

# THE VOICE

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# THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 18  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

## LOOKING AHEAD

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## If You're Not Reading Us Online...

YOU'RE MISSING A LOT

Here are a few of the stories we've published exclusively online. Go check them out online or sign up for our one of our newsletters so you don't miss any of our great news.

### MISSOURI NEWS

**No More Raids: Intoxicating Hemp Sales are Back on in Missouri**

Efforts will focus on intoxicating hemp products that are "misbranded" to look like other popular products like candy and cookies. Intoxicating hemp products are unregulated and sold at CBD, liquor and even convenience stores.

### KANSAS CITY NEWS

**KC Council Approves \$16 million for Jail in KCPD Headquarters Amid Crime Concerns**

New facility inside police headquarters will hold 144 people by 2026, but critics say plan doesn't address root causes of crime.

### NATIONAL

**Harvard Reports Slight Decline in Black Students in Wake of Affirmative Action Ruling**

### WICHITA NEWS

**Experience the Drone Light Festival Sept. 20-22 at Exploration Place**

Wichita's Drone Light Festival returns this weekend building on two years of sold out success.

### LIFE AND CULTURE

**18th and Vine Arts Festival is Back for a Second Year With a Nod to the 70s**

This year, the festival that celebrates Black arts and culture, takes a throwback trip to the 70s

# Kamala Harris Must Dodge Trumps Race Bait

By Keith Boykin  
Word in Black

To understand what Kamala Harris said to the National Association of Black Journalists on Tuesday, you gotta understand the Republicans' cynical race strategy.

Anytime Kamala Harris says something pro-Black, Trump and the Republicans will use it against her to convince white people that she can't be trusted. And anytime she says something that isn't pro-Black, they will still use it against her by getting Black people to criticize her for not doing enough.

When she sat down with the group in Philadelphia to take questions from Black journalists, she didn't say everything that some Black people wanted her to say — but she said almost everything she could. She forcefully condemned

recent lies about Haitian immigrants promoted by Trump and JD Vance. But, she did not specifically endorse a policy of reparations for slavery. Although she supported legislation to study reparations when she was a senator in California, she spoke in broader terms today as the Democratic presidential nominee.

"We need to speak truth about the generational impact of our history," she said, mentioning slavery, redlining, and Jim Crow laws. She spoke about student loan debt, medical debt, bias in home appraisals, and Black maternal mortality, but she put the onus to fix these issues more on Congress than executive action.

I support reparations, and I've written about it in my two most recent books. But believe it or not, Kamala Harris gave

the right answer.

Here's why.

Her job is to get elected in a country where most Americans oppose reparations. Although 77% of Black Americans support reparations, only 18% of White Americans do.

To win the presidency, Harris needs at least 42 to 43% of the White vote, which means she has to convince a sufficient number of White Americans that she can represent them — while still holding onto Black and Brown voters. It's a juggling act. How do you maintain your street cred with Black and Brown voters without alienating sensitive white voters?

Clearly, she supports race-specific policies that benefit Black people, including HBCU funding, affirmative action, and debt relief for Black farmers. But as a Black

politician in a predominantly white country, she still has to remind White Americans that those policies benefit them, too, by creating a more equitable society.

Trump is not expected to do anything to help Black people.

A Black Democratic candidate for president faces a frustrating double standard that does not apply to a White Republican like Trump.

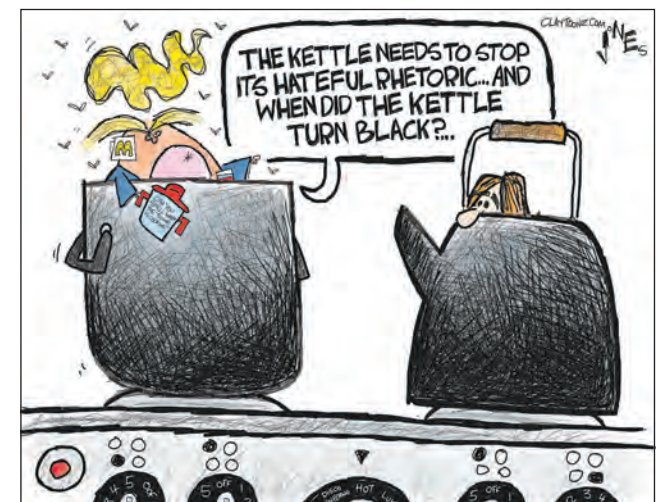
There's a method to the madness from Republicans. They continue to launch racist attacks against Harris because they're desperately trying to get her to fight on controversial race and culture issues. Trump wants Kamala Harris to attack him for being racist instead of focusing on her broader agenda for America. He knows that if he can get her to engage, they can mislabel her with the "angry Black woman" trope.

She was wise not to take the bait. It may not be the truth we want to hear, but she understood the assignment.

*The post appeared first on Word In Black.*



## CARTOON



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– Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace  
*President and CEO,  
Kauffman Foundation*

# Community Standouts

## Everett to Receive Top WSU Alumni Award

Junetta Everett has been

selected as the 2024 Wichita State University Heritage Gala Alumni Achievement

Awardee. Established in 1955, the Alumni Achievement Award is the highest honor given to Wichita State University alumni.

Everett was selected for her outstanding professional achievement and her significant contribution to society-at-large. Everett retired after a successful career as a Dental Insurance Executive, but she also developed a reputation



**Junetta Everett**

as a leader in the community. She rose through the ranks to become the first African-American female president of the Greater Wichita Chamber

of Commerce.

The award will be presented at the Heritage Gala dinner on Tues., Oct. 29.

## Zelia Wiley Receives Full Professor

Status at Kansas State University

Dr. Zelia Wiley has been elevated to the status of full tenured professor at Kansas State University. She is the first African-American to be elevated to the status in the university's Department of Agriculture.



**Zelia Wiley**

Wiley earned her Bachelors and Masters of Science in Agricultural Education, Economics and Human Resources from Prairie View A&M University (TX) and completed her Ph.D. at the Pennsylvania State University in Agriculture and Extension Education.

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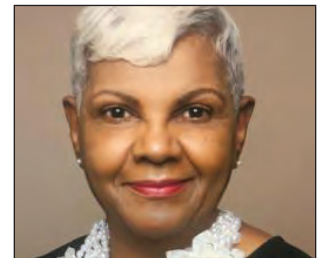
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**Dr. Marjorie Williams**

## Dr. Marjorie Williams Announced as 2025 Inductee into UMKC Starr Women's Hall of Fame

Dr. Marjorie Williams was announced as one of seven members in the newest class of inductees to the University of Missouri-Kansas City Starr Women's Hall of Fame, established a decade ago to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of women who have helped shape the Kansas City region and beyond, showcases a major multitude of firsts:

Dr. Williams was the first African American superintendent of the Hickman Mills Schools District. Dr. Marj founded The Marste Group, a consulting firm that serves school districts and businesses nationwide and co-founded and continues to be involved in the Sisters' Circle Fund-Greater Kansas City. Williams also mentors women of color in doctoral program through the national organization, Societas Docta.

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# Missouri Amendment 7: Understanding Ranked-Choice Voting

The measure also has language about restricting voting rights to citizens.

