



# Jackson County Missouri

Jackson County Courthouse  
415 E. 12th Street, 2nd floor  
Kansas City, Missouri  
64106  
(816)881-3242

## Request for Legislative Action

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**File #:** 26-203, **Version:** 0

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**REQUESTED MEETING DATE:** Select Date

Resolution No. 22251

Sponsor: Jalen Anderson

**SPONSORS:**

Date: April 27, 2026

**Jalen Anderson**

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*To be confirmed by County Counselor's Office:*

**STAFF CONTACT:** Winifred Jamieson **PHONE:** 816-522-7273

**EMAIL:** Winifred.jamieson@jacksongov.org

**DEPARTMENT:** Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> At-Large

**TITLE:** Declaring April 27<sup>th</sup> as “Start By Believing Day”

**SUMMARY:** Declaring April 27<sup>th</sup> as Start By Believing Day in Jackson County, Missouri and recognizing Metropolitan Organization Countering Sexual Assault (MOCSA) for combating sexual offenses and supporting victims for fifty years.

WHEREAS, Jackson County, Missouri is committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and equitable community for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed each April to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on prevention and support for survivors; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) has served Jackson County for nearly 50 years as the region's only comprehensive rape crisis center,

providing free and confidential services to thousands of individuals each year; and

WHEREAS, MOCSA's mission is to improve the lives of those impacted by sexual abuse and assault and to prevent sexual violence in our community;

WHEREAS, MOCSA provides critical, survivor-centered services including a 24-hour crisis line, hospital advocacy, and law enforcement advocacy to ensure survivors are supported during some of their most vulnerable moments;

WHEREAS, MOCSA offers legal advocacy and court support, counseling services for survivors and their families, and ongoing care that promotes healing, stability, and empowerment;

WHEREAS, MOCSA delivers education programming to youth across public, private, and charter schools throughout Jackson County, equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to build healthy relationships and prevent violence;

WHEREAS, MOCSA engages in community-wide prevention efforts across neighborhoods and coalitions to address the root causes of violence and create safer, more connected communities;

WHEREAS, MOCSA's SAFE (Sexual Assault Free Environment) training partners with local bars, restaurants, and hospitality spaces across Jackson County to equip staff with tools to recognize, interrupt, and prevent harm;

WHEREAS, sexual violence remains a significant and underreported issue, with the majority of assaults committed by someone known to the victim, highlighting the importance of community awareness, prevention, and support;

WHEREAS, the Start By Believing campaign encourages communities to respond to disclosures of sexual violence with belief, compassion, and support, recognizing that a survivor's first disclosure experience can significantly impact their healing and willingness to seek help; and

WHEREAS, Jackson County recognizes that supporting survivors and preventing sexual violence is a shared responsibility, and that trusted adults, community members, and institutions all play a vital role in creating a culture of safety and accountability;

WHEREAS, MOCSA would like to honor St. Lukes Health system and their Forensic Nursing Team along with their partnership with the Kansas City, MO Police Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Jackson County Legislature does hereby proclaim Monday, April 27, 2026, as Start By Believing Day in Jackson County, Missouri, and encourage all residents to stand with survivors, promote awareness, and commit to building a community free from sexual violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Jackson

County, Missouri, to be affixed this 27th day of April, 2026.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**NO**

Amount	Fund	Department	Line-Item Detail

**YES**

**ACTION NEEDED: COURTESY (NO LEGAL IMPACT)**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Click or tap here to enter text.