

THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



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THE VOICE

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LOOKING AHEAD

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Who's The Person of the Year?

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

Our community heroes often don't know we consider them as such. They just go about doing work in the community, not expecting recognition. However our community is better because of them.

They are definitely making a difference and we want to recognize them.

Who do you think is a person of the year in your community? Think broadly when you consider a person to recognize. Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, sexes and ages. They're not always a person in a suite or in a position of importance.

In January 2025 we'll recognize a person of the year in both of our markets – Wichita and Kansas City

– and you can help select them.

We're accepting nominations now through Mon. Dec. 16. Nominating someone is easy and online.

The decision will be made by a select committee from each community and will be based totally on the committee's opinion about the impact the nominated individuals have made. However, multiple applications for the same individual might carry some weight in their decision making. So, if you feel strongly about the person you nominate, encourage others to nominate them as well.

Nomination forms can be found online at communityvoiceks.com

No, there's not a big prize with this recognition. We'll recognize both winners with



a story in our print and online edition with a place of honor as the cover photo for that issue, on our website, and with a small physical recognition of the honor...

BEHIND THE CARTOON

Fries and Fascism

Donald Trump is pushing a lie to debunk what he claims is a lie.

Trump claims Vice President Kamala Harris never worked at McDonald's, which she said she did in 1983 as a summer job. In an attempt to call her a liar, he pretended to work the fry vat and serve customers at a drive-thru window at a McDonald's in Pennsylvania.

Per The Washington Post: The restaurant was closed to

the public during Trump's visit, and the motorists whom Trump served were screened by the U.S. Secret Service and positioned before his arrival. No one ordered food. Instead, the attendees received whatever Trump gave them.

Shame on McDonald's. Shame!

Shame on McDonald's for allowing their restaurant to be used as a political prop and for not requiring Trump to wear a hair net.



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– Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace
*President and CEO,
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Historic Boone Theater Revival Promises Further Renaissance for 18th & Vine

Century-old theater to house Black Movie Hall of Fame, complete 'cultural corridor' with Negro Leagues and Jazz museums.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Kansas City's historic Boone Theater broke ground on an \$8.7 million renovation project that promises to transform the century-old building into a cultural hub housing the Black Movie Hall of Fame, the Black Repertory Theatre of Kansas City, and a state-of-the-art cinema.

The project, led by Vine Street Collaborative LLC, aims to add to the 18th & Vine Jazz District, complementing the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Zhou B Art Center, and American Jazz Museum.

"This will make the 18th & Vine Historic District the center of Black culture in the entire world," says Shawn Edwards, programming partner and creative force behind the Black Movie Hall of Fame. "I don't think any other city in the world will have anything like this."

At the groundbreaking ceremony, excitement was palpable among city leaders and project developers who have spent years bringing this vision to life. Construction on the 45,000-square-foot building has begun, with completion expected in 12-14 months.

The project represents more than just renovating a building – it's about completing what Mayor Quinton Lucas calls a "cultural corridor" in the district.

"The next generation of 18th and Vine discussions isn't about just our history, although we are incredibly proud of that," says Lucas, "but it's about the future that we build."

Developers aim to have the Boone operational before Kansas City hosts World Cup matches in 2026. The timing could mark a new chapter for both the building and the district, with plans for a soccer film festival among the opening events.

For Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, who championed the district's revival during his tenure as mayor and fought to save the building from demolition, the project represents a new generation of community leaders taking up the challenge.

"Thank goodness we have some smart people who are undoing some of the dumbness [of razing historic buildings]," said Cleaver. "We can't function [as a city] without young visionaries who come in



The Boone Theater is located on 18th Street in the Historic Jazz District, just one block north of the Jazz and Negro League Museums.

with new ideas for old buildings."

A New Cultural Cornerstone

When completed, the renovated theater will house multiple cultural institutions and businesses. The ground floor will feature an event space that holds up to 600 people, the Black Movie Hall of Fame's interactive museum space, and offices for the nonprofit Soul of Santa.

The building will also include micro-offices for the Black Repertory Theater KC, multimedia production company DistrKTC, and Benton Lloyd Chung, LLP.

Once renovations are complete, the Black Repertory Theatre of Kansas City (BRTKC) will have a permanent home at the Boone Theater. The BRTKC won the prestigious Paul Robeson Award last year, but the theatre company has rotated venues for its productions.

"Coincidentally, there might be an opening [for a show] next year for our 10th anniversary when we move in," says BRTKC Artistic Director Damron Armstrong.

Bringing Movies Back to the Vine

Edwards envisions the Black Movie Hall of Fame as both a museum and active cinema. Beyond hosting film festivals and screening classic Black films, the venue will partner with streaming services and major studios to show first-run movies.

The programming will also include unique events drawing from Kansas City's



Groundbreaking ceremony at the Boone Theater: (L-R) Tim Duggan, Shawn Edwards, Damron Armstrong, Mayor Quinton Lucas, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, Councilmember Melissa Patterson Hazley, Shomari Benton, Jason Parson.

rich cultural history. Edwards plans to host "Sarah Rector-themed parties," inspired by the legendary gatherings thrown by Rector, who became a millionaire at age 11 and later hosted jazz luminaries like Count Basie and Duke Ellington at her Kansas City mansion.

"We're trying to bring it back to what the Jazz District used to be," Edwards explains. "That's where Black folks went to watch movies, that's where Black folks went to watch stage plays ... that's where Black folks went to do whatever socializing they needed to do."

A Long Road to Revival

The theater's journey to this moment has been decades in the making. Originally opened as the New Rialto Theater in 1924, it was renamed in 1929 to honor John "Blind" Boone, a blind Black composer and concert pianist from Missouri who toured nationally from 1880 until his death in 1927 and whose music influenced Kansas City jazz.

The building was a vital piece of the commercial and entertainment center created by the Black community in the Historic

Jazz District until it was converted into an armory in the 1940s. It has stood decommissioned since 1978.

Previous attempts to revive the building never fully materialized, despite various city investments over the years. In 2013, Kansas City agreed to spend \$140,000 on renovation, followed by \$1.2 million in 2016 to stabilize the building. The current project emerged from a 2020 city request for proposals, with Vine Street Collaborative selected for the development.

The Partnership Behind the Project

Vine Street Collaborative, led by Jason Parson, Shomari Benton, and Tim Duggan, has shown a commitment to the district through the successful renovation of 2000 Vine Street, now home to KC's first Black-owned brewery. The partners bring together expertise in public relations, real estate law, and urban planning.

The \$8.7 million project relies on a complex funding structure, with \$3.2 million coming from federal and state historic tax credits. The city's support includes selling the building for \$10 and providing a 25-year property tax abatement.

KBLC Taps Mark McCormick as First Executive Director

By **Bonita Gooch**
Editor-in-Chief

The Kansas Black Leadership Council (KBLC) board of directors has selected Mark McCormick as its first executive director. The nearly 10-year-old statewide organization needed a full-time person to manage its rapid growth.

McCormick, a Wichita native, spent six years at the ACLU of Kansas as deputy director of strategic affairs and as communications director. Prior to that, he served as CEO of The Kansas African American Museum for six years.

KBLC Board Chair Stacey Knoell said the organization had been looking for someone to step in to manage its growing list of grants and projects, annual Black Legislative Day event in Topeka, and to begin planning new areas of growth.

“Our plates here at KBLC had gotten so full they needed sides,” said Knoell, who’s also the executive director of the state’s Kansas African American Affairs Commission (KAAAC), where McCormick serves as chair. “Mark just kind of fell in our lap and we’re happy to have such a capable person managing day-to-day operations as well as helping us plan our future.”

Said McCormick: “I’ve been handed a jewel. KBLC continues to draw well in all its initiatives and has become a place where economic development, expert research, Black political thought, and civic engagement have come to sharpen each other. I’m thankful for this opportunity.”

Community Voice Publisher Bonita Gooch and the late Kansas state Rep. Gail Finney, working with



Mark McCormick

other Wichita-based Black elected officials and leaders, launched KBLC in 2015.

Their initial desire was to gather African Americans from across the state to develop and work collectively to bring about positive change

on a state-level platform of issues impacting the state’s Black residents.

Nine years later, The organization’s mission remains true to the founder’s vision. KBLC works to “advance meaningful change for African Americans living in Kansas today, while also changing historical systems that have traditionally harmed Black Health, Wealth and Prosperity, allowing Kansans to achieve an equitable future.”

This month, the organization concluded a five-month, five-city series of Black Leadership Brunches designed to help people recognize their innate power to lead

and to encourage participants to step up and lead where they are or to step boldly forward to lead outside their circle.

In early 2024, the organization began a drive to increase the number of African Americans running for elected office across the state. This year, more than a dozen new African Americans filed and ran for office across Kansas. KBLC board members are excitedly waiting to see the final results of that effort on Tue., Nov. 5, and look forward to seeing the impact these individuals can have in the state of Kansas.

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MediCare Vs Medicare Advantage

The 67 million Americans eligible for Medicare make an important decision every October: Should they make changes in their Medicare health insurance plans for the next calendar year?

By The Conversation

The decision is complicated. Medicare has an enormous variety of coverage options, with large and varying implications for people's health and finances, both as beneficiaries and taxpayers. And the decision is consequential – some choices lock beneficiaries out of traditional Medicare.

Beneficiaries choose an insurance plan when they turn 65, but after their initial sign-up, most beneficiaries can make changes only during the open enrollment period each fall.

The 2024 open enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, marks an opportunity to reassess options.

