature As A Whole - 34th Perfection)

[5967](#) AN ORDINANCE repealing subsections 7401.2., 7405.4., and 7406.5., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to protections against retaliation for complaints, cooperating with complaint investigations, and amending the discretionary authority to decline a complaint and enacting, in lieu thereof, three new subsections relating to the same subject.

(Legislature As A Whole - 15th Perfection)

[5990](#) AN ORDINANCE establishing a commercial property assessment rate cap in Jackson County, Missouri

(Legislature As A Whole - 5th. Perfection)

[5995](#) Submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at a special election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, a question regarding the recall of County Executive Frank White, Jr.

(WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR MEGAN L. SMITH. CONCURRED BY JALEN ANDERSON AND CHARLIE FRANKLIN.)

[5996](#) AN ORDINANCE enacting sections of the Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to the establishment of fair property tax payment practices and protections during appeals, providing for payment programs, appeal-based payment extensions, and time limits on appeals resolution.

(Finance and Audit Committee - 3rd. Perfection)

[5997](#) AN ORDINANCE establishing financial accountability for elected officials who reject or obstruct certified recall petitions, requiring reimbursement of special election costs if a court determines improper denial of voter certified recall efforts.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 3rd. Perfection)

[5998](#) AN ORDINANCE amending the zoning districts established pursuant to the Unified Development Code by rezoning a certain 3.94± acre tract from District AG (Agricultural) to District RE (Residential Estates).

(Land Use Committee - 1st. Perfection)

[5999](#) AN ORDINANCE amending the zoning districts established pursuant to the Unified Development Code by rezoning a certain 5.00± acre tract from District AG (Agricultural) to District RE (Residential Estates).

(Land Use Committee - 1st. Perfection)

[6000](#) AN ORDINANCE renewing a conditional use permit (CUP) in District AG (Agricultural) for continuous operation of a short-term rental subject to specified conditions, as to a 9.56± acre tract.

(Land Use Committee - 1st. Perfection)

The Land Use Committee will have a public hearing regarding Ordinances #5998, #5999 and #6000 on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. in the Kansas City Legislative Assembly Area.

[6001](#) AN ORDINANCE enacting sections 7800., 7801., 7802., 7803., 7804., and 7805., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to the establishment of the Senior Citizens' Services Fund, with an effective date.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 1st. Perfection)

[6002](#) AN ORDINANCE repealing Section 5577., Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to possession of firearms and age restriction, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections, relating to the same subject, with a severability clause and a penalty provision.

(Anti-Crime Committee - 1st. Perfection)

See details under UNFINISHED BUSINESS. Ordinance #6002 was discharged from the Anti-Crime Committee to the Legislature As A Whole.

(Discharged to Legislature As A Whole)

7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

[5994](#) Consent Agenda.

8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

[21964](#) A RESOLUTION urging the County Executive to implement a temporary moratorium on foreclosure proceedings and tax lien sales against residential property owners affected by the 2019-2022 Jackson County property reassessment cycle.

(Land Use Committee - 4th. Meeting)

[21966](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing the Director of Parks + Rec to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for conservation planning and natural area restoration in the Jackson County Parks system with Bridging the Gap, a non-profit organization, to participate in its Kansas City Wildlands program, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$25,000.00.

(Land Use Committee - 2nd. Meeting)

[21967](#) A RESOLUTION authorizing Jackson County's participation in and adoption of the Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, as presented by the Mid-America Regional Council, in partnership with the local governments of Cass, Clay, Platte and Ray Counties, to fulfill eligibility requirements for the federal hazard mitigation grant program.

(Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee - 2nd. Meeting)

[21978](#) A RESOLUTION awarding a fifteen month contract with four twelve month options to extend for the leasing of golf carts, beverage cars, a six passenger car, and a range picker for use by the Parks + Rec Department to M&M Golf Cars LLC of Lee's Summit, MO at a cost not to exceed \$32,756.00, under the terms and conditions of OMNIA Partners Contract No. EV2671.1, an existing government contract.

(Legislature As A Whole - 1st. Meeting)

The Finance and Audit Committee reported no recommendation on Resolution #21978.

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to hold Resolution #21978. The motion passed by a voice vote.

[21978](#)

Awarding a fifteen month contract with four twelve month options to extend for the leasing of golf carts, beverage cars, a six passenger car, and a range picker for use by the Parks + Rec Department to M&M Golf Cars LLC of Lee's Summit, MO at a cost not to exceed \$32,756.00, under the terms and conditions of OMNIA Partners Contract No. EV2671.1, an existing government contract.

(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)

9 CONSENT AGENDA

[5994](#)

AN ORDINANCE appropriating \$82,500.00 from the undesignated fund balance of the 2025 Grant Fund, in acceptance of a grant received from the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, for use by the Jackson County Drug Task Force for reimbursement of lease vehicle expenses and the purchase of illegal drugs for use for undercover work.

Ordinance #5994 was moved to the Consent Agenda for adoption.

