

IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

AN ORDINANCE submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, a question authorizing Jackson County to remove the statues of Andrew Jackson at the Jackson County Courthouse located in Kansas City and the Historic Truman Courthouse located in Independence.

ORDINANCE NO. 5374, July 13, 2020

INTRODUCED BY Theresa Cass Galvin, Dan Tarwater III, Scott Burnett, Tony Miller, Charlie Franklin, and Jeanie Lauer, County Legislators

WHEREAS, on December 16, 1826, Jackson County, Missouri was organized and named after Andrew Jackson, who would later become the seventh president of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, while serving as presiding judge of Jackson County, President Harry S Truman was instrumental in the approval by the voters of Jackson County of a bond issue for the construction of the Downtown Kansas City Courthouse; and,

WHEREAS, using bond funds, then Judge Harry S Truman commissioned the equestrian statue of President Andrew Jackson from sculptor Charles Keck, which was unveiled in front of the newly constructed courthouse on December 27, 1934; and,

WHEREAS, Charles Keck created a smaller, identical equestrian statue that he gifted to President Truman; and,

WHEREAS, on December 26, 1949, President Truman in turn, gifted that statue to the people of Jackson County, to be displayed at the Historic Truman Courthouse located in Independence, Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, by Resolution 20337, dated December 16, 2019, the County Legislature approved language to be included on plaques to be affixed to the statues of Andrew Jackson located in Kansas City and Independence, to acknowledge aspects of the history of Andrew Jackson's life which includes evidence of his support of the institution of slavery and the Indian Removal Act; now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of Jackson County, Missouri, as follows:

Section 1. Subject to the approval of the voters of Jackson County, at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the statues of Andrew Jackson located outside the Jackson County Courthouse in Kansas City and the Historic Truman Courthouse in Independence, shall be removed.

Section 2. The qualified voters at said election shall vote by ballot and the ballots to be used at said election shall contain the following language:

**JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
QUESTION # 2
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2020
OFFICIAL BALLOT**

Shall Jackson County, Missouri, remove the statues of Andrew Jackson now located outside the Jackson County Courthouse in Kansas City and the Historic Truman Courthouse in Independence?

YES

NO

If you are in favor of the question, completely darken the oval beside the word "Yes." If you are opposed to the question, completely darken the oval beside the word "No."

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon approval of the question submitted by the voters of Jackson County at the general election on November 3, 2020.

Section 4. The Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Jackson County and Kansas City Boards of Election Commissioners of the adoption of this Ordinance no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 2020, and to include in said notification all of the terms and provisions required by section 115.125, RSMo.

Effective Date: This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its signature by the County Executive.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
Chief Deputy County Counselor

[Signature]
County Counselor

I hereby certify that the attached ordinance, Ordinance No. 5374 introduced on July 13, 2020, was duly passed on July 13, 2020 by the Jackson County Legislature. The votes thereon were as follows:

Yeas 7

Nays 2

Abstaining 0

Absent 0

VETOED - JULY 22, 2020

This Ordinance is hereby transmitted to the County Executive for his signature.

7.13.2020
Date

[Signature]
Mary Jo Spino, Clerk of Legislature

I hereby approve the attached Ordinance No. 5374.

July 22, 2020 - Veto message from County Executive (see attached)

Date

Frank White, Jr., County Executive



FRANK WHITE, JR.
Jackson County Executive

July 22, 2020

Veto Message from the County Executive

Ordinance 5374

TO THE JACKSON COUNTY LEGISLATURE:

I am returning herewith without my approval Ordinance 5374, which, most notably, proposes a question to voters on the November general election ballot authorizing the removal of Andrew Jackson statues located at Jackson County courthouses in Kansas City and Independence.

Since the tragic murder of George Floyd, I have been inspired by the courageous leadership of so many across our country. The acts demanding change have come from those young and old. They have come from men and women of all races and creeds. They have come from private citizens and elected officials alike. In one form or another, they all have stood up and said – Black Lives Matter.

I am saddened to say, in the days, weeks, and months that have followed the tragic murder of George Floyd, the Jackson County Legislature has not acted courageously. In fact, there has not even been a resolution of the Legislature condemning the horrific murder of George Floyd, nor a statement saying that Black Lives Matter in Jackson County. Even though last year, the very same Legislature unanimously passed a resolution celebrating the anniversary of a former slave plantation, and the year before that they passed a resolution in support of composting.

We must do better.

We must show our community that we are not afraid to confront the most serious of issues and take decisive action when it is right. I am hopeful that the passage of time has provided an opportunity for members of our Legislature to reflect on their vote and act differently. However, I am vetoing this Ordinance not just in the hopes that Legislators will reconsider their position, but also to allow them an opportunity to take a clear position.

RECEIVED

JUL 22 2020

MARY JO SPIND
COUNTY CLERK

2:45pm



Members of the County Legislature
Clerk of the Legislature
July 22, 2020
Page 2

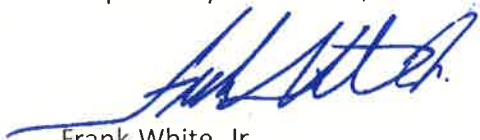
Even if Legislators ultimately decide to allow this issue to go to the voters, I am calling upon them to take a stand. As the recently deceased civil rights icon and Congressman John Lewis said just last year:

“When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation . . . to do something. Our children and their children will ask us, ‘what did you do?’ . . . We have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history.”

These statues are no longer simply a vestige of the past. These are our statues now and I am giving you another opportunity to directly tell the residents of our community if you believe the statues should be taken down or not. If leaders in my birth state of Mississippi, the NFL team in Washington, D.C., even NASCAR have acknowledged and gotten rid of their hurtful imagery, Jackson County should too.

For the foregoing reasons, Ordinance 5374 has earned my veto.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank White, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Frank White, Jr.
Jackson County Executive