Given the complicated nature of Medicare and the scarcity of unbiased advisers, however, finding reliable information and understanding the options available can be challenging.

First Time Sign Ups

The choice is complex, especially when you are signing up for the first time and if you are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Insurers often engage in aggressive and sometimes deceptive advertising and outreach through brokers and agents.

Choose unbiased resources to guide you through the process, like www.shiphelp.org. Make sure to start before your 65th birthday for initial sign-up, look out for yearly

plan changes, and start well before the Dec. 7 deadline for any plan changes.

Two Paths With Many Decisions

Within Medicare, beneficiaries have a choice between two very different programs. They can enroll in either traditional Medicare, which is administered by the government, or one of the Medicare Advantage plans offered by private insurance companies.

Within Each Program are Dozens of Further Choices.

Traditional Medicare

Traditional Medicare is a nationally uniform cost-sharing plan for medical services that allows people to choose their providers for most types of medical

care, usually without prior authorization.

- Deductibles for 2024 are \$1,632 for hospital costs and \$240 for outpatient and medical costs.
- Patients also have to chip in starting on Day 61 for a hospital stay and Day 21 for a skilled nursing facility stay. This percentage is known as coinsurance.
- After the yearly deductible, Medicare pays 80% of outpatient and medical costs, leaving the person with a 20% copayment.
- Traditional Medicare's basic plan, known as Part A and Part B, also has no out-of-pocket maximum.

Medicare Supplemental Insurance

People enrolled in traditional Medicare can also

purchase supplemental coverage from a private insurance company:

- Known as Part D, for drugs. And
- Medigap, to lower or eliminate their deductibles, coinsurance and copayments, cap costs for Parts A and B, and
- Add an emergency foreign travel benefit.
- Part D plans cover prescription drug costs for about \$0 to \$100 a month. People with lower incomes may get extra financial help by signing up for the Medicare program Part D Extra Help or state-sponsored pharmaceutical assistance programs.

There are 10 standardized Medigap plans, also known as Medicare supplement

plans. Depending on the plan, and the person's gender, location and smoking status, Medigap typically costs from about \$30 to \$400 a month when a beneficiary first enrolls in Medicare.

Medicare Advantage

The Medicare Advantage program allows private insurers to bundle everything together and offers many enrollment options.

Compared with traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans:

- Typically offer lower out-of-pocket costs. They often bundle supplemental coverage for hearing, vision and dental, which is not part of traditional Medicare.

See **MEDICARE** Page 8 →

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Medicare & Medicare Advantage Deceptive Advertising

Information about Medicare coverage and assistance choosing a plan is available but varies in quality and completeness. Older Americans are bombarded with ads for Medicare Advantage plans that they may not be eligible for and that include misleading statements about benefits.

A November 2022 report from the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance found deceptive and aggressive sales and marketing tactics, including mailed brochures that implied government endorsement, telemarketers who called up to 20 times a day, and salespeople who approached older adults in the grocery store to ask about their insurance coverage.

The Department of

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Enrollment in the described plan type may be limited to certain times of the year unless you qualify for a special enrollment period. Extra benefits require enrollment in a Medicare Advantage plan.

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Health and Human Services tightened rules for 2024, requiring third-party marketers to include federal resources about Medicare, including the

website and toll-free phone number, and limiting the number of contacts from marketers.

Although the government has the authority

to review marketing materials, enforcement is partially dependent on

See **ADVERTISING** Page 8 →

MEDICARE, from Page 7 ↓

But Medicare Advantage plans also:

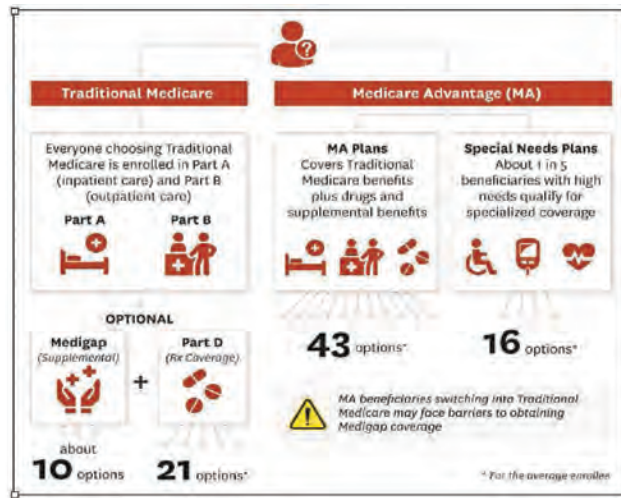
- Limit provider networks, meaning that people who are enrolled in them can see only certain providers without paying extra.
- In comparison to traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage enrollees on average go to lower-quality hospitals, nursing facilities, and home health agencies but see higher-quality primary care doctors.

Medicare Advantage Plans Also Often:

- Require prior authorization – often for important services such as stays at skilled nursing facilities, home health services and dialysis.

Choice Overload

Understanding the tradeoffs between premiums, health care access and



After reviewing thousands of complaints about “confusing, misleading, and/or inaccurate” Medicare Advantage ads, and using “secret shoppers” to document deceptive telephone sales pitches, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has tightened some of its controls

out-of-pocket health care costs can be overwhelming.

Turning 65 begins the process of taking one of two major paths, which each have a thicket of health care choices.

While many Medicare Advantage plans boast about

their supplemental benefits, such as vision and dental coverage, it’s often difficult to understand how generous this supplemental coverage is.

For instance, while most Medicare Advantage plans offer supplemental dental

benefits, cost-sharing and coverage can vary. Some plans don’t cover services such as extractions and endodontics, which includes root canals.

Most plans that cover these more extensive dental services require some combination of coinsurance, copayments and annual limits.

Even when information is fully available, mistakes are likely.

Part D beneficiaries often fail to accurately evaluate premiums and expected out-of-pocket costs when making their enrollment decisions.

Past work suggests that many beneficiaries have difficulty processing the proliferation of options. A person’s relationship with health care providers, financial situation and preferences are key considerations. The consequences of enrolling in one plan or another can be difficult to determine.

The Trap: Locked Out

THIS IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF MAKING THE WRONG CHOICE THAT MOST PEOPLE AREN’T MADE AWARE OF!!

At 65, when most beneficiaries first enroll in Medicare, federal regulations guarantee that anyone can get Medigap coverage. During this initial sign-up, beneficiaries can’t be charged a higher premium based on their health.

Older Americans who enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan but then want to switch back to traditional Medicare after more than a year has passed lose that guarantee. This can effectively lock them out of enrolling in supplemental Medigap insurance, making the initial decision a one-way street.

For the initial sign-up, Medigap plans are “guaranteed issue,” meaning the plan must cover preexisting health conditions without a waiting

period and must allow anyone to enroll, regardless of health. They also must be “community rated,” meaning that the cost of a plan can’t rise because of age or illness, although it can go up due to other factors such as inflation.

People who enroll in traditional Medicare and a supplemental Medigap plan at 65 can expect to continue paying community-rated premiums as long as they remain enrolled, regardless of what happens to their health.

In most states, however, people who switch from Medicare Advantage to traditional Medicare don’t have as many protections. Most state regulations permit plans to deny coverage, impose waiting periods or charge higher Medigap premiums based on their expected health costs.

Only Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New York guarantee that people can get Medigap plans after the initial sign-up period.

ADVERTISING, from Page 7 ↓

whether complaints are filed. Complaints can be filed with the federal government’s Senior Medicare Patrol, a federally funded program that prevents and addresses unethical Medicare activities.

Meanwhile, the number of people enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans has grown rapidly, doubling since 2010 and accounting for more than half of all Medicare beneficiaries by 2023.

Nearly one-third of Medicare beneficiaries seek information from an insurance broker. Brokers sell health insurance plans from multiple companies. However, because they receive payment from plans in exchange for sales, and because they are unlikely to sell every option, a plan recommended by

a broker may not meet a person’s needs.

Help Is Out There – But Falls Short

An alternative source of information is the federal government. It offers three sources of information to assist people with choosing one of these plans: 1-800-Medicare, medicare.gov and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, also known as SHIP.

The SHIP program combats misleading Medicare advertising and deceptive brokers by connecting eligible Americans with counselors by phone or in person to help them choose plans. SHIP staff say they often help people understand what’s in Medicare Advantage ads and disenroll from plans they were directed to by brokers.

The interviews made clear that many people are

not aware that Medicare Advantage ads and insurance brokers may be biased. One counselor said, “There’s a lot of backing (beneficiaries) off the ledge, if you will, thanks to those TV commercials.”

The key to making a good Medicare coverage decision is to use the help available and weigh your costs, access to health providers, current health and medication needs, and also consider how your health and medication needs might change as time goes on.

This article is republished from The Conversation, a nonprofit, independent news organization bringing you facts and trustworthy analysis to help you make sense of our complex world. It was written by: Grace McCormack, University of Southern California and Melissa Garrido, Boston University

Conversations With

Ron Holt

An interview & Q&A with
Wichita Corporate Trailblazer


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On the Ballot: \$180M School Bond Question in Wyandotte

The bond issue would address school infrastructure without raising property taxes.

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

Voters within the USD 500 school district boundaries will decide on a \$180 million school bond measure in the Nov. 5 election, marking the second time this year residents will vote on funding for school improvements.

Different from the May march measure, this bond measure will fund major construction projects without increasing property taxes, according to district officials.

