



JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Courthouse
415 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
jacksongov.org

(816) 881-3333
Fax: (816) 881-3133

To: Residents of Jackson County

From: Legislative Chair Jeanie Lauer, Legislative Vice-Chair Megan Marshall, and 1st District
Legislator at-large Jalen Anderson

Date: January 18, 2024

Subject: Statement in support of the County Executive's Veto of Ordinance No. 5822

Dear Residents of Jackson County,

As your elected representatives, we are dedicated to ensuring that any agreement with the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs aligns with the best interests of our community and reflects a balance of fairness and responsibility. We support County Executive Frank White, Jr.'s veto, will vote to sustain it, and emphasize that further negotiations should be conducted with his office, as they are responsible for representing our county's interests.

It is striking to note that the proposed financial commitment to these teams significantly surpasses the combined annual budget allocated for all our parks, playgrounds, trails, roads, and bridges. This disparity highlights the importance of reaching agreements that are not only equitable but also prioritize the wider needs and services crucial to our community.

Unresolved Issues:

1. **Jackson County Resident Preference Plan:** A substantial benefit for our county's residents, designed to match or surpass comparable initiatives in the MLB and NFL over the entire length of the agreement.
2. **Local Presence of Teams:** Commitment to keeping front offices, training facilities, and essential operations within Jackson County.
3. **Insurance and Indemnification:** Transitioning insurance responsibilities to the teams by 2025 for taxpayer savings.
4. **Parks Tax Reimbursement:** Restoring \$3.5 million annually from our parks levy by 2025.
5. **Rental Fee:** A fair rental/licensing fee, inflation-adjusted, from each team.
6. **Stadium Demolition:** Teams to bear the costs, with no additional county funds required.

Frank White, Jr., County Executive

7. **Community Benefits Agreements:** Enforceable agreements for long-term community benefits.
8. **Royals' New Stadium Location:** The specific location of the Kansas City Royals' new stadium must be confirmed.
9. **Chiefs' Improvement Plans:** The Chiefs must provide detailed plans for Arrowhead improvements and their vision for the complex post-Royals relocation.
10. **Private Capital Investment:** Both teams must commit to the amount of private capital they are willing to invest in these projects.

To further protect the interests of Jackson County, the county will handle any necessary bonding for the Royals project, adhering to prudent financial principles. Additionally, we will not advance with agreements that could expose the county to future financial or legal risks. Our focus remains on safeguarding our community's interests in these significant negotiations. We are firmly committed to only supporting agreements or moving forward with a ballot question once these and other critical issues are resolved. It would be irresponsible to present this matter to the voters without first ensuring that all significant aspects have been addressed comprehensively and to the benefit of Jackson County.

Timeline for Agreement: We want to remind everyone that we have seven years remaining on our current deal, with additional election dates available in 2024 and beyond. This provides us with ample opportunity to negotiate thoughtfully and thoroughly.

Our approach is anchored in a deep commitment to the welfare and prosperity of Jackson County residents. We urge the teams to engage in these discussions with a sense of responsibility and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Jeanie Lauer, Legislative Chair

Megan Marshall, Legislative Vice-Chair

Jalen Anderson, 1st District Legislator at-large