By Josh Merchant  
The Beacon

In November's election, Missourians will be asked whether to ban ranked-choice voting, which allows voters to rank their candidates from favorite to least favorite. But the ballot question also includes language about restricting voting rights to citizens — which is already the law.

Voters will be asked this November whether to amend the Missouri Constitution to make it the 11th state to ban ranked-choice voting.

Ranked-choice voting asks voters to rank candidates from favorite to least favorite, rather than requiring them to pick only one candidate.

Maine and Alaska have adopted ranked-choice voting for some of their

elections. So have cities such as New York City, Minneapolis and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

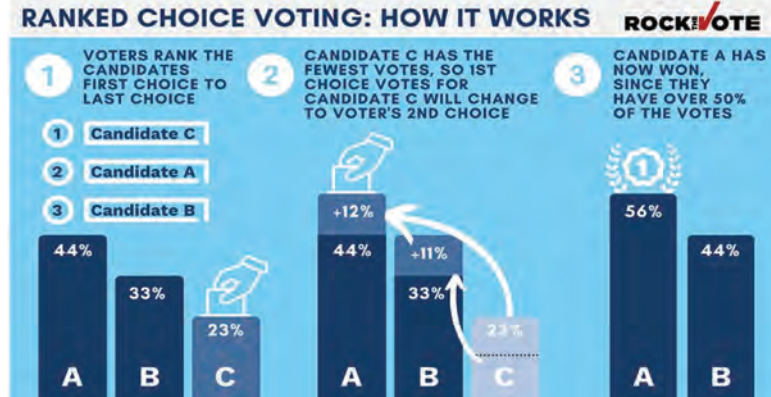
## What Does a 'Yes' Vote Do on Missouri Amendment 7?

Approving Missouri Amendment 7 would prohibit ranked-choice or approval voting in any elections in Missouri, including the city, county, state and federal levels.

It would also add language to the Missouri Constitution to explicitly forbid noncitizens from voting in elections. But state law already prohibits noncitizens from registering to vote in any election.

## Understanding Ranked-Choice Voting?

Ranked-choice voting asks voters to



rank the candidates by order of preference, rather than only voting for one candidate.

The election office tallies the number of voters who selected each candidate as their top pick. If no candidate

wins the majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their votes are reallocated to the candidate individuals who voted for them

See **VOTING** Page 15 →

## Non-Citizen Voting Wording in the Amendment

Noncitizen Voting in Missouri is already illegal, however, there's an allegation that's increasingly becoming prominent in political discourse — that noncitizens are voting en masse and influencing American elections.

According to Benjamin Singer, the CEO of Show Me Integrity, the non-citizen voting wording in Amendment 7 is misleading. He fears that uninformed voters will ban ranked-choice voting, which they might otherwise support, because they don't realize that noncitizen voting is already illegal.

"What politicians in Jefferson City are trying to do is trick Missourians, because they know that Missourians actually want these reforms," said Singer, who will be voting against Missouri Amendment 7.

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# Doing This for 20 Seconds a Day Can Relieve Stress And Anxiety

Self-compassionate touch, which can be practiced anywhere, can include stroking the upper arms like a hug.

## By Voice Health News

A devoted meditator, Eli Susman spent a month at a mindfulness practice center in southern France run by Buddhist monks focused on honing the art of mindful living.

Susman expected to spend most of the retreat in meditation sessions, but to his surprise, he found the schedule only allotted 30 minutes of formal meditation practice.

Used to much longer meditation sessions, Susman began to shift his mindset after later speaking with one of the monks. Instead of three hours of meditating, the monk advised him that three deep breaths were all it took to tune in to the present moment.

"This struck me," Susman told CNN. "What if three breaths or about 20 seconds is really enough to make a difference in people's lives?"

Susman, now a doctoral candidate in psychology at the University of California,



Berkeley, tested his theory in a study published in April in the journal Behaviour Research and Therapy.

The study showed a single 20-second session of self-compassionate touch significantly reduced stress, increased kindness to the participant and improved mental well-being.

The effects on mental health were greater among people who performed this micropractice daily than those who did not practice as often.

"In this touch-deprived society, we can offer ourselves the same kindness and compassion we so freely give to others," Susman said. "It's right at our fingertips."

## How to Practice Self-Compassionate Touch

The benefit of self-compassionate touch is that it can be practiced anywhere, whether at home or on a crowded train, Susman said.

**First**, close your mind and think about a recent mistake or moment that made you feel unworthy or a failure. When these moments are remembered, notice any changes in your body.

**Second**, find a place to touch your body that is comfortable for you. Use any form of touch that feels comfortable to you. Doing so could include stroking the back of the neck, using the thumb to massage a spot on the palm, put a hand over your heart and one over your belly, or stroke the upper arms like a hug. Susman advised focusing on the sensation and warmth

of the touch.

**Third**, people should ask themselves, "How can I be a friend to myself at this moment?" focusing on forgiving and accepting their imperfections. After 20 seconds, people can open their eyes or repeat the session as often as needed.

The study results showed the more people make self-compassionate touch a habit, the greater the mental health benefits. Susman suggested setting a cue, such as after brushing your teeth, as a reminder to perform the micropractice.

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# Wichita Journalists Dig Deep on Housing Issues

The concrete foundation where Naomi Vertilus was standing when this photos was taken in September 2023 certainly felt and looked solid, but she still felt edgy. Construction had just begun on the Habitat for Humanity home she and her family of four children would move into in January.

While owning an affordable, quality home had been Vertilus' dream for 20 years, she was afraid to believe it was coming true. Her fears were well-founded. Despite working full-time, Naomi had struggled to find decent housing. Her experiences included unexpected rent hikes, eviction threats and having to move when a landlord sold the rental. "I was used to saying, 'Now what?'" Vertilus says. Her housing challenges and poignant question



Naomi Vertilus smiles watching the wall of her family's future home go up.  
CREDIT: WICHITA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

reflect the concerns of many Wichitans who feel safe and affordable housing is out of their reach.

This crisis resonates with the Wichita Journalism Collaborative, of which The Community Voice is a member. That's why our 11

members are working together on an 18-month project to investigate and report on housing challenges through "Priced Out: The Future of Wichita Housing."

The stories on the next few pages are just a few of the stories compiled by the

collaborative on housing. We've featured a number of stories, some written by our team, and by other members of the collaborative on our website. However, there are even more stories on the collaborative website at [wichitajournalism.org](https://wichitajournalism.org).

## With Houses Getting More Expensive, This Kansas Program Gives First-Time Homebuyers a Hand Up

The state's First-Time Homebuyer Program offers assistance with down payments and closing costs. And they're encouraging potential homeowners to apply.

By **Celia Hack**  
KMUW

On the front porch of her Derby home, Misty Brown pulls her fluffy gray cat onto her lap. She didn't know quite what to expect when she first walked into this house last year. After all, the listing had no photos online.

"I walked in, and I was like, 'This is it. This is home. This is perfect,'" Brown said. "And then it had original pink-tiled bathroom. And that just sold me."

Brown bought the house using the Kansas First-Time Homebuyer Program, which offers assistance with down payments and closing costs.