If the bond measure passes, planned projects would include:

- Replacing Central Middle School.
- Replacing Argentine Middle School.
- Replacing Silver City and Noble Prentiss elementary schools with one new school.
- Adding classrooms to Sumner Academy of Arts and Science.



Argentine Middle School

The largest portion of the funding would go toward the middle school projects, with construction of the new Central and Argentine estimated at \$132.7 million. The new elementary schools estimated to cost \$38 million, while the Sumner Academy expansion is budgeted at \$7 million.

The current proposal focuses on addressing the district's most urgent infrastructure needs. Some students at the affected schools currently attend classes in temporary outdoor trailers, and the aging buildings face ongoing maintenance challenges. The middle

school buildings slated for replacement are an average 102 years old.

This ballot measure represents a significantly scaled-back version of the \$420 million bond proposal voters rejected in May. Only 8% of registered voters participated in the previous bond election, with 58% voting against the measure. The previous \$420 million bond measure included all the projects in this \$180 million proposal plus:

- A \$15M new aquatic center.
- A \$60M new public library.
- Replacing Emerson & Stanley Elementary Schools with one new school.
- Replacing Lindberg & Eugene Ware Elementary Schools with one new school.
- New additions to M. E. Pearson & Whittier Elementary Schools to replace mobile units.
- Gym additions to J. C. Harmon & F. L. Schlagle.
- \$44M in deferred maintenance.
- \$29.3M in athletic facility improvements.
- \$12M for auditorium improvements.

The previous bond measure would have raised property taxes, which was a sticking

point for many of the individuals who voted against it. The scaled-back \$180 million bond measure on the ballot this November ensures that property tax bills will not be raised.

To maintain current tax rates while funding these projects, the school board plans to offset bond-related taxes by reducing the property tax mill levy on the district's capital outlay (money used for improvements and maintenance) and library funds.

While property tax bills would remain steady, the library budget would be reduced by \$2 million annually. The school bond will be paid off with mostly local taxes, but Kansas state taxes will contribute approximately 31% toward the bond repayment.

District officials note that construction costs continue to rise, with projected expenses for the Central and Argentine rebuilds already increasing 7% since initial planning.

If approved, the bond would represent the largest capital investment in KCKPS facilities since 2016, when voters approved a \$235 million bond to build several new schools without raising property taxes.



Wanda Brownlee Paige



David Haley



Valdenia Winn

Kansas City Kansas Races to Watch

By **Bonita Gooch**
Voice Editor-in-Chief

There's not much to watch in Democratic-heavy Wyandotte County. The big action in Wyandotte was in the primaries, with multiple Democrats going head-to-head in the primary races.

Wanda Brownlee-Paige won in a four-way race for the Democratic nomination for Kansas House 35th District seat. Three candidates showed up with a goal

of unseating 1st term KS. Rep Marvin Robinson, who had closely aligned himself with Kansas Republicans during his first two years.

Robinson, passed away just two-weeks after the primary. Brownlee-Paige, who also serves on the Kansas City's USD 500 school board, becomes yet another double-dipper in KCK. KS Rep, Valdenia Winn also serves on the USD 500 school board and in the Kansas House. KS Sen.

David Haley, serves in the Kansas Senate and on the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities.

Rep. Winn, who represents Kansas House 34th District, ran unopposed in both the primary or the general election. Sen. Haley, who represents Senate District 4, is the longest serving member in the Kansas Legislature. He had a rare primary competitor but does not have an opponent in the general election.

Breaking GOP's Super Majority Is Goal of Kansas Democrats

Dems need to pick up two House seats and three Senate seats to Block Republican override power.

By **Tim Carpenter**
Kansas Reflector

Kansas Democrats are feeling optimistic they may finally gain enough seats in the Kansas House and Senate to block the Republican's ability to override Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly's veto.

As governor, Kelly has the power to veto legislation she and Democrats find unfavorable, but Republicans can override her veto with a 2/3rds majority vote. So, it has long been the Democrat's goal to gain enough seats in both the House and Senate to break the Republican's "Super

Majority.

The House is divided among 85 Republicans and 40 Democrats. A two-thirds majority in the House equals 84, meaning Democrats must snatch two seats from Republicans to move the partisan split below the supermajority threshold. Republicans have led the House with a supermajority since 2010.

Over in the Senate, there are 29 Republicans and 11 Democrats. A two-thirds majority would be 27, so Democrats set their sights on claiming three seats. Republicans have operated with a Senate supermajority since the election of 1992.

Gov. Kelly expressed optimism a group of quality Democratic candidates and influence of her \$2 million political action committee would break in the partisan

supermajorities with this election.

"I do know that we have really superb candidates running in a lot of our targeted races. Many of them are based in Johnson County, and I think the road to breaking the supermajority will go through Johnson County," the governor said. "If we break the supermajority, then it will require leadership in both the House and the Senate to work with us and with the Democrat caucus in their respective chambers," Kelly said.

House Speaker Dan Hawkins, a Wichita Republican, is confident as well. He anticipates the GOP would hold onto their House seats and possibly knock off a couple Democrats to pad their margin heading into the 2025 legislative session.

Stay tuned for the results.

REJECT BROWNBACK 2.0 VOTE MARY WARE

We spent years recovering from the Brownback tax experiment of 2012 which cut taxes mainly for the wealthy and put the biggest burden on those who could afford it least. This led to cuts in public education and other vital services.

Next year, radicals in Topeka want to run a second experiment and eliminate taxes for large corporations. Mary is committed to putting people before corporations. Reject Brownback 2.0, vote Mary Ware!



Mary's Priorities

- ✓ Economic Growth
- ✓ Fair Taxation
- ✓ Improved Public Education
- ✓ Medicaid Expansion
- ✓ Protect Reproductive Rights

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 5th!

Scan the QR code to
find your polling place



Paid for by Mary Ware for Kansas. Diane Britton, Treasurer.

AVOID LONG LINES ON ELECTION DAY. VOTE STARTING OCT. 29 AT ANY SITE LISTED:

Tuesday, October 29th to Friday, November 1st, from 10 am - 6 pm and Saturday, November 2nd, from 9am - 1pm.



- Bel Aire City Building
7651 E Central Park Bel Aire, KS 67226
- Eastminster Presbyterian Church
1958 N Webb Road Wichita, KS 67206
- Evangel Presbyterian Church
1545 S 135th St W Wichita, KS 67235
- Goddard District Conference Center
315 S Main Street Goddard, KS 67052
- Grace Presbyterian Church
5002 E Douglas Ave Wichita, KS 67208
- Haysville Community Library
210 Hays Ave Haysville, KS 67060
- Machinists Building
3830 S Meridian Ave Wichita, KS 67217
- Mt. Vernon Methodist Church
5701 E Mt Vernon St Wichita, KS 67218
- Northside Church of Christ
4545 N Meridian Wichita, KS 67204
- Park City City Hall
1941 E 61st St N Park City, KS 67219
- Progressive Missionary Baptist Church
2727 E 25th St N Wichita, KS 67219
- Reformation Lutheran
7601 E 13th St N Wichita, KS 67206
- Sedgwick County Extension Office
7001 W 21st St N Wichita, KS 67205
- St Andrew's Lutheran
2555 Hyacinth Ln Wichita, KS 67204
- Urban League
2418 E 9th St N Wichita, KS 67214
- Valley Center Community Center
314 E Clay St Valley Center, KS 67147
- Westlink Church of Christ
10025 W Central Ave Wichita, KS 67212
- Woodland Lakes Community Church
770 S Greenwich Rd Wichita, KS 67207
- Woodlawn United Methodist Church
431 S Woodlawn Blvd Derby, KS 67037

Paid for by Kansas Voter Empowerment Project Political Action Committee, Jan Manlove Treasurer

RACES TO WATCH

Kansas City Kansas Suburbs

Stacey Knoell
Kansas Senate
District 23
Democrat
Olathe,
Johnson County



Stacey is Executive Director of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission and president of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Black Leadership Council. Stacey worked in public schools as a sign language interpreter in Blue Springs and as a math teacher in Kansas City, KS. Stacey and her husband, Troy, reside in Olathe with their two daughters and their dog, Twix.

Why did you decide to run for office?

I am running now to bring political balance to the Kansas legislature and to represent what previous elections show my district wants.

What do you believe are the most pressing issues affecting your district that you would hope to be able to impact?

One thing I heard more than I anticipated is concerns for an aging population. From Social Security to access to healthcare and housing, many are making decisions as to how they can remain in Olathe. A part of that is the rising property taxes, which are taking their toll on everyone.

Would you support either of those measures? If you support the legalization of cannabis, what are some things you believe would be important to include in the legislation?

I would support both Medicaid Expansion and legalized medical marijuana. I believe it is political theater that the legislature has not expanded Medicaid when it is so clear that doing so would actually help people who need it. With legalized medical marijuana, the devil is in the details of who gets to grow, process, or sell the product. I would like to see assurances of equity to ensure the communities most impacted by the "War on Drugs" are not left behind when that drug becomes legal.

How do you plan to listen to and communicate with your constituents?

I know many elected officials hold monthly sessions to meet with constituents. It may be just a Saturday meet up in a donut shop or library conference room, but I think it will be important to have a regular cadence of being in the community.

Eli Woody
Kansas House
District 33
Democrat
Western Wyandotte
County: Edwardsville,
parts of Bonner
Springs, Kansas City
and Lake Quivira



Eli Woody is an educator, currently working for an educational nonprofit which gets middle school and high school students involved in competitive speech and debate. Eli grew up in a working-class household in Northeast Kansas, often spending time in the local Boys and Girls Club where his father, Elgin, was the Executive Director. Eli and his wife, Amy, live in Kansas City, KS with their son, Theo and two dogs.

