



## MARY JO SPINO

### CLERK OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

415 EAST 12TH STREET, 2nd FLOOR  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106  
(816) 881-3242  
FAX: (816) 881-3234

201 W. LEXINGTON, 2nd FLOOR  
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050  
(816) 881-1626  
FAX: (816) 881-4473

State of Missouri  
County of Jackson



S.S.

I, Mary Jo Spino, Clerk of the County Legislature, within and for the County of Jackson, do hereby certify that Ordinance #5993 adopted by the County Legislature on July 7, 2025, was vetoed by the County Executive on July 17, 2025. The veto was overridden by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature on July 18, 2025.

Roll Call: Yes: 8 – DaRon McGee, Donna Peyton, Jalen Anderson, Manuel Abarca IV, Venessa Huskey, Charlie Franklin, Jeanie Lauer and Sean E. Smith  
Abstaining: 1 – Megan L. Smith

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County, at my office in Kansas City, Missouri this 18th day of July, 2025.

Mary Jo Spino  
Clerk of the County Legislature



**IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI**

**AN ORDINANCE** submitting to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at a special election to be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, a question regarding the recall of County Executive Frank White, Jr.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5993** July 7, 2025

**INTRODUCED BY** DaRon McGee, County Legislator

WHEREAS, per the Constitutional Home Rule Charter of Jackson County, MO, Article XIV, Section 9, a special election shall be held to consider the recall of a county elected officer within sixty days after the petitions are filed; and,

WHEREAS, a certification letter was sent from the Jackson County Election Board and the Kansas City Election Board to the Clerk of the County Legislature on June 30, 2025, indicating a sufficient number of signatures have been verified; now therefore,

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

Section 1. Pursuant to the Jackson County Constitutional Home Rule Charter, Article XIV, Section 9, a question regarding the recall of Frank White, Jr. as County Executive is hereby to be submitted to the qualified voters of Jackson County, Missouri, at a special election to be held on August 26, 2025.

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective pursuant to the Jackson County Constitutional Home Rule Charter, Article XIV, Section 10, "If the majority of the votes

cast are in favor of recall, the office shall become vacant immediately upon certification of the results by the offices charged with conducting elections in the county”.

Section 3. 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 # 1  
SPECIAL ELECTION  
AUGUST 26, 2025  
OFFICIAL BALLOT**

Shall Frank White, Jr. be recalled from the office of County Executive in Jackson County, Missouri?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If you are in favor of the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “Yes”.

If you are opposed to the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “No”.

Section 4. The Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners and the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners of the adoption of the immediate passage of this Ordinance by the County Legislature and to include in said notification all the terms and provisions required by Section 115.125, RSMo 2016.

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bryan Covinsky

Bryan Covinsky (Jul 2, 2025 17:07 CDT)

County Counselor

I hereby certify that the attached ordinance, Ordinance No. 5993 introduced on July 7, 2025, was duly passed on July 7, 2025 by the Jackson County Legislature. The votes thereon were as follows:

Yeas 9

Nays 0

Abstaining 0

Absent 0

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

7.7.2025

Date

Mary Jo Spino

Mary Jo Spino, Clerk of Legislature

I hereby approve the attached Ordinance No. 5993.

**Vetoed by County Executive**

**July 17, 2025**

Date

Frank White, Jr., County Executive

Veto Overridden - July 18, 2025



**FRANK WHITE, JR.**  
Jackson County Executive

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 17 2025**

**MARY JO SPINO**  
**COUNTY CLERK**  
**dch 11:32am (ED)**

**VETO MESSAGE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE FRANK WHITE, JR.**

Re: ORDINANCE 5993  
Date: July 17, 2025  
To: Jackson County Legislature

Pursuant to the authority granted to me by the Jackson County Charter, I am returning Ordinance 5993 without my approval. This ordinance, which sets a recall election for August 26, 2025, is unlawful, fiscally irresponsible and a dangerous misuse of public resources and the democratic process.

**This Ordinance Violates Election Laws and the Legislature Was Warned**

In 2023, the Clerk of the Legislature asked the Board of Elections for feedback on the proposed recall process. On August 8, 2023, the Republican Director of the Jackson County Board of Elections, speaking on behalf of the Board, wrote that the 60-day election timeline "is unacceptable to the election boards" and "not sufficient time to prepare for an election and follow all stipulations required by law."