Buyers within income limits can receive an interest-free loan of up to 20% of the home's sale price. The loan is forgiven if the buyer remains in the home for 10 years.

"I wouldn't have been able to buy this house if it wasn't for it," Brown said. "It would have taken forever for me to have enough money down to be able to do it, and being a single mom – without the program, it literally wouldn't have happened."

Home ownership in Kansas

is becoming increasingly expensive. Growth in home values outpaced incomes from 2012 to 2022, making it more difficult for buyers to afford down payments.

For about 20 years, the First-Time Homebuyer Program has aimed to help with that. Now, the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation wants more people to apply.

See **FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS** Page 10 →

# IS YOUR LANDLORD NOT MAKING REPAIRS?

Kansans should consider these 3 steps, attorney advises.

By **Lindsay Smith**  
The Wichita Eagle

Nearly 400,000 units across Kansas were rentals as of 2020, according to data from the University of Kansas, and renting continues to be the only option for many in Wichita as home sale prices continue to rise in the competitive market there.

Even if you don't own the property you're residing in, it's important to know your rights.

Steve Minson, an attorney for Kansas Legal Services who specializes in landlord-tenant cases, said the No. 1 issue his office contends with is tenants having difficulties with landlords making repairs.

So, what do you do if the sink is leaking and your landlord won't respond to your request? Here's some expert advice on the matter, plus resources to help renters in need.

## 3 WAYS TO GET YOUR LANDLORD TO MAKE REPAIRS

Minson said sometimes tenants withhold rent when the landlord won't make necessary repairs, but advised that's not a good idea.

"You don't get to withhold rent," Minson said. "They withhold rent and then they get a three-day notice to pay up or get out, and they say, 'Well I'm not paying' ... and then they get an eviction."

There are three better options to push your landlord into upholding their end of the rental agreement for repairs, according to Minson.

First, you could provide your landlord a 14/30-day notice, which has to be provided in writing.

This has to be given to the landlord within 30 days of the next rent payment due date, which provides the landlord a list of repair requests. If the repairs are not made, or there hasn't been any action taken to make them, the tenant has the right to be released from their lease.

"Sometimes that'll get the landlord to do it, they don't want to lose the tenant so they'll make the repair," Minson said.



The second option is to take the landlord to small claims court.

"It's a breach of the landlord's obligations under the Kansas

Landlord Tenant Act if the landlord doesn't keep the appliances in good repair," he said. "So you can sue the landlord, require a repair

... or you can sue the landlord at small claims court."

The 2012 statute outlines a number of rental agreement

## Workshop: Renters Should Prioritize Staying Out of Court to Avoid Eviction

By **P.J. Griekspoor**

Kansas Legal Services attorney Steve Minson gives some chilling advice for Wichita tenants facing an eviction hearing.

"I tell people to get important papers, banking information, identification paperwork, prescriptions, jewelry and any items of personal importance and lock them up somewhere besides the apartment before you head to the courthouse," he said.

That's because if you lose the hearing, you might be removed and locked out without a chance to gather up your

things, he told attendees at the Urban League's July Housing Workshop, which focused on Eviction Basics.

"Process servers in Sedgwick County are brutally aggressive," Minson said. "I've seen a woman removed from the property and not even allowed to put her shoes on," he said.

By law, the landlord must store a tenant's possessions for 30 days but can require payment of all past-due rent and assessed damages before releasing them.

The key message from Minson and his co-presenters, Assistant City Attorney Nate Johnson and Eviction Resolution Program Director Abigail Lessman was

direct: Do everything you can to stay out of court or to settle without an eviction order.

An eviction not only causes angst of the moment. It makes it exponentially more difficult to secure housing. A majority of landlords will not rent to a tenant with a prior eviction.

Johnson urged tenants to read the lease carefully. "Ask for a clarification and make sure to understand exactly what the responsibilities of the tenant and landlord are," he said.

"In Kansas, the law says you cannot withhold rent if the landlord has failed to fulfill his responsibility to keep repairs

# Sedgwick County Eviction Filings Hit Five Year High

By Celia Hack  
KMUW

Eviction filings in Sedgwick County rose in 2023.

Landlords, tenants and housing assistance nonprofits say inflation, rising rents and the end of pandemic assistance contributed to the increase in filings.

Khanh Kim Nguyen, a local landlord, and three of her tenants were in Sedgwick County eviction court on the morning of Aug. 8.

Each tenant was late on rent or hadn't paid the full amount they owed, Nguyen said. With the cost of insurance and property taxes rising on the dozens of units she owns, Nguyen said she can't hold back on filing for eviction.

"We don't want someone (to be) homeless," Nguyen said. "But we have to do (it) because we cannot wait."

Nguyen said she's had to undertake more and more evictions since 2021, a trend that matches county numbers. Evictions filed each year in Sedgwick County have risen steadily since a low in 2020, when an eviction moratorium was in place. The filings surpassed pre-pandemic numbers in 2022 and hit a five-year high in 2023 of 5,863.

The data is pulled from forcible detainers cases filed in Sedgwick County District Court.

Landlords, tenants, eviction lawyers and nonprofits working in rental assistance attribute the

increase in filings to a variety of causes, from inflation to rising rents to the expiration of COVID rental assistance.

"There is a huge need out there, and it has definitely escalated compared to what it has been," said George Dinkel, the executive director of the Center of Hope, a nonprofit that provides rental and utility assistance.

He estimated his agency received about 30% more requests for assistance from 2020 to 2024.

Eviction filings by landlords do not necessarily result in the tenant's ouster. A judge could rule against the eviction, or a tenant could pay rent, causing the landlord to stop seeking possession of the property.

## Are Rising Rents to Blame?

Some working in the nonprofit sector say rent increases in Wichita played a role in the growing number of eviction filings.

The Urban League recently began offering an eviction prevention workshop, and residents around the city have started calling to ask for housing assistance.

"There was an individual that I was talking to that was kind of homeless, sleeping in their car," said Tisha Neloms, the Urban League's housing coordinator and program navigator. "And they said that their rent just kept going up, and it went up one last time to where they just couldn't pay their rent because their rent was more

than what they were bringing in."

Dinkel has also observed rent increases that shock families living on fixed incomes.

"They only make like, \$900 a month, and we've seen their rents increase from like \$300 and \$400 a month to \$500 and \$600 a month," Dinkel said. "... It really is putting some significant constraints on their income."

Steve Minson is a lawyer with Kansas Legal Services, where he often works with tenants. He said in recent years, he's heard from tenants who face rent increases when they go to renew their leases.

"I got people that say, 'I can't pay. What am I going to do? Is this legal?' And the answer often is, 'Yeah, if the notice of increase was given properly, it's legal and binding,'" Minson said. "And if you can't pay it, you're going to have to go before you get an eviction. And some people don't have a place to go, and so they end up hanging on until the eviction is filed."

From 2022 to 2023, rents in multifamily apartment complexes in Wichita increased 10%, according to a report by NAI Martens, a local commercial real estate firm. And rents increased the most in Class C apartments, the oldest and typically cheapest units.

NAI Martens Senior Vice President Jeff Englert, an author of the report, said that could have

played a role in rising evictions.

For her part, Nguyen said she doesn't typically increase rent for long-term tenants because she knows they can't afford it. She does say she typically increases rent when bringing on a new tenant.