Why did you decide to run for office?

I am running for the Kansas House after seeing the obstacles keeping students from learning. Issues like wages, a lack of access to healthcare and transportation impacted the ability of my students to learn.

I decided it was time to get to a place where I could do something about these issues, rather than just respond to them.

What do you believe are the most pressing issues affecting your district that you would hope to be able to impact?

Listening to voters as I am knocking on their doors, they are most concerned about tax relief for the working class, healthcare, public education, and women's reproductive rights.

Would you support either of those measures? If you support legalization of cannabis, what are some things you believe would be important to include in the legislation?

I would vote in favor of Medicaid expansion. I would not prevent the legalization of cannabis if a vote was held, but this issue has not been a frequent topic of discussion with voters on the campaign trail. I would need to gather more information to get a clearer picture of where my constituents stand on this issue.

How do you plan to listen to and communicate with your constituents?

Public officials should meet their constituents wherever those constituents are—in person, on all social media platforms, even making calls and sending texts. I want my constituents to know what is happening in the Kansas House, what I am doing to fight for them, and I want them to feel free to communicate with me in any way.

Kamala Harris Has a

There's a lot of concern about Black men not supporting VP Harris because they're unclear how they might benefit from a Harris win. According to her plan, she wants to help Black men build wealth, provide for our families, and lead our communities. Trump wants to use them as political pawns.

By Keith Boykin

Word in Black

Kamala Harris recently unveiled a new agenda for Black men. The plan is extensive, but I want to highlight 10 specific steps she would take as president that would empower Black men with the tools we need to build wealth, provide for our families, and lead our communities.

1. Business Loans

Black Americans are twice as likely to be denied credit by banks, so Harris would provide one million fully forgivable loans of up to \$20,000 to Black entrepreneurs and others who have historically faced

barriers to starting a new business or growing an existing one.

2. More Jobs Without College Degrees

Harris would eliminate unnecessary degree requirements and promote pathways for those without college degrees for 500,000 federal jobs.

3. More Black Male Teachers

As a former high school English and social studies teacher, I know it's important for young Black males to see Black men in front of the classroom as role models and mentors. Only 1% of public-school teachers are Black men, so Harris would create pathways for more Black men to become

teachers, including apprenticeship programs and loan forgiveness.

4. Health Care

My uncle, who had sickle cell disease, died last year, and I know several Black men my age who have been recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. And don't get me started on the mental health needs of the Black men in my family and community. I see it every day.

We've been traumatized by an unfair criminal justice system and a world that demonizes us instead of understanding us. Fortunately, Harris would launch a National Health Equity Initiative focused on Black men that addresses sickle cell

disease, diabetes, mental health, and prostate cancer.

5. Weed Equity

Black men have been disproportionately arrested and incarcerated for marijuana-related charges. Now that cannabis is becoming more socially acceptable and profitable, it's only fair that we benefit from the changing system that hurt us. Vice President Harris not only wants to legalize recreational marijuana but also create opportunities for Black Americans to succeed in this new industry.

6. Ban the Box

I have a law degree, and yet when I lived in Harlem, I was still stopped on the street,

WHEN WE VOTE, WE WIN.

When our rights are on the line **we fight** and when they're on the ballot **we vote**, because **we're not going back.**

The economy is on the ballot.

Health care is on the ballot.

Criminal justice reform is on the ballot.

Reproductive freedom is on the ballot.

Environmental justice is on the ballot.

The right to vote is on the ballot.

If we do our part and show up to the polls, we will make history (again)!

Let's vote for progress and the future we deserve. Vote for the leader who's been fighting for us for years.

Election Day is November 5th.

Vote for Kamala Harris.

Photo Credit: National Archives (Top)



PAID FOR BY HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT

Plan for Black Men

arrested, and locked up in jail. I know Black men have been targeted by a racist criminal justice system. Harris would work with Congress to require businesses to limit the unnecessary use of criminal arrest histories, convictions, and credit scores in employment decisions.

7. Mentorship Programs

Harris would expand funding for community mentorship programs with a proven track record of helping young Black men succeed. She will also support programs like My Brother's Keeper.

8. Support Black Farmers

Harris would continue to support Black farmers and ranchers who have been denied access to capital. As vice president, she already distributed funding to thousands of Black farmers and ranchers in a \$2 billion relief package.

9. Relieve Medical Debt

My stepfather passed away in April 2020 with a mountain of medical debt. Vice President Harris plans to work with

states to relieve medical debt, which is the leading cause of bankruptcy in America and disproportionately hurts Black Americans.

10. Crypto Protection

More than 20% of Black Americans, including me, have owned cryptocurrency assets. I lost money in crypto, but the high-risk, high-reward crypto markets provide opportunities outside of the existing stock market for many Black men. A Harris administration would support a regulatory framework for cryptocurrency and other digital assets to protect Black men who invest in these assets.

Kamala Harris wants to help Black men build wealth, provide for our families, and lead our communities. Trump wants to use us as political pawns in his angry MAGA campaign. Those are the choices. Choose wisely.

Keith Boykin is a New York Times best-selling author, TV and film producer, and former CNN political commentator.



An Oct. 6 New York Times poll showed 83% of Black women and just 70% of Black men were supporting VP Kamala Harris. The difference was enough to get Harris to release a plan for Black men.

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Kansas



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Decide*

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In the upcoming election, voters 50 and over can put these issues front and center. We're the largest—and most influential—voting bloc in the country. We have the power to make candidates focus on what is important to us and on the challenges we are facing.

AARP Kansas is standing with you by providing the reliable election information you need to make your voice heard in November. Find out how to register, details on mail-in voting and polling places, plus all the key voting deadlines for the Kansas at aarp.org/KSvotes



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ON THE BALLOT

MO Amendments & a Proposition

Abortion, minimum wage, ranked-choice voting, sports betting, a casino, and court fees are all up for vote.

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

Missouri voters heading to the polls this November might want to pack a snack – there's a lot to consider on this year's ballot.

With five constitutional amendments and one proposition up for consideration, voters will weigh in on everything from sports betting to abortion rights, from casino development to minimum wage. These measures could reshape significant aspects of life in Missouri, affecting everything from workers' paychecks to reproductive healthcare access. Let's break down what's at stake.

PROPOSITION A: MINIMUM WAGE & PAID SICK LEAVE

In a state where nearly a third of workers could see their paychecks grow, Prop A addresses two fundamental workplace issues: wages and sick time. The measure would boost the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026 and guarantee paid sick leave for private sector workers. While labor advocates say it's about basic dignity and living wages, business groups warn of potential job cuts and reduced hours.

KEY POINTS:

- Increases minimum wage to \$13.75/hour in 2025, then \$15/hour in 2026
- Mandates 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked
- Does not apply to government entities, schools, or political subdivisions

- Annual wage adjustments based on Consumer Price Index starting 2027

PROS:

- Benefits nearly 900,000 Missouri workers
- Provides guaranteed paid sick leave for private sector employees
- Helps workers avoid choosing between health and income
- Could reduce employee turnover
- Supported by over 450 small businesses

CONS:

- Potential job cuts or reduced hours at small businesses
- May accelerate automation/self-service technology adoption
- Could increase operational costs for businesses
- Might lead to price increases for consumers
- Business groups warn of workforce sustainability issues

IF PASSES:

- Minimum wage rises to \$13.75 in 2025, \$15 in 2026
- Workers get 5-7 paid sick days annually
- Larger businesses (15+ employees) must provide up to 7 sick days
- Smaller businesses must provide up to 5 sick days
- Annual cost-of-living adjustments begin 2027

IF FAILS:

- Current \$12.30 minimum wage remains with annual adjustments
- No guaranteed paid sick leave requirement
- Businesses maintain current wage/benefit structure
- Existing labor market conditions continue



This new land-based entry and expansion to Bally's Casino in Kansas City opened last year. Bally's has spearheaded the ballot issue to expand Casino gambling to Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks region. However, if the measure passes, the organization would have to bid with other companies to build and operate the project.

AMENDMENT 2: SPORTS BETTING

Missouri might join the growing list of states embracing legal sports gambling. This measure would bring betting out of the shadows and into regulated spaces, including online platforms. While proponents eye the potential windfall for education, others worry about the social costs of expanded gambling access.

KEY POINTS:

- Legalizes sports betting for ages 21+ in Missouri
- 10% tax on gambling revenue
- Regulated by Missouri Gaming Commission

PROS:

- Generate revenue for education (\$28.9M annually estimated)
 - Create new jobs
 - Keep gambling revenue in-state rather than neighboring states
- #### CONS:
- Increased risk of gambling addiction
 - Initial costs to state (\$660,000 one-time, \$5.2M annually to reduce problem gambling)
 - Could disproportionately affect lower-income residents

IF PASSES:

- Sports betting becomes legal for 21+
- Online and physical betting locations allowed

- Revenue goes to education after expenses

IF FAILS:

- Sports betting remains illegal in Missouri

AMENDMENT 3: ABORTION RIGHTS

In what could be a watershed moment for Missouri, this amendment represents the first major challenge to the state's near-total abortion ban since Roe v. Wade was overturned. The measure would fundamentally alter the landscape of reproductive healthcare in the state.