To their credit, the Legislature appeared to heed that warning at the time by adopting an ordinance that required any recall election to be held on the "next lawful election date." Had they followed that law again now, the current lawsuit from the Board of Elections could have been avoided. Instead, they have abandoned that legal safeguard in favor of a timeline that election authorities explicitly warned was unlawful.

The Board of Elections also counseled the Legislature to adopt a fixed time window for collecting signatures, an essential safeguard to ensure the petitions reflect the will of the people. That advice was ignored.

The result? The Jackson County and Kansas City Boards of Election have filed a verified lawsuit to stop this election, stating unequivocally that conducting it on August 26, 2025, would require them to violate multiple state and federal election laws, including absentee



ballot rules, military and overseas voter protections under UOCAVA and public notice requirements.

This has already forced the Boards of Election to engage at least four attorneys and spend unknown amounts of taxpayer money to defend against a law that should never have been passed in the first place.

### **The Board of Elections Never Deemed the Petitions Sufficient**

The Jackson County Charter requires a determination of the sufficiency of the petition, not just of the signatures. On August 8, 2023, the Republican Director of the Jackson County Board of Elections informed the Clerk that the Board would only verify the sufficiency of signatures and would not determine the sufficiency of the petitions. As a result, these petitions have never been deemed sufficient as required by the Charter.

That sufficiency determination should logically occur before circulation, consistent with how statewide petition processes are handled under Missouri law. This provides a clear process for objections or corrections, yet that opportunity was never afforded here.

### **The Petitions Are Legally Deficient**

Had these petitions been properly reviewed, they would have been immediately rejected for several critical failures, including, but not limited to:

- **No Cause Stated:** Article VII, Section 4 of the Missouri Constitution requires that recalls be initiated for cause. These petitions fail to state any cause, violating both the Constitution and implementing state statutes.
- **Improper Circulator Affidavits:** The required affidavits failed to include the mandated declaration that the circulators were residents of Missouri, invalidating those petitions under state election law.
- **Expired or Invalid Signatures:** Petition signatures were submitted over a two-year span. The Charter states a recall election must occur within 60 days of petition filing. Many signers no longer live in Jackson County and some are likely no longer living at all. These petitions do not reflect the current will of the people.

### **The Fiscal Irresponsibility is Unjustifiable**

The projected cost of the August election is \$1.8 million and that doesn't include litigation costs, administrative hours or other indirect expenses.

This would be the fourth unplanned, unbudgeted and unnecessary election initiated since this Legislature took office. News reports suggest a fifth may come in April 2026 for

stadium-related taxes. Still, not one dollar has been appropriated to conduct the August election. What funds will the Board of Elections use to pay poll workers? To print ballots? To comply with state and federal mandates? And how will we fund the November election the Legislature has already scheduled?

This is not responsible governance. This is burning taxpayer dollars like kindling.

### **This Sets a Dangerous and Chaotic Precedent**

The Chair of the Legislature recently stated that recall timing "doesn't matter," that one could even occur four years after signatures are collected. That mindset invites chaos—gather signatures at any time, then hold them indefinitely until political winds shift, regardless of whether the signers are still residents or even alive.

That's not democracy. That's political manipulation.

### **It's Never Too Late to Do the Right Thing**

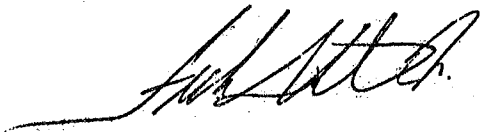
The Legislature can still correct this mistake. A new ordinance placing the recall on the November 2025 ballot would comply with the law, bring the current litigation to an end and eliminate the need for taxpayers to fund multiple legal teams on top of the \$1.8 million cost of an August election that has no lawful basis.

### **Conclusion**

Ordinance 5993 violates state and federal election laws, guidance from our election authorities and the Jackson County Charter. It contradicts this Legislature's own prior ordinance. It invites unnecessary and expensive litigation, and it asks Jackson County residents to subsidize a political maneuver that undermines democracy.

For all these reasons, I am vetoing Ordinance 5993.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank White, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Frank White, Jr.  
Jackson County Executive