Nguyen said inflation has had an outsized impact on her business and eviction filings. Dinkel said he also hears from tenants squeezed by high costs like gas and car payments.

Other times, a tenant's personal crisis can be a precursor to eviction, Nguyen said.

"Some tenant(s) tell me, 'OK, my business right now, it closed down. I can find another job,'" Nguyen said. "We cannot wait one or two months to find another job. So, eviction..."

Available government rental assistance decreased drastically after 2022, when the city of Wichita's federally funded emergency rental assistance program exhausted its funding. A different rental assistance program run by the city for people experiencing homelessness or nearing eviction is no longer accepting applications.

*The 18th District Court offers an Eviction Resolution Program for tenants and landlords interested in mediation as opposed to eviction. Kansas Legal Services offers a free walk-in clinic for civil matters, such as eviction, on Wednesdays from 12:30 - 4 p.m.*

requirements, but does not cover all issues, like mold, which is not named as a habitability problem, for example.

The third option is to call in housing inspectors, like officials with the city of Wichita.

"The city housing inspectors will be out, inspect the property and write the landlord up for any housing code violations and give them a limited amount of time to get those repairs made," Minson said.

This can be a difficult course of action, the attorney noted. In some cases, landlords have been upset after such a call was made and tried to terminate the lease.

"And that's illegal because if the tenant has complained to the city housing inspectors, the landlord doesn't get to terminate the lease," Minson said.

If these three steps fail to prompt your landlord into making the repairs required, it may be time to contact an attorney, like those with Kansas Legal Services.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Renters in Kansas have several options to apply for assistance if they are in need.

The Kansas Corporation Commission has an online page for renters in south-central Kansas to see what help they may qualify for. You can also visit the state of Kansas' resource page.

Some programs available include help paying rent, like the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program, and assistance paying for utilities through the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, for example.

made and all appliances in service," Minson said. "The landlord does, by law, have to maintain heating and cooling systems that come with the home and he does have to keep all provided appliances in working order. But a tenant cannot simply make or pay for a repair himself and deduct the cost from the rent."

Minson said it is especially important that people moving to Kansas from other states be aware of that provision because the law is different in many other states.

## NO COURT, NO EVICTION

Johnson stressed that a tenant can only be evicted after a court order.

In addition to non-payment of rent, a

tenant can be evicted for failure to abide by provisions in the lease, such as no pets, no loud parties, or no "roommates" not on the lease. If the lease says lawn upkeep is the responsibility of the tenant, he can be evicted for failure to mow grass or remove weeds.

The Wichita City Council recently passed an ordinance making it illegal for landlords to evict a tenant, raise rent or reduce amenities in retaliation for a complaint about living conditions, for reporting unsafe conditions to the city or for joining or organizing a tenants' union. Tenants can report retaliation and landlords face fines if found guilty.

Tenants facing eviction court have a couple of chances to stop the process. Before facing a

judge, there is an option for a settlement hearing during which attorneys for both parties could agree to a less damaging outcome. If both the landlord and the tenant are representing themselves, there's the option of mediation.

The Eviction Resolution Program, a collaboration between the Office of Judicial Administration and the Sedgwick County District Court, can provide a referral to mediation that permits the landlord and tenant to meet with a neutral person, trained to help them reach an agreement.

Mediation can take place before or after a case is filed and can take place in person or online using a platform such as Zoom.

The Urban League has been holding

landlord and tenant workshops on the fourth Thursday of the month. The League also makes copies of the City of Wichita's Landlord and Tenant Handbook available at the League Office at 2418 E. Ninth St. The handbook is also available online on the city's website.

To learn more about tenant mediation, contact the Eviction Resolution Program at ERP@kscourts.org or 316-660-5659.

Kansas Legal Services may be able to provide free legal advice. Call 1-800-723-6953 or visit [www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org). KLS attorneys are also available to provide assistance at the Sedgwick County Law Library Self Help Center, 225 N. Market, Suite 210 on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Priced Out Stories on Our Website

You can find more housing stories on our website under the Wichita Journalism Collaborative heading.

You can find more great housing stories, whether you're a renter, want to buy or already own, on our website. The Wichita Journalism Collaborative has published nearly 100 stories on housing during the last year.

In addition to stories in this section, we've pulled together some of the ones we think might interest you the most as renters and homes owners. This weekend, our focus will be on sharing even more housing stories from the Wichita Journalism Collaborative on our website, [www.communityvoiceks.com](http://www.communityvoiceks.com).

Some of the listed stories have already been posted,

just use the search tool to find them. The newer stories will be easier to find and mostly on our site's front page.

### Northeast Wichita Housing

A Wichita Man's Tale of Two Family Homes Reveals Unexpected Barriers to Saving Older Houses In 67214

City of Wichita awards \$1.3 million to developers to buy, renovate public housing units (previously posted)

Redlining Helped Spur Disinvestment in Wichita's Urban Core. How Much is an In-Fill Plan Changing That Legacy?

### Renters:

Rent-to-Own Home Sales Used to be Mostly Unregulated in Kansas. A New Law Changes That used to be mostly unregulated in Kansas. A new law changes that.

Despite More Housing, Wichita Seeing a 10% Increase in Rent

Is it More Expensive to Rent or Buy in Wichita

### Homebuying/Homeowners

Wichita Ranks No. 1 For Home Price Increases, Study Says. See What The Data Shows Two homes, One Lot and a Possible Way to Make Home Ownership More in Reach in Wichita

Housing discrimination was outlawed in 1968. But Wichita's Black-white homeownership gap persists.

Habitat Home Repair Program Gave Her Home New Life



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Or find the right loan for your needs with a Purchase + Improvement loan or Home Equity Line of Credit from CapFed®.



### What's Good or Bad About Housing in Your Community

We want to know what you like about or are concerned about when it comes to housing in Northeast Wichita. What housing issues keep you up at night? What makes you love your neighborhood? What would you like to see more of in the way of housing? What would you like to see the City do to help with housing in your neighborhood? Are you looking for programs or resources to help with both homeowners, rentals or homelessness? Reach out to us at <https://bit.ly/3N1hNET>

### FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS, from Page 7 ↓

"When the program first opened, the funds would get used pretty much immediately," said Marilyn Stanley, the single-family program manager. "They'd get an abundance of applications and had people that they weren't able to help.

In 2022, the program used about 70% of its roughly \$600,000 in funding, according to Christine Reimler, director of community solutions at the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. When that happens, the dollars roll over into the next year.

Stanley says there are several factors contributing to the declining use of the program, including the pandemic and how

competitive the housing market has been in recent years.

Interested buyers connect with the program by finding a participating lender, usually a bank. Sedgwick County alone has about 20.

The state meets another challenge here. Potential buyers' income can't be so high that they don't qualify for the program, but their credit has to be good enough to qualify for a mortgage on their own, Stanley says.

"That is often a barrier for people using the program," Stanley said. "They may think, 'Oh, First-Time Homebuyer Program, I got that. I would love to own my own house.' It's their goal, right? But credit is usually what's holding people back from that."