KEY POINTS:

- Would overturn Missouri's near-total abortion ban
- Establishes constitutional right to abortion until fetal viability
- Protects reproductive healthcare decisions from government interference

PROS:

- Restores reproductive healthcare access
- Protects contraceptive access
- Includes health/life exceptions after viability

CONS:

- Opponents cite potential loss of state tax revenue
- Opposition from pro-life groups

IF PASSES:

- Abortion becomes legal until fetal viability
- Constitutional protection for

- reproductive healthcare
- Bans discrimination in reproductive healthcare programs

IF FAILS:

- Current abortion ban remains in place

AMENDMENT 5: LAKE OF THE OZARKS CASINO

What was once a weekend getaway spot could become Missouri's newest gambling destination. This amendment would authorize a casino complex at Lake of the Ozarks, promising jobs and tourism dollars while raising questions about gambling expansion in the state.

KEY POINTS:

- Authorizes casino on Osage River at Lake of the Ozarks
- Includes hotel, convention center, restaurants
- Revenue dedicated to early childhood literacy

PROS:

- Creates 700+ new jobs
- Generates \$14.3M annual gaming tax revenue
- Boosts local tourism/economy

CONS:

- One-time cost of \$763,000 to state
- Annual costs of \$2.2M
- Potential increase in gambling addiction

IF PASSES:

- New casino complex built at Lake of Ozarks

- Additional gaming license issued

- Revenue funds literacy programs

IF FAILS:

- No new casino authorized
- Current 13-casino limit remains

AMENDMENT 6: COURT FEES

This seemingly technical change to court fees could have far-reaching implications for law enforcement pensions and the justice system. The measure aims to address a funding crisis in sheriff retirement accounts while raising concerns about access to justice.

KEY POINTS:

- Allows court fees to fund sheriff/prosecutor benefits
- Previously, court fees served this purpose, but a 2021 MO Supreme Court ruling overturned it
- Would cap fees at \$3 for sheriffs and \$4 for prosecutors

PROS:

- Funds law enforcement retirement
- Prevents pension fund insolvency
- User fee model for court system

CONS:

- May burden low-income defendants

See **MO AMENDMENTS**
Page 23 →

ON THE BALLOT

Jackson County Seniors Count Initiative

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Jackson County voters will decide this November whether to approve a dedicated funding stream for senior services, joining 55 other Missouri counties that have already implemented similar measures.

Question 1 on the Nov. 5 Jackson County ballot would establish a property tax levy of 5 cents per \$100 of assessed value on both real and personal property. For an average Jackson County home valued at \$250,000, with an assessed value of \$47,500, the annual cost would be approximately



Jackson County Executive Signing

\$23.75.

If approved, the measure would generate between \$8 and \$10 million annually to fund

essential services for residents aged 60 and older, including:

- Home-delivered meals
- Transportation to medical

- appointments
- Senior centers
- Home safety repairs
- Support services to help seniors remain independent

The funds would be managed by a county-appointed Senior Levy Board and distributed through a process similar to charitable grants to organizations serving seniors.

County Legislators Jalen Anderson and Donna Peyton co-sponsored the ordinance, which passed unanimously.

“Our top priority as a government should be to ensure our seniors are safe, well cared for, and protected,”

said Anderson, who represents the county’s District 1 at-large seat.

The push for the ballot measure came from a coalition of more than 50 senior-serving agencies and nonprofits, who point to the county’s growing elderly population. According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, about 15% of Jackson County’s population is 65 or older, a percentage that has been steadily increasing over the past decade.

Supporters argue that investing in senior services can lead to long-term cost savings by reducing healthcare expenses and delaying or preventing the

need for institutional care. They also emphasize the social and emotional benefits for seniors who are able to remain in their homes and communities.

“It embodies our commitment to ensuring that no senior in Jackson County has to choose between staying in their home and receiving the care they need,” said Peyton, the District 2 at-large legislator.

If passed, Jackson County would join neighboring Clay and Platte counties in having a dedicated senior services levy. Clay County’s program, established 20 years ago, brings in \$2.6 million annually to fund similar senior support services.

Meet the Candidate: Richard Brown

A state representative & retired KC school teacher, Brown wants to be Missouri’s next lieutenant governor.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter



Richard Brown hopes to make history by becoming the first Black lieutenant governor elected in Missouri. The Kansas City-based Democratic candidate says he’s the right person for the job based on his decades of experience as an educator, civil servant, and advocate for working families.

“I’m not a politician; I’m a public servant,” Brown said in a conversation with The Voice. “I have a common sense approach of how I see things.”

The lieutenant governor’s main constitutional duty is to preside over the state Senate and be first in the line of succession if the governor is unable to serve.

Since 2017, he has served as a state representative for

District 27 and most recently served as the No. 2 Democrat in the Missouri House but has reached his term limit and can’t seek re-election in that position.

“I’ve always been a public servant. I wasn’t a teacher for the income,” says Brown. “I was a teacher for ...”

You can read the rest of this story and learn more about Brown and his campaign to become Missouri’s Lt. Gov. on our website at <https://bit.ly/4figKfQ>.

RACES TO WATCH

Missouri-Side

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Here’s a look at the key races that will appear on Kansas City area ballots:

Jackson County Prosecutor Race

With incumbent Jean Peters Baker not seeking re-election, the race for Jackson County prosecutor features two candidates making their own bits of history. Either Democrat **Melesa Johnson** or Republican **Tracey Chappell** will be Jackson County’s first Black female prosecutor.

Johnson, a Jackson County native and University of Missouri Law graduate, brings experience from both the prosecutor’s office and City Hall, where she currently serves as Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas’ public safety director. Her platform emphasizes violence

prevention through the expansion of COMBAT programming and improved witness protection, while also proposing a new property crimes division and better detective-prosecutor coordination.

Chappell, who made history as Blue Springs’ first African American woman prosecutor, brings experience as a former senior assistant county counselor. Her “common-sense priorities” focus on prosecuting violent and property crimes while expanding mental health courts. She emphasizes rebuilding trust between the prosecutor’s office and the community.

The race presents voters with two candidates focused on reshaping the county’s approach to criminal justice. Johnson emphasizes preventative programs, while Chappell focuses on prosecution priorities and



Donna Barnes



Melissa Douglas



Anthony Ealy



Jamie Johnson



Mark Sharp



Barbra Washington

transparency. To learn more about the candidates, read our full profiles at bit.ly/MelesaJohnson and bit.ly/CandidateChappell

Unopposed Races

Mark Sharp continues his tenure in House District 37, running unopposed. Sharp, whose father, John Sharp, served on the city council, has been in office

since 2019. His legislative record includes sponsoring Blair’s Law, addressing celebratory gunfire, and strengthening witness protection programs.

Melissa Douglas is the sole candidate in House District 27 after Richard

See **MISSOURI-SIDE** Page 22 →

Races to Watch: Wichita



Carol Brewer

Kansas House District 98 Wichita, South Central – between Southeast Blvd. and Meridian, south to 87th Street. (see map online)

With a background in social work and criminal justice, Carol Brewer dedicated eight years as a lead advocate before founding her nonprofit, Dorothy's Lane, to support the less fortunate.

A devoted mother of ten

(3 biological, 5 adopted and 2 guardianship) and foster parent to more than 70 children, Carol has received numerous awards for her advocacy, including the Presidential Volunteer Award.

She actively participates in community organizations and enjoys photography and traveling.

Why did you decide to run for office?

I am deeply passionate about advocating for justice and ensuring that every voice is heard. Committed to continuing my father's legacy of service [late Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer], I strive to create a community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. True advocacy involves fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves.

What do you believe are the most pressing issues affecting your district that you would hope to be able to impact?

The most pressing issues affecting my district, which I am committed to addressing, include Medicaid expansion, cannabis legalization, quality education, and the rejection of a flat tax system.

Additionally, ensuring quality education is vital for the future of our children and the overall prosperity of our community. Moreover, I firmly oppose a flat tax, as it disproportionately impacts lower-income families and undermines the progress we strive to achieve.

Would you support either of those measures? If you support legalization of cannabis, what are some

things you believe would be important to include in the legislation?

I firmly believe that Medicaid expansion is one of the most critical issues we face today. The closure of rural hospitals and clinics has severely limited access to healthcare, leading to delayed treatment and, tragically, the loss of loved ones.

Additionally, I support the legalization of cannabis, as it has proven medical benefits. Legalizing cannabis would not only allow for taxation, generating revenue for our state, but also create jobs and foster a more peaceful environment.

Aonya Kendrick Barnett

Kansas House District 85 Wichita, mostly (see map below)

Competitor: Patrick Penn



Aonya Kendrick Barnett is a community organizer and nonprofit founder with expertise in substance-use prevention, coalition building, and harm reduction, she is the founding executive director of Safe Streets Wichita, Inc. Aonya has served as the program director for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant and is the vice chair of the Governor's Behavioral Health

Prevention Subcommittee.

Her lived experience with the overdose crisis informs her work advocating for health equity, mental health, and reproductive health-care. A graduate of Wichita State University, she is dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities.

Why did you decide to run for office?

I decided to run for office because I believe our community deserves a representative who truly understands the challenges we face, especially in health disparities, mental health, and substance use prevention.

I'm running to amplify the voices of those often left unheard. I want to ensure that everyone in District 85 has the opportunity to thrive.

See **WICHITA** Page 18 →

Race to Watch: Wichita Suburbs

Keisha McClish Coutts
Kansas House District 91

Park City, includes sections of Wichita, Park City, Bel Aire, Kechi and Valley Center

Democrat

Keisha is a dedicated mental health therapist and community leader, who was born and raised in Wichita and has deep roots in the community and a profound commitment to its well-being.