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Donna Peyton, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 8 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Megan L. Smith, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Sean E. Smith

Absent: 1 - Jeanie Lauer

10 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[6004](#)

Awarding a contract for construction service to connect the Rock Island Trail and Little Blue Trace Trail under Federal Project No. TAP 3453(404) to MegaKC Corporation Kansas City, MO, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 24-098 at a cost to the County not to exceed \$2,870,540.00.

(Assigned to the Public Works Committee.)

[6005](#)

Repealing subsection 2066.7., of the Jackson County Code, 1984, relating to a senior tax credit, and enacting, in lieu thereof, one new subsection relating to the same subject.

(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)

[6006](#)

Enacting section 1598., for the Jackson County Code, 1984, related to revoking pension and benefit eligibility for any recalled County elected official and their direct non-merit reports, and for other purposes.

(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)

Bryan Covinsky, County Counselor, distributed a Floor Amendment dated August 4, 2025 for Ordinance #6006 to the County Legislature and Clerk of the County Legislature.

No objection to the consideration of Ordinances #6007 and #6008 - not on printed agenda.

[6007](#)

Enacting section 5542., of Jackson County Code, 1984, related to the use of unlicensed gambling devices with severability clause.

(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, said he is working with the Kansas City Police Department and the Sheriff's Office to make modifications to Ordinance #6007.

[6008](#)

Authorizing the Jackson County Counselor's Office to pursue litigation or other legal strategies on behalf of the Jackson County Legislature to oppose the proposed redistricting of the 5th Congressional District.

(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)

11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[21982](#)

Awarding a twenty-four-month term and supply contract, with two twelve-month options to extend, for the furnishing of calcium chloride pellets and rock salt supplies for use by various County departments, to Nu-Life Labs, Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri and Humana Chemicals, Inc. of Potomac, Maryland, under the terms and conditions of Invitation to Bid No. 24-087.

(Assigned to the Budget Committee.)

[21983](#)

Declaring certain real property as surplus real property and authorizing the Administration to solicit bids for selling the surplus parcels.

(Assigned to the Budget Committee.)

[21984](#)

Transferring \$36,300.00 within the 2025 Park Fund to purchase supplies at Lowe's Home Improvement for use by the Parks + Rec Department.

(Assigned to the Finance and Audit Committee.)

The Clerk of the County Legislature received an email dated August 4, 2025 from Tina Spallo, Deputy Director of Park Operations with Jackson County Parks + Rec, indicating Resolution #21984 is no

longer needed. The Sponsor and Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee have been notified.

[21985](#)

Awarding a contract for the purchase of an ADA inmate transport van, a transport van and two SUV's, for use by the Sheriff's Office to Gary Crossley Ford of Kansas City, MO, under the terms and conditions of State of Missouri Contract No. MC250182001, an existing competitively bid government contract, at an actual cost to the County in the amount of \$216,293.00.

(Assigned to the Justice and Law Enforcement Committee.)

[21986](#)

Expressing the support of the Jackson County Legislature for the selection of Murray Woodard II, as the new Director of COMBAT.

(Assigned to the Legislature As A Whole.)

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

None.

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Venessa Huskey, County Legislator, asked to be added as a sponsor on Ordinance #6007.

Megan L. Marshall, County Legislator, said there will be a public hearing on Ordinances #5998, #5999 and #6000 on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. in the Kansas City Legislative Assembly Area.

Manuel Abarca IV, County Legislator, asked to be added as a sponsor on Ordinance #6002.

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to discharge Ordinance #6002 from the Anti-Crime Committee to the Legislature As A Whole. The motion failed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 4 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV and Venessa Huskey

No: 2 - Jalen Anderson and Megan L. Smith

Abstain: 2 - Charlie Franklin and Sean E. Smith

Absent: 1 - Jeanie Lauer

After the legislative meeting the Clerk of the County Legislature received an email from Sean E. Smith, County Legislator, advising that he wanted to change his vote on the discharge motion from Abstain to Yes. Therefore this motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 5 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey and Sean E. Smith

No: 2 - Jalen Anderson and Megan L. Smith

Abstain: 1- Charlie Franklin

Absent: 1 - Jeanie Lauer

Ordinance #6002 was discharged from the Anti-Crime Committee to the Legislature As A Whole.

Refer to the Rules of the County Legislature - Rule 16 and 21 for the above action on Ordinance #6002.

14 NEW BUSINESS

Manuel Abarca IV introduced Ordinance #6008 from the floor. See page 7 for details.

Mr. Abarca explained this Ordinance is in reference to the proposed redistricting process of the 5th Congressional District. Since Jackson County is included in a significant portion of this district, it is prudent that Jackson County seek legal guidance to make sure the district does not get gerrymandered. This ordinance is a request to have the county counselor's legal team focus on this issue.

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to cancel the legislative meeting on August 11, 2025 scheduled to be held at 3 P.M. in the Independence Legislative Chambers. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Sean E. Smith

No: 2 - Jalen Anderson and Megan L. Smith

Absent: 1 - Jeanie Lauer

15 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sean E. Smith, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned until Monday, August 18, 2025 at 3:00 P.M. at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly Area.