Kansas' First-Time Homebuyer program is available for residents around the state, except in major metropolitan areas such as Wichita. That's because Wichita offers its own first-time homebuyer program, called HOMEownership 80, which helps with down payment assistance and closing costs.

Wichita's program only accepts applications in connection with homes constructed by developers that receive funding from the city to build affordable housing, many of which are nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity or Mennonite Housing. Applicants can be referred to the homebuyer assistance program through one of the developers.

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KC REPARATIONS COALITION



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DuBois Learning Center  
4510 East Linwood Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64128

**Join Us for African History Saturday!**

Join us for our final event of the year with a special screening of The Big Payback documentary! The film explores whether this groundbreaking effort can deliver on its promises amid national racial tension. **Enjoy delicious catering from Gigi's Vegan Wellness Cafe and the KC Health Initiative, plus a chance for youth up to 12th grade to enter a \$100 drawing!**

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# 6 Leaders of Former KCK-based Cult Guilty in Forced Labor Trial

KCK government aided quasi-religious group known as the United Nation of Islam by transferring property to it in effort to revive Quindaro Neighborhood.

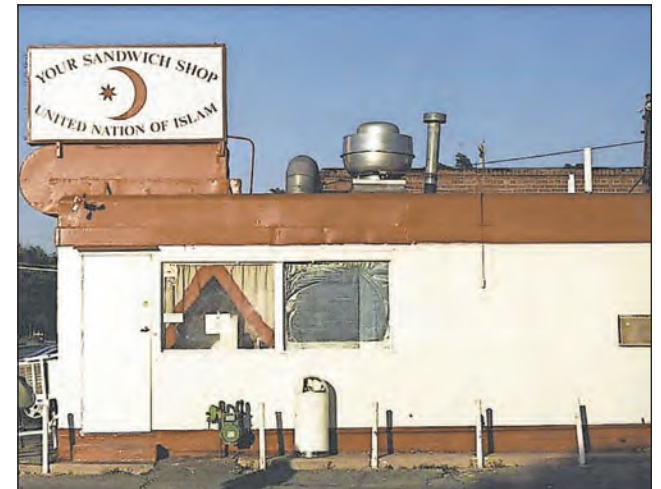
By Grace Hills  
Kansas Reflector

### Key Points:

- A jury found six leaders of a quasi-religious group guilty of conspiracy to commit forced labor after a 26-day trial at the Robert J. Dole Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas. (Grace Hills/Kansas Reflector)
- The “University of Islam,” the former Roosevelt Elementary that was donated to the United Nation of Islam by USD 500, is now abandoned



Royall Jenkins, founder of the United Nation of Islam who claimed he was Allah, died in 2021, escaping conviction.



Wichita residents may remember Your Diner, located at 13th and Green in the early 2000s. The diner was operated by a satellite group of the United Nation of Islam, which set up its national headquarters in Kansas City, KS.

A federal jury convicted six leaders in a quasi-religious group in a scheme that convinced parents to send their children to Kansas City, KS, for schooling but instead forced them to work long hours without pay and subjected them to beatings and other abuse.

The six defendants held high-ranking positions of influence within the United Nation of Islam, which a federal judge deemed a “cult.” They pleaded not guilty but were convicted Sept. 16 in federal district court in Kansas City.

United Nation of Islam founder Royall Jenkins, who claimed to be Allah and had multiple wives, court documents show, died in 2021.

In 1996, Jenkins told local government officials in Kansas City that the group was moving there to create its headquarters and make it their new “heaven.” From 1998 to 2000, the Unified Government of Wyandotte

County and Kansas City and KCK public school board donated five buildings to the group to help revitalize the Quindaro area, which was considered blighted and dangerous.

Instead, federal prosecutors said, the organization used fear to coerce children into working up to 16 hours a day in its storefronts, with names like “Your Diner,” “Your Bakery” and “Your Gas Station.”

Although members could be of any age, court documents show the defendants primarily used the labor of minors, with the youngest only 8 years old. In return, they would get meager meals, sparse accommodations and crowded housing, according to court documents.

“The United Nation of Islam and these defendants held themselves out as a beacon of hope for the community, promising to educate and teach important life skills to members, particularly children,” said Kristen Clarke, of the U.S. Justice Dept.’s Civil Rights Division, in a statement. “Instead, the defendants betrayed this trust,

exploiting young children in the organization by callously compelling their labor.”

Attorneys for the defendants during the 26-day trial argued their clients used their positions in the organization to try and stop Jenkins and the abuse. The federal government wanted to prosecute Jenkins, they said, but he died.

The jury convicted each defendant of conspiracy to commit forced labor. Kabba Majeed — one of two defendants who testified during the trial — also was convicted of five counts of forced labor. Majeed and other defendants, except for Dana Peach, who was one of Jenkins’ wives, were part of an executive board that had planned to shut down the United Nation of Islam after they realized Jenkins was “a fraud.”

“We tried to do a stealth breakdown, remove everything, then have Royall find out,” Majeed testified. “Our attempt was to make sure this didn’t happen again. Period.”

Ultimately, Majeed said, there was nothing they could’ve done to stop him.

“Going to the police would’ve stopped him,” said Myryam Zhuravitsky, an attorney with the Civil Rights Division’s Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, during cross-examination.

Multiple victims testified during the trial. One woman spoke of her time at the United Nation of Islam school, where children were taught an unregulated curriculum, including that “women were not needed.” Children were humiliated and beaten regularly, she said.

“I was scared,” she said. “Hearing a little boy scream, knowing he’s defenseless.”

Defendants are scheduled for sentencing on Feb. 18. Majeed faces up to 20 years in prison and restitution. The other defendants face up to five years in prison: Peach, Yunus Rassoul, James Staton, Randolph Rodney Hadley, and Daniel Aubrey Jenkins.

# Urban Neighborhood Initiative Hosting R&B Fundraiser

Concert raises funds for east side neighborhood services including youth education, minor home repair, and development.

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

Kansas City's Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI) is set to host its annual fundraiser with a twist on Oct. 10 at Theis Park. The "Recess! Jam Session" promises an evening of R&B music and community support, all for a good cause.

The outdoor concert and fundraiser will feature performances by notable R&B artists:

- Dave Hollister: Former member of Blackstreet, known for their hit song "No Diggity."
- LeToya Lockett: Original member of Destiny's Child, who has since launched a successful solo career.
- Carl Thomas: Award-winning R&B artist known for hits like "I Wish" and "Summer Rain."

The host is Joseph "Jo Blaq" Macklin, a Kansas City native and producer who has worked with artists like Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber.

This is UNI's third annual fundraiser; the previous two were hosted at the College Basketball Experience inside the T-Mobile Center.

"This year, we decided to switch it up," said Shalom Jima, UNI's administrative director. "It's a cool, fun outdoor concert benefiting Urban Neighborhood Initiative."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.,



Carl Thomas



LeToya Lockett



Dave Hollister

and the concert starts at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$40, and they offer open lawn seating. VIP tickets, priced at \$150, include reserved seating, drink tickets, and food options. Tickets are available at [bit.ly/UNICongert2024](https://bit.ly/UNICongert2024).

The event will feature food trucks offering a variety of culinary options. Alcohol will be served, making it a 21-and-over event. For security reasons, a clear bag policy will be in effect.

