



FRANK WHITE, JR.
Jackson County Executive

January 18, 2024

Veto Message from the County Executive

Ordinance 5822

To the Jackson County Legislature:

After thorough consideration, I must exercise my veto power on Ordinance 5822. This ordinance, which proposes a significant sales tax for the retention of the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs in Jackson County, requires deeper reflection and negotiation before progressing to a public vote.

The Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals are undoubtedly important assets to our community, contributing to our economic and cultural landscape. Their presence in Jackson County is something we cherish and aim to sustain for the foreseeable future. However, the path to achieving this goal must be prudent, transparent, and in the best interest of our taxpayers.

The proposed sales tax outlined in Ordinance 5822 would generate over \$2 billion from our residents. This substantial commitment of public funds warrants a more robust agreement than currently stands. As of now, without binding agreements, we are poised to commit public resources without a clear understanding of the benefits and assurances for Jackson County. It is imperative that we first secure a definitive, binding agreement with both teams that outlines their commitments and contributions to our county.

Our priority must be a fair and equitable deal for our taxpayers, who deserve to know exactly what the county will receive in exchange for their substantial investment. We must ensure that any financial arrangement includes not just the retention of the teams but also clear benefits for the county, such as commitments to maintain headquarters and training facilities locally, financial concessions, and robust community benefit agreements.

In light of these considerations, I urge the Legislature to thoughtfully reconsider this matter with a focus on securing a more concrete and mutually beneficial agreement with the teams before we ask our residents to make such a significant financial commitment. Let us work together to craft a solution that honors the value of our sports teams while upholding our responsibility to the taxpayers of Jackson County.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank White, Jr.
Jackson County Executive

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JAN 18 2024

MARY JO SPINO
COUNTY CLERK

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