Issues

Keisha supports: mental health, agricultural advocacy, community development, education and youth empowerment, Medicaid expansion, fair taxation, gun violence prevention, addressing homelessness and adult use cannabis.

For more go to keisha4kansas.com



Keisha McClish Coutts

Wichita Incumbents Running Unopposed

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Three candidates representing Northeast Wichita are running unopposed but would still appreciate votes of confidence from their constituents

Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau has represented Kansas' 29th District since 2008, making history as the first African-American woman to serve in the Kansas Senate. She previously served two terms in the Kansas House of Representatives. She's been elected by her peers to serve as the Senate's assistant minority leader.

She successfully supported Ban-the-Box to help integrate the formerly incarcerated, introduced and helped pass a bill expanding grandparents rights and in 2024 helped significantly improve Kansas' laws making it harder to suspend



Rep. Ford Carr

a person's driver's license and making it easier for individuals with suspended licenses to get their licenses back.

Kansas House **Reps K.C. Ohaebosim** and **Ford Carr** are also running unopposed. Rep. Ohaebosim has represented the 89th District since 2016, while Rep. Carr is completing his first two-year term, representing Kansas' 84th District, previously held by the late state Rep. Gail Finney.



Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Among Ohaebosim's most recently co-sponsored bills are: abolishing the death penalty and creating the crime of aggravated murder; releasing any person convicted of a drug offense involving marijuana from such person's sentence and providing for the expungement of any associated records; and providing for sales tax exemptions for hygiene products.

In his first term, Rep. Carr has



Rep. KC Ohaebosim

proven to be a strong advocate for Black and Brown Kansans. In addition to cosponsoring many of the same bill as Ohaebosim, he also fought to include measures in proposed cannabis legalization to provide economic and legal consideration and relief for Black-and-Brown communities that have borne the brunt of the challenges brought on by the nation's decades-long War on Drugs.

November Election Could Shift Kansas State Board of Education to the Right

Two moderate Republicans and all three Democrats on the Kansas School Board are up for election this year, and they're facing ultra-conservative opponents.

By Suzanne Perez
Kansas News Service

The race for five seats on the Kansas State Board of Education could dramatically shift the board's political makeup, which could reshape academic standards or the way schools approach social-emotional learning.

Currently, four of the 10 board members — Michelle Dombrosky, Cathy Hopkins, Dennis Hershberger and Danny Zeck — are conservative Republicans who campaigned in recent elections against what they described as “woke” leanings in public schools.

They spoke out against lessons on racism, sexuality and gender identity, as well as efforts to be more inclusive of trans kids. Several times, the four conservative board members have voted no or abstained on key policy decisions, including allocations to local districts of millions of dollars in COVID-19 relief funding.

This year, three of the board's moderate members — Deena Horst of Salina, Ann Mah of Topeka and Jim McNiece of Wichita — are not running for reelection. And that worries some public school advocates.

“Our concern is that they always have to have six votes to pass anything,” said Sally Cauble, a former state school board member. “And this election could swing that board very much to the right.”

Cauble belongs to Kansans for Excellence in Education, a political action committee that recently endorsed all five Democratic candidates for state school board. The group was created by a handful of moderate former board members who fear that a political shakeup could affect history standards

or social-emotional learning in schools.

“Unfortunately, many of the people running for school boards are being fed the wrong materials and aren't even clear on what the state board can and cannot do,” Cauble said. “We need people that want to work with other people and not just determine that it's their way or the highway.”

Members of the Kansas Board of Education serve four-year terms. They set subject-area academic standards and graduation requirements but do not make specific curriculum decisions — those are up to local school boards.

The board also doesn't make decisions about school funding. Those issues are handled by the Kansas Legislature and governor.

In District 4 near Kansas City, Kan., Democrat Kris Meyer faces Republican Connie O'Brien. Meyer is a former teacher and school administrator; O'Brien is a former state lawmaker and self-described “ultra-conservative.”

During a recent candidate forum hosted by the Johnson County Post, Meyer advocated for additional funding for special education and policies to encourage teacher retention. O'Brien said Kansas schools get enough money and need to use it more wisely.

“Reading, writing and math — history, civics — those kinds of subjects need to be prevalent in our public education. And right now, they're not necessarily prevalent,” O'Brien said.

In District 10 near Wichita, Democrat Jeff Jarman — a Wichita State University professor and former Maize school board member — faces Republican Debby Potter. During the primary, Potter

An Arnold and New Victory Could Help Maintain Moderate Balance on Kansas School Board

District 8 Kansas School Board member Betty Arnold is seeking reelection to her seat, that represents Wichita on the board. She is currently one of three Democrats on the 10-member board.

Beryl New, a retired Topeka School administrator and Democrat, is running for the District 6 seat on the board. If she wins, she would replace Deena Haas, a moderate Republican and could possibly help increase the number of Democrats on the board by one — depending on what happens in other races.

Also up for reelection is Melanie Haas, who joins Arnold and Ann Mah of Topeka as the Democrats on the board. She represents District 2, which covers parts of Johnson and Wyandotte counties.



Betty Arnold



Beryl New

pointed to her experience as a homeschooler and an endorsement from the anti-abortion group Kansans for Life.

At a Republican forum, Potter said she's running for the state board because she's concerned about the public schools her grandchildren might attend.

“I want them not to be indoctrinated away from ... their faith and away from their parents,” Potter said. “And I feel like there's a lot of undermining of the families going on.”

In District 2 near Kansas City, board president and Democratic incumbent Melanie Haas faces Republican Fred Postlewait, a retired computer systems manager.

In District 6, which includes Topeka, Lawrence and Emporia, Democrat Beryl New faces Republican Bruce Schultz.

And in District 8 in Wichita, incumbent Democrat Betty Arnold

— a former Wichita school board member — faces Republican Jason Carmichael, a property manager who ran unsuccessfully for Wichita school board last year.

Cauble, the former state board member, said she ran in 2006 after the Kansas board made national news for approving science standards that cast doubt on the theory of evolution. She said any political shift at the state level can affect what's taught in Kansas classrooms.

“The state board has a very specific and important role according to our Constitution,” she said. “We want people who believe in and appreciate public education.”

Suzanne Perez reports on education for KMUW in Wichita and the Kansas News Service. You can follow her on Twitter @ SuzPerezICT.

Races to Watch: Johnson County

Byron Roberson
Johnson County Sheriff
Democrat

Prairie Village Police Chief Byron Roberson is running for sheriff of Johnson County, KS, and he's looking to make history along the way.

As the Democratic candidate for Johnson County sheriff, Roberson could become the first Black person ever elected to the post and he'd be the first Democrat elected to it in nearly a century. He joined the Prairie Village Police Dept. in 1995 and has climbed the ranks over the last 30 years

Roberson says his priorities for Johnson County sheriff are clear and rooted in his experience.

- Public Safety
- Mental Health
- Reducing
- Transparency

To learn more about Roberson, read our article here: <https://bit.ly/48i6yrl>

Vanessa Vaughn West
Kansas House District 39

This district covers parts of Bonner Springs, Lake Quivira and Shawnee. Northern and western boundaries are predominantly the Kansas River, southern border is Shawnee Mission Parkway and eastern border is Quivira.

Democrat

A Shawnee resident,



Byron Roberson



Vanessa Vaughn West

Vanessa is an engaged citizen who believes in the importance of prioritizing mental health and physical well-being including supporting suicide prevention, violent crime reduction and organizations that improve healthcare access and community safety.

She's an experienced local government manager who cares deeply about removing barriers to economic resiliency, home ownership, and fully funding government employee retirement.

She supports not increasing taxes, re-productive freedom, expanding Medicaid and fully funding K-12 schools.

For more about Vanessa go to VanessaForKansas.com.

Urban Summit Returns for 17th Year

'Treachery Unveiled: The Face of Political Betrayal' theme to address political accountability at Nov. 9 event.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Kansas City's influential coalition of community leaders and activists is set to host its signature event that annually addresses critical issues facing the urban core. On Nov. 9, the Urban Summit will hold its 17th annual conference at Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley Education Center.

The theme for this year's conference, "Treachery Unveiled: The Face of Political Betrayal," promises to spark crucial conversations about political accountability and community representation.

The event will feature two nationally recognized keynote speakers who have been at the forefront of discussions about race, society, and social justice in America.

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, a distinguished scholar, ordained Baptist minister, and public intellectual, will headline the event. Known for his innovative scholarship combining cultural criticism and biography, Dyson brings decades of expertise in examining race, religion, and contemporary issues in the African-American community.

Joining him is Tim Wise, one of America's most prominent anti-racist writers and educators. With a quarter-century of experience speaking across all 50 states and over 1,000 college campuses, Wise brings valuable insights from his extensive work in addressing systemic racism and promoting social justice.



Eric Michael Dyson



Tim Wise

The conference, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., will continue the Urban Summit's tradition of fostering community engagement, activism,

and change. The event is expected to draw urban professionals, community members, and activists from across the region to explore innovative

solutions to urban challenges.

As with previous summits, this year's conference aims to generate actionable strategies and solutions for improving the quality of life in Kansas City's urban core. Through engaging panels and interactive workshops, participants will have the opportunity to contribute to discussions about shaping the community's future.

The event is free to attend and includes lunch, but registration is required at bit.ly/TreacheryUnveiled. Space is limited.

WICHITA, from Page 16 ↓

What do you believe are the most pressing issues affecting your district that you would hope to be able to impact?