General admission attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. VIP ticket holders will have access to chairs provided by the event organizers.

"Recess! Jam Session" is a rain-or-shine event. Parking for general admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, while VIP ticket holders will have access to preferred parking areas.

"It's a perfect thing for people to come to after work," says Jima. "We're encouraging people to come right after work. We're outside, so come as you are. Just come ready to have fun."

All proceeds will support UNI's mission to strengthen communities in Kansas City's urban core.

## About Urban Neighborhood Initiative

UNI, established in 2012, takes a holistic approach to community development and is focused on ten neighborhoods on KC's east side. The organization works to address long-standing issues of disinvestment and neglect in these areas.

"We know that east side has had decades of neglect and under-investments for a long, long time," says Jima. "We believe that no matter where you live, you should have access to decent community resources, nice housing, and opportunities for your kids."

Neighborhoods UNI Serves:

- Beacon Hill
- Blue Hills
- Boston Heights / Mount Hope
- Center City
- Ivanhoe
- Key Coalition
- Manheim Park
- Squier Park
- Troostwood
- Wendell Phillips

UNI's work spans several areas, including housing development, community events, and youth programming.

The organization's housing and real estate arm focuses on new builds, renovations, and mixed-income housing development. UNI

also rehabilitates existing homes. For example, last year, they renovated a house on East 24th Terrace in the Wendell Phillips neighborhood and sold it to a first-time homebuyer. UNI also does free minor home repairs and has completed 94 repairs, 30 of which were in 2023 alone.

"A lot of people are on fixed income or lower income, and providing them with reliable, good quality home repair that they don't have to pay for is vital," Shalom said.

UNI's community development arm organizes events and provides resources in the neighborhoods it serves. The organization operates a mobile STEAM lab for youth activities at neighborhood block parties

recently purchased an abandoned school off Prospect Avenue, which it plans to develop into a community center. Across the street, the organization will build 39 townhomes called The Crescendo.

and at local schools, offering before-school, after-school, and in-school programming.

In 2023, UNI served 17,670 individuals across all its programs, including 15,905 youth in five different schools.


"We not only want you to live in a stable home that you can afford, we also want your kids to be able to have good programming, go to good schools, and have that neighborhood be safe," says Jima.

As for the upcoming "Recess! Jam Session," Jima hopes it will be a night of "moving and grooving" that brings the community together while raising funds for UNI's vital work. Tickets are available at [bit.ly/UNICongert2024](https://bit.ly/UNICongert2024). For more info about UNI, visit [uni-kc.org](https://uni-kc.org).

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EXHIBITION & EVENTS  
Robert Peterson, *Pure Joy*, 2024. From the series *Saints and Crowns*. Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 inches. Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art

Robert Peterson: *Somewhere in America* is organized by the Wichita Art Museum. This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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BY LANIE ROBERTSON  
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## Robert Peterson Exhibit *"Somewhere in America"* Opens at WAM

This is the first major museum exhibition by this quickly rising contemporary artist.

### By The Voice News Service

Through his vibrant and joyful portraits, Robert Peterson captures the beauty and diversity of African-American life, celebrating the "Black experience as [he] knows it."

For his first major museum exhibition, the Wichita Art Museum will feature more than 20 new works and key pieces from Peterson's existing collection, many painted on a monumental scale. The exhibit is now open.

Each painting is a loving depiction of individuals, couples, and families, celebrating everyday moments and commemorating Peterson's community — from small-town Oklahoma to his wider circle of friends and family across the country.

The somewhat autobiographical work by Peters is deeply personal yet tells universally relatable stories of family, community, and legacy. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the art of a self-taught artist who has quickly risen to prominence, with his works now held in major museums like the Philbrook Museum of Art, Weisman Art Museum, and Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg.

In 2023, the U.S. Postal Service featured the artist's portrait of author Ernest J. Gaines on



Head in the Clouds, 2022. Oil on canvas, 48 x 72 inches. Collection of Yvonne Cook and family. IMAGE CREDIT: ROBERT PETERSON,

the 46th Forever Stamp in the Black Heritage Series.

"Somewhere in America" is on display at the Wichita Art Museum through Jan. 5. The exhibit admission price is \$12. Free for WAM members, college students with ID, and youth 18 and under.

## *'The Kings of KC'* Exhibit Opens at Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

Free exhibit on display through Oct. 31.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has a new exhibit chronicling the history of the Kansas City Monarchs, titled "The Kings Of KC."

The free exhibit is part of our 100th anniversary celebration of the Monarchs winning the first Negro Leagues World Series.

This free, self-guided tour features



stories, experiences, hundreds of photographs, artifacts and much more, highlighting the stories and legacy of the Monarchs. The tour is designed to be taken at your pace but museum officials recommend allocating a minimum of an hour to "fully enjoy the exhibit."

The exhibit is open to the public through Thu., Oct. 31.

## WICHITA

**Mon., Sept. 30, 6 - 7 pm: Candlelight Vigil for Cedric (CJ) Lofton**, 700 S. Hydraulic. Come together as a community to mourn, reflect, and demand justice. Make sure his story is heard, and his legacy lives on. Stand together in remembrance and strength for Cedric Lofton. **FREE**

**Tue., Oct. 1, 2 pm: Bootstrap Branding & Marketing Workshop**, Ruffin Building Auditorium, 100 N.

Broadway. Facilitated by TiJuana Hardwell, owner & principal consultant at Mamarazzi Communications, attendees will gain actionable insights to enhance brand presence without significant investment. Learn to leverage creativity and resourcefulness to attract customers and drive engagement. Startup Week runs Sept. 30 - Oct. 4. Register at StartupWeekWichita.com. **FREE**

**Thu., Oct. 3, 1 pm: Vendor101 - Wichita Startup Week**, Groover Labs, 334 N. St. Francis. Join N'credibly Sweet's Nicole Brown to learn essential strategies for vendor success. Workshop details: Explore the importance of customer engagement, effective branding, eye-catching packaging, and optimized table displays to create seamless purchasing experiences and enhance customer retention. Register at StartupWeekWichita.com.

**Fri., Oct. 4, 8 pm: Preacher Lawson - Funny as Bleep Tour**, TempleLive, 325 E 1st St. Comedian and TikTok sensation first made his mark as a fan favorite with outstanding performances on a variety of TV shows, including as a finalist on "America's Got Talent" and "AGT: The Champions." COST \$25+ <https://bit.ly/3MUo5q1>

**Fri., Oct. 4 (7 pm) - Sun., Oct. 6 (3 pm): "Celebrating 30 Years in Ministry: Rooted in Hope, Flourishing in Grace,"** Iasis Christian Center, 1914 E 11th St. Opportunity to celebrate with District Elder William Vann, senior pastor & First Lady Michelle Vann. Fri. Guest speaker is Apostle Jonathan Patterson of Abba's House in Dundalk, MD. Oct. 5 (11 am) \$25: Pastor & Leaders Brunch. Oct. 6: Morning Worship (10:30 am) Final Service (3 pm). **FREE**

**Sat., Oct. 5, 9 am: Shocktober Fest Entrepreneur Market**, WSU, Woolsey Hall. From apparel and art prints to jewelry and pottery, you may find the perfect piece to add to your collection. Vendor registration is \$30, with student pricing available for \$20. Contact alyssa.walker@wichita.edu for info. **FREE**

