



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)*

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

10:00 AM

Special Meeting

**Eastern Jackson County Courthouse, 308 W. Kansas, Independence, Missouri, Ground
Floor, Legislative Chambers**

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

1 ROLL CALL

Present 9 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Megan L. Smith,
Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer
and Sean E. Smith

2 THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited.

3 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Jeanie Lauer, seconded by Manuel Abarca IV, to
approve the journal of the previous meeting held on December 15, 2025.
The motion passed by a voice vote.

4 HEARINGS

None.

5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND REPORTS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Phil LeVota, County Executive was present and gave the following report:

He congratulated Legislator Sean E. Smith on his engagement.

He congratulated Legislator Megan L. Smith and her husband on being
expectant parents.

He made a statement regarding the history of the American Rescue Plan
Act (ARPA) funds.

There was an additional statement made by Legislator Manuel Abarca IV.

He handed a letter to the County Executive and County Administrator regarding demolition costs for Arrowhead Stadium. See meeting details for a copy of the letter at <https://jacksonco.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1371170&GUID=C7F8E951-F966-4A4B-94AE-5ADF0FA49ACD&Options=info|&Search=>

To view details, use the link below and select the video for the December 31, 2025 legislative meeting at <https://jacksonco.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

6 PERFECTON OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

None.

7 FINAL PASSAGE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

None.

8 RESOLUTIONS IN COMMITTEE

[22141](#)

Expressing the intent of the Legislature to authorize the County Executive to execute Cooperative Agreements with certain outside agencies that provide public services to citizens of Jackson County, at an aggregate cost to the County not to exceed \$15,000,000.00.

(WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR SEAN E. SMITH. CONCURRED BY MANUEL ABARCA IV AND DONNA PEYTON.)

9 CONSENT AGENDA

None.

10 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[6051](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to perfect Ordinance #6051. The motion passed by a voice vote.

(PERFECTED)

Stephen Arbo, County Administrator, explained that the ARPA funds were placed in a designated account so distributions could be made as needed.

Discussion.

[6051](#)

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adopt Ordinance #6051 appropriating from the undesignated fund balance of the 2025 ARPA Fund \$17,300,000.00 for certain eligible expenses. 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 Jeanie Lauer

No: 1 - Sean E. Smith

(ADOPTED)

11 INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE

[22143](#)

Authorizing the County Executive to execute Cooperative Agreements with certain outside agencies that provide public services to citizens of Jackson County, at an aggregate cost to the County not to exceed \$35,000,000.00.

(WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR DARON MCGEE. CONCURRED BY SEAN E. SMITH AND MANUEL ABARCA IV.)

[22144](#)

A motion was made by Jalen Anderson, seconded by Jeanie Lauer, to approve the Floor Amendment dated December 31, 2025 for Resolution #22144, to delete the figure "1,400,000" and insert the figure "1,300,000" for Urban League of Greater Kansas City, to delete the figure "1,300,000" and insert the figure "1,100,000" for Metropolitan Organization Countering Sexual Assault (MOCSA), to delete the figure "1,300,000" and insert the figure "1,100,000" for Reconciliation Services, to delete the figure "215,000" and insert the figure "300,000" for Hope House, to delete the figure "210,000" and insert the figure "300,000" for Synergy Services, Inc., to delete the figure "200,000" and insert the figure "300,000" for Newhouse, to delete the figure "100,000" and insert the figure "300,000" for Rose Brooks Center, to delete the figure "100,000" and "125,000" for Lee's Summit CARES. The motion failed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 1 - Jalen Anderson

No: 4 - Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Charlie Franklin and Sean E. Smith

Abstain: 4 - DaRon McGee, Megan L. Smith, Venessa Huskey and Jeanie Lauer

(FAILED)

Phil LeVota, County Executive, explained that he suggested the Floor Amendment to Resolution #22144. DaRon McGee, Chairman, said he had no knowledge of the amendment and did not agree to sponsor it.

Discussion.

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV to call for the question. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Sean E. Smith, County Legislator, explained the changes made to Resolution #22144 from Sunday to Tuesday. He asked who directed the reductions and increases.

Discussion.

[22144](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adopt Resolution #22144, authorizing the County Executive to execute Cooperative Agreements with certain outside agencies that provide public services to citizens of Jackson County, at an aggregate cost to the County not to exceed \$32,590,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Jeanie Lauer

No: 1 - Sean E. Smith

Abstain: 2 - Jalen Anderson and Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

Manuel Abarca IV asked to be added as a sponsor to Resolution #22144.

Donna Peyton assumed the Chair.

[22145](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adopt Resolution #22145 authorizing the County Executive to execute Cooperative Agreements with certain outside agencies that provide public services to citizens of Jackson County, at an aggregate cost to the County not to exceed \$2,060,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 6 - Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Jeanie Lauer

No: 1 - Sean E. Smith

Abstain: 2 - DaRon McGee and Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

DaRon McGee resumed the Chair.

Resolutions #22141 and #22143 were withdrawn at this time. See pages 2 and 3 for details.

[22146](#)

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Charlie Franklin, to adopt Resolution #22146 authorizing the County Executive to execute a Cooperative Agreement with a certain outside agency that provides public services to citizens of Jackson County, at an aggregate cost to the County not to exceed \$350,000.00. The motion passed by a roll call vote:

Yes: 5 - Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin and Jeanie Lauer

No: 1 - Sean E. Smith

Abstain: 3 - DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton and Megan L. Smith

(ADOPTED)

12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

None.

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

14 NEW BUSINESS

Manuel Abarca IV said he would like to review agencies that were ineligible due to expired insurance certificates. He also thinks they should consider looking at housing as infrastructure. There is an opportunity to make amends while also prioritizing public support for housing investments in our communities.

Megan L. Smith, County Legislator, said she requested information from the Budget Chairman regarding agencies who were missing paperwork but did not receive a response. She said the information would have been helpful for her decision making process.

DaRon McGee responded that he will consult with the Compliance office to make sure Megan Smith's questions are answered.

15 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Manuel Abarca IV, seconded by Venessa Huskey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned until Monday, January 12, 2026 at 3:00 P.M. at the Eastern Jackson County Courthouse, 308 W. Kansas, Independence, Missouri, Ground Floor, Legislative Chambers.