The most pressing issues affecting District 85 are Medicaid expansion, fully funding public schools, access to behavioral health supports, and protecting reproductive rights.

Two years ago, District 85 voted no to an abortion ban, making it clear that our community supports the right to choose.

Fully funding public schools is essential for preparing our children and supporting workforce development, which drives economic growth.

Would you support Medicaid Expansion or any form of legalization of cannabis? If you support legalization of cannabis, what are some things you believe would be important to include in the legislation?

Yes, I strongly support both Medicaid expansion and the legalization of cannabis in Kansas.

However, any legalization must include provisions for social equity, ensuring that communities disproportionately impacted by past cannabis laws benefit from the new industry.

This includes expunging prior convictions for non-violent cannabis offenses and providing resources for minority-owned businesses to thrive in the cannabis market. Additionally, public health measures such as education on responsible use and proper regulation to ensure product safety should be key components of the legislation.

Scan for more information!



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Northeast Wichita: Let's Talk Housing

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

Hardly anyone doubts, there's a housing crisis in America or that it's multiplied in lower-income communities like 67214.

Limited housing options, deteriorating housing stock, outrageous deposits, bad landlords, and more. What housing issues are you experiencing in Northeast Wichita?

If you love Northeast Wichita and want to continue to call it home, or if you're so frustrated you're about to move out of the community, then join The Community Voice, the Urban League of Kansas and the 10-member Wichita Journalism Collaborative on Thurs., Nov. 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m. for a solutions circle

discussion about housing in 67214.

The Wichita Journalism Collaborative, a coalition of newsrooms and community partners that have joined forces to meet local news and information needs, have turned their focus to housing issues in Wichita. As a member of the collaborative, The Community Voice is leading the effort to make sure that focus includes the housing needs in 67214.

Join Wichita's media leaders for an insightful discussion about housing: what's right and how we do more of it and what's wrong and how do we fix it. Seniors, families, young adults, housed and unhoused, join us for this important discussion that will lead to action.



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In this recent Wichita Journalism Collaborative article, the organization investigated the disproportionate numbers of housing demolitions in 67214. Jason Washington stands in the empty lot of 1523 N. Green. The home was demolished in July 2023. He is trying to save his grandmother's house in the background, 1531 N Green, from the same fate. Read this story @ <https://bit.ly/3YBoMLg>.
SELENA FAVELA/WICHITA JOURNALISM COLLABORATIVE

Let's Talk Housing
Thurs., Nov. 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Urban League of Kansas, 2418 E. 9th St. Wichita

WICHITA

Sat., Oct. 26, A day Celebrating Hattie McDaniel, part of Tallgrass Film Fest. The day includes three events. The day begins with a program at the Hatie McDaniel memorial, continues with a discussion at The Kansas African American Museum and continues with a showing of "In This Our Life," at the Orpheum Theater, 200 N Broadway. Followed by a panel discussion about "Black Representation in Cinema Then and Now." featuring Gordon Parks filmmakers, David Parks and Kevin John Goff, Hattie's great grand-nephew. For complete details go to <https://bit.ly/4e3sfqB> Day activities are free, film and discussion COST \$10+ <https://bit.ly/3Yekbi2>.

Sat., Oct. 26, 8 pm: Back to the '80s Party: The Wave, 650 E. 2nd St. Come dance to your favorite '80s dance tunes with DJ Merlin Brando. Get dressed up in your best '80s threads and have a chance to win our costume contest. COST \$8+ <https://bit.ly/47Tiqu1>.

Sat. Oct. 26, 4-6pm: Tabernacle Bible Church Trunk or Treat, 1817 N. Volusia. Bring your bag or bucket and join in the fun at this community event that is open to all ages. **FREE**

Sun., Oct 27, 3 pm: Halloween Trunk or Treat, McAdams Park, 13th & Ohio. Bring your sacks and get a treat. Entertainment & Fun. **FREE**

Mon., Oct 28, 5:30 - 8 pm: Downtown Parking Meeting, Wichita Advance Learning Library, 711 W. 2nd St. Come out and learn details about the options that will be presented to the city council on Nov. 19. Learn more about the downtown parking plan: <https://www.wichita.gov/1559/Park-Wichita>. **FREE**

Mon., Oct. 28, 5 - 7 pm: Trunk or Treat - Spooky Treats. Local Flavor Restaurant, 5400 E. Central. Mar-Key Home Solutions and Local Flavor have partnered to bring you some fun this Halloween season. Stop by and bring the whole gang to enjoy treats, tunes and great food. There will be giveaways including a chance to win a 50" TV and many gift certificates to local businesses. **FREE**

Mon, Oct. 28: Khan Lab School Wichita's Open House, 703 E Douglas #250. 2nd - 10th Grades. Check out the Khan Lab School Wichita's Open House and see what we're all about in person.

Wed., Oct. 30, 5:30 pm: Scholarship Prep Funds & Full Rides, Wichita Advance Learning Library, 711 W 2nd. Join the Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation in partnership with the Rudd Foundation for our Dreams to Degrees Scholarship Series. This interactive session will focus on building your confidence in applying for competitive scholarships, understanding your unique strengths, and learning

how to be proactive and engaged throughout the scholarship application process. We invite you to bring a friend and come ready to enhance your scholarship skills. Register at <https://shorturl.at/xEgy9>.

Wed, Oct. 30, 6 - 7:30 pm: "The Life Impossible" - KMWU Literary Feast, KMWU, 121 N Mead. A group discussion over dinner. Dinner is provided by Public; guests are invited to bring a beverage to share with the group. **FREE**

Fri., Nov. 1, 8 - 10 pm: Daydream - Supporting the Wichita Jazz Festival. Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N. Mosley. Daydream is a 10-piece ensemble that blends various musical styles in a jazz-fusion setting. An evening of incredible music. COST \$40

Sat., Nov. 2, 10 am - 1pm: Write Up the World Aspiring Writers Workshop: 5025 E. Kellogg. Learn how to start writing your story, how to format it and get it ready to self publish or shop to a publisher. This workshop is being led by successful author LaMeshia Melodic. It is guaranteed to be fun and informational. Join her as she walks you through part one of her book series "Write Up the World - Where Do I Start?" COST \$10+ <https://bit.ly/3U0dC03>.

Sat., Nov. 2, 11 am - 12:30 pm: Souls to the Polls, St. Paul AME Church, 1756 N Piatt. The event will include: 1.) Worship service featuring ministry through music; 2.) Prayers over our democracy, vulnerable populations, our nation and its leaders; 3.) A call to action for civic engagement and voting. Concluding the day voting, collectively, at the Urban League of Kansas, 2418 E. 9th St. At the Urban League, we will join with Root the Power, a youth-focused nonprofit arm of Camp Destination Innovation, as they host their annual Vote Mob to increase voter turnout.

Sat., Nov. 2, 10 am - 1 pm: Shredding & Recycling, 1930 N. Ohio. Up to 5 boxes of paper to shred, up to 5 computers, metal, appliances, cardboard, and Electronic Waste (TVs will have a \$25 charge).

Sun., Nov. 3, 9am - 3 pm: Wichita Toy Run. Lineup begins at 9 am in Downtown Wichita. Enter at Douglas and McLean. Leave at 1 pm. Ride to Park City Arena and deliver toys and donations to The Salvation Army and Marines Toys For Tots.

Mon., Nov. 4, 8:30 - 10:30 am: 2024 Read & Rise Breakfast Gala, Wichita Marriott. 9100 Corporate Hills. This year's Literacy Champion is Dr. Kimberly Wilson, Wichita State University, and the Literacy Legacy Awards — the Go Create, Kansas Blueprint for Literacy, and Wichita Collective Impact. The Read & Rise Breakfast Gala also supports our movement to create a culture of literacy for underserved students in grades K-3. COST \$150. <https://bit.ly/3YvPRIv>

KANSAS CITY

Fri., Oct. 25, 7 pm: Rainy Day Books and Mission Vision Project KC present Dr. Uché Blackstock, Unity Temple on The Plaza, 707 W. 47th St. "A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine" is the rousing, captivating story of a Black physician, her career in medicine, and the deep inequities that still exist in the U.S. healthcare system. Ticket includes the book. COST \$32

Thu., Oct. 31, 7 - 11 pm: Halloween Fashion Show, Zhou B Art Center, 1801 E. 18th St. Get ready for an epic Halloween night: costumes, live performances, surprises, & a dance party - an incredible night of Halloween magic, creativity, and high-energy fun. COST \$25 <https://bit.ly/3BVv0Ni>

Sat., Oct. 26, 7 - 10 pm: Glow Paint and Sip Event, KC Daiquiri Shop, 1116 Grand Blvd. Grab some friends and come glow paint and party. Bright and white colored clothing will glow under the black lights. COST \$35

Tue., Oct. 29, 4:30 pm - 7 pm: Historic Northeast Candidates Forum for the General Election, Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, 2657 Independence Ave. Candidates will speak ahead of the general election Nov 5. Candidates for Jackson County Prosecutor; Senate Districts 7, 9, and 11; and House District 19. Register for seat <https://bit.ly/4dR3Xju>. **FREE**

Sun., Oct. 27, 2 - 8 pm: Soul Sessions Kansas City: The RNB Only Day Party. Equal Minded Night-Lounge & Event Venue, 4327 Troost Ave. The best vibes + craft cocktails + R&B music. COST \$0+