**Fri., Oct. 11, 9 am - 3:30 pm HealthCore - Via Christi Mobile Mammography.** HealthCore Clinic, 2707 E. 21st St. You must schedule an appointment. We bring the equipment and providers to you. Women over 40 are eligible for screening if it has been at least 12 months since their last mammogram. Appointments must be made at HealthCore, 316-691-0249. **FREE**

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Submit your calendar item at: <https://bit.ly/4dH0SD>

**Sat., Oct. 12, 11 am - 6 pm: Vendor Market**, Naftzger Park, 605 E. Douglas. ALL-DAY local artist & small business vendor market during ICT Bloktoberfest. There will also be a ton of activities all day during the market. Vendor registration is open at [www.wichita.gov/713/Vendors](http://www.wichita.gov/713/Vendors). **FREE**

**Sat., Oct. 12, 1 - 3 pm: "Delta Book Bonanza"**, Rhatigan Student Center, 1st Flr. Wichita Alumnae Chapter is organizing a book drive to collect children's books written by African American authors or African American children's themed content, to be distributed to children in local African organizations and a portion sent to the Haiti Cherrette Elementary School. **FREE**

**Sun., Oct. 13, 12 pm: Open Streets ICT**, Naftzger Park, 605 E. Douglas. Community-building event along Douglas Avenue. Enjoy a full day of physical activity, delicious food trucks, live music, and fun for all ages. **FREE**

**Sun. Oct 13, 4 - 6 pm: Voter Empowerment Candidates Forum**, Tabernacle Bible Church, 1817 N Volutsia. All Federal, State, and Local candidates have been invited to attend. **FREE**

**Sat., Oct. 19, 6 pm: 104th Annual Wichita NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet**, Marriott Hotel, 9100 Corporate Hills Dr. (Kellogg & Webb). 2024 Honorees are: Clergy of the Year - Pastor Yolanda Oliver; Janett Jackson Community Service - Michael Jackson; Chester I. Lewis Distinguished Service - TBA; H.N. Sims Excellence in Education - Janice Thacker; Ron Walters Leadership - Moniqueka Holloway; Community/Neighborhood - United Way; Person of the Year - Junetta Everett; Billy D. Williams Servant Leadership Award - Dr. J. Michelle Vann; Legacy Awardees - Tracee Adams, Lynette Woodard, Chela Love, Charles Knox, Twanda Hamilton. COST \$75. Purchase tickets at [WichitaKSNAACP.org](http://WichitaKSNAACP.org).

## KANSAS CITY

**Sun., Sept. 29, 2-8 pm: Soul Sessions KC** - The R&B Only Day Party, Equal Minded Night Lounge & Event Venue, 4327 Troost Ave. Come out for the best vibes + craft cocktails + R&B music. COST \$0 - \$75+

**Mon. Sept 30, 6 pm: KC Reparations Coalition Monthly Meeting**, VIRTUAL [www.kcreparationscoalition.com](http://www.kcreparationscoalition.com). The special guest presenter will be Dr. Afia Zakiya. Sister Afia is an Independent African Centered Scholar-Activist. A Political Science graduate of Clark Atlanta University. **FREE**

**Fri., Oct. 4, 10 am: Jazz Storytelling**, American Jazz Museum Atrium, 1616 18th St. Aimed at toddlers to early elementary schoolers, Jazz Storytelling is led by vocalist Lisa Henry, storyteller Brother John, drummer Mike Warren, and bassist Tyrone Clark. **FREE**

**Fri, Oct 4, 5 pm: Exclusive Artist Talk** with World Renowned Zhou Brothers + Open Studios. Zhou B Art Center, 1801 E 18th. With special guests, Shanzuo Zhoushi and Dahuang Zhoushi, known as the Zhou Brothers. There will be Open Studios with resident artists starting at 5 pm; and finishing the night with an exclusive Artist Talk with the Zhou Brothers at 7 pm. **FREE +**

**Sat, Oct 5, 6 pm: Nigerian Independence Celebration**, 6141 Blue Ridge Blvd. music, food, culture, and fun. Commemorate Nigeria's independence with an evening filled with music, dance, and delicious Nigerian cuisine. COST: \$15

**Sat, Oct. 5, 6 - 9 pm: The Gospel Stage Play, The Day You Say I Do**, Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th. A night of laughter, love, and inspiration. Witness a powerful performance that will touch your heart and soul. Be prepared to be moved by the talented actors as they bring this heartwarming story to life on stage. COST: \$40

**Sat, Oct 5, 5 pm: KC Curly Natural Hair Photoshoot**, Liberty Memorial Park, 1 Memorial Dr. Our 8th Annual KC Curly Photoshoot !! The Biggest Natural Hair photoshoot in Kansas City. FREESat, Oct 5, 8 pm: Steppers Lounge. American Jazz Museum Atrium, 1616 E 18th. A night of smooth moves and good vibes. Get ready to groove to the rhythm of the music and show off your best dance steps on the dance floor. COST: \$12

**Sun., Oct. 6, 6 - 11 pm: Black & Gold New Orleans Party** (SAINTS vs KANSAS CITY). Westin At Crown Center Ballroom, 1 E Pershing Rd. Come out for an epic showdown between the Saints and Kansas City. Get ready to party in style. Wear your best black and gold attire and cheer for your favorite team. Enjoy great music, delicious food, and a lively atmosphere. COST: \$45

**Thu, Oct 10, 7 pm: UNI Recess! Jam Session.** Frank A. Theis Park, 47th & Oak St. Get ready to groove to live music and enjoy unforgettable performances featuring Dave Hollister, LeToya Lockett, Carl Thomas and special guests. An evening filled with music, dance, and fun, all while supporting the Kansas City's Urban Neighborhood Initiative. COST: \$40+

**Sat, Oct 12, 10 am: WeCodeKC's Beginner Game Development with Scratch** (7-12). 4825 Troost Ave. Students will learn the basics of coding and game development. Students will be able to utilize block-based coding to create a game environment and sprites that move, jump, or dodge objects. **FREE**

**Sat, Oct 12, 10 am - 12 pm: Kansas City Jazz Alive 18th and Vine Walking Tour.** 18th & Vine. a fun and informative walking tour of the historic 18th and Vine district in Kansas City. Get ready to immerse yourself in the rich history of jazz in this vibrant neighborhood. Guide, Chuck Haddix - Director of UMKC Marr Sound Archives and host of KCUR 89.3. **FREE**

**Sat, Oct 12, 7 & 9 pm: Featuring Michael Colyar.** Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th St Performance by Michael Colyar, Darren DS Sanders, & The

host Chris the Mayor Thompson COST: \$55

**Sat., Oct. 12, 9 am: 3rd District Convention**, Kansas City Convention Center, Lobby 2400. Featuring - Leading Change: 3rd District Recaps; Carol Coe Community Defender Awards Luncheon; Year of the Youth 2025; Sustainable Economic Development; Green Solutions + Neighborhood Resilience. Hosted by Councilwoman Melissa Robinson. Info - contact [melissa.robinson@kcmo.org](mailto:melissa.robinson@kcmo.org).

