

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE THAT MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE SHALL SERVE AS FULL-TIME ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TO ESTABLISH COMPENSATION CONSISTENT WITH A LIVABLE WAGE AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF FULL-TIME PUBLIC SERVICE; CALLING AND PROVIDING FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2026; AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY CLERK TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF SAID ELECTION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Purpose and Findings.

The County Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. Jackson County government oversees critical public services, infrastructure, public safety investments, parks, health initiatives, economic development, transportation planning, and the expenditure of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars annually.
2. The duties and expectations placed upon County Legislators have significantly expanded beyond the scope traditionally associated with part-time public service.
3. County Legislators are regularly required to attend legislative meetings, committee meetings, constituent meetings, regional boards and commissions, community events, budget hearings, and emergency governmental proceedings, while also maintaining constituent services throughout the year.
4. A compensation structure that does not reflect the demands of full-time public service creates barriers for working-class residents, parents, young professionals, retirees without independent wealth, and other qualified individuals seeking public office.
5. Jackson County benefits when elected office is accessible to residents of diverse economic backgrounds and when legislators are able to dedicate their full professional attention to the work of county government.
6. The voters of Jackson County should therefore have the opportunity to determine whether the office of County Legislator should be transitioned from a part-time position to a full-time position compensated at a livable and professional wage.

Section 2. Election Called.

Pursuant to the Charter of Jackson County and the laws of the State of Missouri, there is hereby called and ordered to be held in Jackson County, Missouri, at the regularly scheduled election on Tuesday, November ____, 2026, an election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County the following proposed Charter amendment:

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall the Charter of Jackson County, Missouri, be amended to provide that members of the County Legislature shall serve as full-time elected officials, and to authorize compensation for County Legislators at a level established by ordinance consistent with the responsibilities of full-time public service and a livable wage, subject to all applicable provisions of Missouri law regarding compensation of elected officials?

YES

NO

Section 3. Charter Amendment Language.

If approved by the voters, the Jackson County Charter shall be amended by adding and/or revising the following provisions:

“Section _____. Full-Time Service of County Legislators.

A. Members of the Jackson County Legislature shall serve as full-time elected officials of Jackson County government.

B. The compensation of County Legislators shall be established by ordinance and shall reflect the responsibilities, time commitments, and professional obligations associated with full-time public service.

C. The compensation established pursuant to this section shall provide a livable wage sufficient to ensure that service in elected office remains accessible to qualified residents regardless of economic status.

D. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Legislature from establishing reasonable standards relating to outside employment, ethics, transparency, attendance, constituent services, or professional conduct consistent with full-time public service.

E. Any compensation adjustments shall be subject to all requirements of Missouri law and shall not take effect during the current term of office unless otherwise permitted by law.”

Section 4. Ballot Language.

The County Clerk is hereby directed to cause the official ballot title and question to be submitted to the election authorities substantially in the form set forth herein, with such revisions as are required or approved by the County Counselor or election authorities to comply with applicable law.

Section 5. Notice of Election.

The County Clerk and all appropriate County officials are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out and conduct the election authorized by this Ordinance, including publication of notice and coordination with the election authorities of Jackson County, Missouri.

Section 6. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the County Legislature and approval by the County Executive, or upon its adoption notwithstanding veto, as provided by the Charter of Jackson County, Missouri.