**Sun., Oct. 13, 5 - 10:30 pm: Afro X Kc Fall Season.** American Fusion Cafe, 1621 Swift St. exciting event filled with music, dance, and culture. Get ready to experience the vibrant energy of Afrobeat and Amapiano. Immerse yourself in the rhythms of Africa and connect with the community and celebrate diversity. COST: \$7.50

**Sat., Oct. 12, 2:15 pm: Stacey Abrams on the Importance of Libraries**, Kansas City Public Library: Central Library, 14 West 10th St. Join us for a conversation with Stacey Abrams, the best-selling author of several books, a voting rights advocate, and former Minority Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives. **FREE**

**Sat., Oct. 12, 10 am to 3 pm: Fall Black Business Vendor Showcase**, Brookside Charter School, 1815 E 63rd St. Come out, support, & shop with some of the best Black-owned businesses/Black-led organizations here in Kansas City. Vendor registration is currently open until spots are full - don't wait until the last minute. [www.TheVillageKC.org/buyblack](http://www.TheVillageKC.org/buyblack) **FREE**.

## KANSAS CITY, KS

**Sun., Oct 13, 3:30 pm: 9th Annual Evening of Praise**, Forest Grove Baptist Church, 1417 N. 9th St. Friends saving lives through praise, featuring King Wanza. In recognition of National Domestic Violence Month. **FREE**

## OLATHE

**Thur., Oct. 3, 6 p.m. Johnson County Sheriff Candidates Debate**, Doug Bedford & Byron Roberson, Indian Creek Library, 16100 W 135th St. Candidates will be responding to a series of important questions regarding their candidacy for Johnson County Sheriff. **FREE**

## TOPEKA

**Sat., Oct. 5, 1-4 pm: Barnes & Noble Book Fair**, 6130 SW 17th St., Topeka, featuring local author Ana Wilkins and others. Co-sponsored by "Black Women You Should Know About" Facebook group. Authors will have books available to buy. **FREE**

## OVERLAND PARK

**Sat, Oct. 5, 6 - 11 pm: Sophisticated Gents present: Steppers Ball 2024**, Johnson County Arts And Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave. Dance the night away, dress to impress, top tier event. Free buffet For tickets contact Spanky- 816 885-0085 or Jeff- 816 876-3146 or Kevin 816 914-8419. COST: \$30

**Emanuel Henley, 99**

March 8, 1925 - Sept. 20, 2024  
Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. Fri., Oct. 4, at Grant Chapel AME, 2750 N Hillside.

**Robert Eugene Nash, 70**

May 12, 1954 - Sept. 18, 2024  
Service was held Sept. 28 at St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church.

**Billy J. Walker, 88**

July 5, 1936 - Sept. 18, 2024  
Service will be held at 11 a.m. Thu., Oct. 3, at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E 13th.

**Mary F. Maloney, 88**

Jan. 5, 1936 - Sept. 17, 2024  
Service will be held at 11 a.m. Tue., Oct. 1, at the Greater New Testament Baptist Church, 1833 N. Hydraulic.

**Quincy T. Owens, 36**

Aug. 16, 1988 - Sept. 16, 2024  
Service was held Sept 27 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.



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**Mildred L. Brown-Hope, 74**

Jan. 22, 1950 - Sept. 13, 2024  
Service was held Sept 27 at Tabernacle Bible Church.

**Elijah Dale Osborne, 85**

Aug. 31, 1939 - Sept. 11, 2024  
Service was held Sept 28 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

**Joy Marian Grisby, 82**

Jan. 14, 1942 - Sept. 10, 2024  
Service was held Sept. 21 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

**Alveno L. McPhaul Sr., 53**

July 13, 1971 - Sept. 8, 2024  
Service was held Sept. 21 at Dellrose United Methodist Church.

**Samantha Talbert-Bribiesca, 59**

July 30, 1965 - Sept. 7, 2024  
Service was held Sept. 19 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

**Leslie Marciano- Bruno, 34**

Feb. 12, 1990 - Sept. 5, 2024  
Service was held Sept. 13 at Grace Point Church.

**Jean McWilliams, 80**

April 3, 1944 - Sept. 5, 2024  
Service was held Sept. 18 at Shiloh Baptist Church.

**Chandra McCormick, 71**

Feb. 6, 1953 - Aug. 30, 2024  
Service was held Sept. 18 at Eastside Cathedral of Praise COGIC.

**VOTING, from Page 5 ↓**

ranked as their second choice. This process repeats until one of the candidates has a majority.

In the end, a candidate can only win the election if the majority of voters preferred them over their opponents.

**Does Anyone Currently Use Ranked-Choice Voting in Missouri?**

The city of St. Louis voted to implement approval voting in 2020 for citywide primary races. St. Louis is exempted from the constitutional amendment and will continue to use approval voting on local races regardless of whether Missouri Amendment 7 is approved.

**What Are the Advantages Of Ranked-Choice Voting?**

Proponents of ranked-choice voting and approval voting argue that they force candidates to more closely represent the views of voters.

The process works well in primaries where there can often be three or four candidates on the ballot. Without ranked-choice voting, individuals

might really like one candidate, but if they're not sure if that person can win, they might vote for their second or third pick because they think that option is more realistic.

With ranked-choice voting, you can still vote for your favorite candidate, without totally throwing your vote away. Depending on how the initial vote turns out, your second or even third-place vote could also play into the final result of the election.

An example of how ranked-choice ranking could have helped in Kansas City was in the recent Jackson County Prosecutors Democratic primary. There were three candidates in the race and two of them were Black women. Afraid that the two Black women would split the vote and the third candidate – a White male – might end up winning, there was a lot of pressure to unify behind one of the Black female candidates.

With ranked-choice voting, voters could have supported their favorite Black female candidate as their first choice and the other Black female candidate as their second choice. Even if the White male candidate had the most votes in round one, the votes for the Black female who came out on the bottom would roll to the other Black female.

Ranked-choice voting has historically favored moderate candidates who appeal more broadly to voters. In Alaska, ranked-choice voting helped get more centrist versus extreme candidates elected. With

ranked-choice voting, in the 2022 general election, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski was able to win reelection, despite being censured by the Alaska Republican Party for voting to convict former President Donald Trump in his second impeachment trial.

**What are the Arguments Against Ranked-Choice Voting?**

Byron Keelin, the president of Freedom Principle MO, opposes ranked-choice voting and will be voting for Amendment 7.

One reason is because he finds ranked-choice voting too confusing for voters.

One study from the University of Pennsylvania found that ranked-choice ballots were more likely to contain marking errors than traditional single-choice ballots. Some of those ballots could still be counted.

Another argument is cost. If Amendment 7 fails and a later vote authorizes ranked-choice elections, counties would need to update voting machines.

Keelin also argued that ranked-choice voting can allow interest groups to manipulate voters into supporting candidates who otherwise would not be able to win.

Keelin cited the Murkowski vote as an example of this manipulation.

Keelin believes that ranked-choice voting was an effort by special interest groups to cheat Alaska Republicans out of a more right-leaning candidate.

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**Our power**



**VOTE**



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the 2024 KC Voter Guide.



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