Sun., Oct. 27, 8 am - 4 pm: Black Boy Joy Exhibit, Equal Minded Cafe, 4327 Troost Ave. - Ste 205. The Black Boy Joy Art Exhibition celebrates the original creative works of Missouri- and Kansas-based Black men and boys (ages 7+), as they embody through their work what the concept of "Black Boy Joy" means to them. **FREE**

Tue., Oct. 29, 5:30 pm: "A Seat at the Table - Setting a Place for Artists in Civic Leadership," ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council, 106 Southwest Blvd. This event is open to artists, arts administrators, civic leaders and other key stakeholders, and will help the audience build a shared understanding of an Artist Civic Practice and Civic Engagement. Panelists will also present the Civic Leaders Program Civic Practice Track. **FREE**

Wed., Oct. 30, 1 - 4 pm: KC Job Fair, Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center, 2345 McGee. Meet with Kansas City's top employers hiring now. The KC Job Fair will provide you with access to employers seeking talented candidates in every discipline, from hospitality and healthcare to finance, education, and everything in between. **FREE**

Thu., Oct. 31, 7 - 11 pm: Halloween Hangout, Kansas City Community Projects,

3007 E. 73rd St. Under 14 with parent or legal guardian. Get ready for a spooktacular time at our Halloween Hangout - a night filled with costumes, candy, and creepy fun. COST \$2.50+

Fri., Nov. 1, 10 am: Jazz Storytelling, American Jazz Museum Atrium, 1616 East 18th St. Jazz Storytelling is led by vocalist Lisa Henry, storyteller Brother John, drummer Mike Warren, and bassist Tyrone Clark. Their master storytelling skills bring an innovative, engaged approach for the whole family to enjoy. **FREE**

Sat., Nov. 2, 6 - 9 pm: 24th Burning Sands Step Show, The Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St. The biggest Black Greek Alumni event is bringing top-tier steppers and a post-event social lounge. The Foundation for Delta Educational and Economic Development and The Kansas City Missouri Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. are bringing the best D9 step show in KC. Showcasing local and national fraternity and sorority step teams. COST \$30+

Sat., Nov. 2, 10 am: WeCodeKC's Game Development with Scratch, WeCodeKC, 4825 Troost Ave. A fun-filled day of learning and creating games using Scratch. You'll meet fellow game enthusiasts and dive into the world of game development. No prior experience is required. **FREE**

Sun., Nov. 3, 4 - 8 pm: 11th Annual Curves And Confidence Fashion Showcase, ArtsTech, 1522 Holmes St. The 11th Annual Curves And Confidence Fashion Showcase Impact on Black Southern Soul Edition. COST \$30. <https://bit.ly/3C3Ux6U>

Wed. Nov 6, 5:30 - 7 pm: Genealogy Class - Census Report, The Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc., 1722 E. 17th St. **FREE**

Sat., Nov. 30, 11 am - 4 pm: Small Business Saturday, 5008 Prospect Ave. Beauty Care, Food Trucks, Art & Jewelry. It's a day to invest in the entrepreneurs whose dreams and hard work help drive our local economy. **FREE**

KANSAS CITY, KS

Sat., Nov. 2, 11 am: Kansas - Ohio Vote Mob Kansas City, NW Corner 9th & State Avenue. Partners across Kansas are hosting this family friendly early celebration at multiple locations. Come together to make our voices heard and encourage everyone to get out there and vote. **FREE**

TOPEKA

Thu., Nov. 7, 6:30 pm: ArtsConnect, 909 N. Kansas Ave. An inspiring presentation on the phenomenal Black women who were activists: Rosa Parks, Dorothy I. Height, and Queen Nzingh. Our three storytellers are Cheri Thomas, Jaquita Clark, and Daisy Karimi. Bring food and drink to share, or grab dinner at one of the nearby NOTO restaurants. **FREE**

Artist Focus: Warren Stylez Harvey

One of KC's most prolific artists shares about his struggles and success.

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

You don't have to be an art aficionado to immediately recognize a Warren Stylez Harvey painting.

While his style has evolved slightly over the past 15 years, it's consistently his.

You'll recognize his very modern art by its geometric feel, vibrant colors, the lines that weave through it. And, there are always sketches, not always completely developed, of Black faces.

His work is unapologetically Black art.

"I have to paint myself and a different version of me," says Harvey. In part, he says he does it for people who look like him.

For them, he wants his art to be "a reminder of who they are, the light that shines in them, the God that lives within them, and the authority that God has given them."

Harvey, 37, is one of the most prolific artists in Kansas City who admits to painting almost daily and professionally since his early 20s. If you look deeply at the body of his work over those years, you'll see a subtle evolution.

"I have a style, and over the years, I go deeper and deeper into that style and experiment and say, 'Okay, let me take this aspect of it, then add this.' So my art is always in alignment with my voice, but it always branches off to different ways," he explains.

As an example, you still see the lines, but they show up differently. Once almost consistently black, now you'll occasionally see white lines in his work.

"I don't want to get bored. I want to experiment on different things and just go deeper and deeper into my voice."

He found his style by

experimenting, just sitting down to paint without a plan, but making it a habit to express himself.

"The more I did that, it honestly felt like an inner guidance," says Harvey. "Being an artist is really about your relationship itself and that inner feeling that says, 'okay, yeah, this stroke is the right stroke.'"

A very spiritual person, Harvey says God – the universe – always orchestrates things that bring on his next evolution. He doesn't have to make it happen. It just happens organically.

HARVEY'S PATH

Harvey says he's been drawing ever since he can remember. Like most artists, he had an early proclivity to draw, even when he shouldn't have been. In school, he was sketching, instead of paying attention.

"So at an early age I recognize I'm resonating with this," he says. "I just felt the need to continue to do it. Without any extra thought because it felt right. It felt like it was coming from here (he points to his heart) and I just kept sticking to it."

After high school, he tried to work a 9-to-5 job, but his struggle with mental health issues, including Bipolar and obsessive-compulsive disorders, made regular interaction with people difficult.

The disorders still impact his personal life, but he feels they benefit his creative life.

"Honestly, if it wasn't for my mental journey, I wouldn't create the way I do. I create so much because it's also a reflection of my obsessiveness. Whatever I do -- good or bad -- I really commit."

Art helps him feel good in the midst of his mental



Warren "Stylez" Harvey

challenges.

"It (art) was something that was holding me up as I was fighting (mental illness), as an escape to a point where, like you know, it wouldn't take me completely away, but it would soothe me while being challenged.

Harvey's mental health struggles aren't unique in the creative realm; many well-known artists, writers, and musicians, including Vincent van Gogh and Beethoven, are often cited as struggling with depression, bipolar disorder, or other mental health issues.

While there is some evidence suggesting a relationship between creativity and certain forms of mental illness, it is a complex and nuanced topic.

STRIVING BLACK ARTISTS

While Harvey is one of the most well-known Black artists in Kansas City, he identifies himself as a striving artist as opposed to a successful one.

Not to be confused with starving artists, striving artists are defined as individuals working hard to achieve recognition, improve their craft, or make a living through their art. The term emphasizes the dedication,

perseverance, and challenges associated with pursuing a creative career.

While his mental health disorders may have helped him create, he recognizes they're holding him back when it comes to expanding his following and marketing his work.

His mother – whom he gives a shout-out to – has always been one of his biggest supporters. A recently retired educator, she's stepping forward to help him develop his art as a business.

Some of his larger pieces sell for between \$2,000 to \$3,000 each, but his smaller pieces remain more reasonably priced. However, his pieces are starting to creep up both in price and value.

Recognizing the prices may be a stretch for some of his followers, he's begun offering a limited number of prints from some of his work.

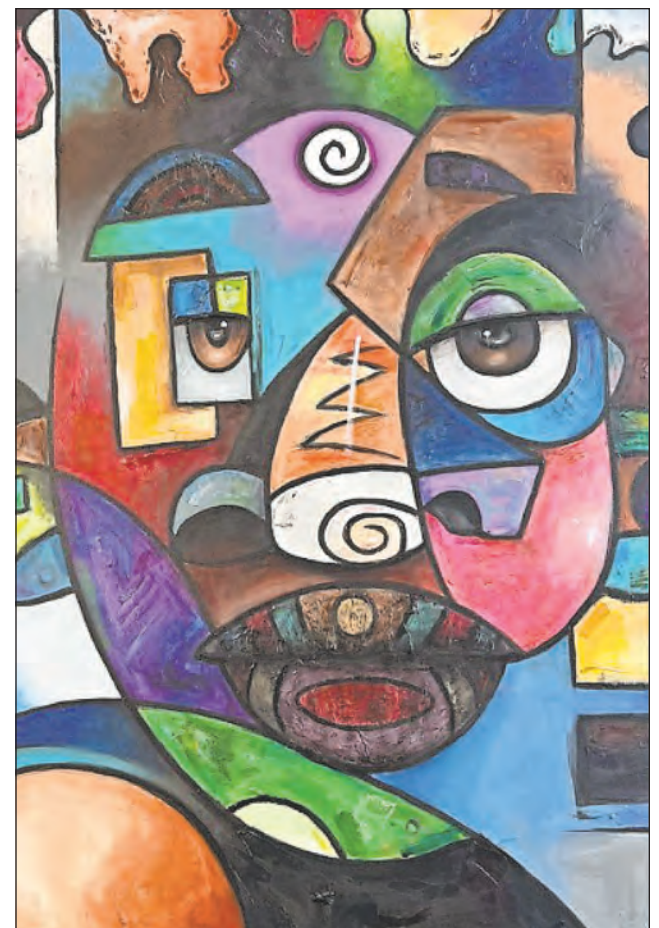
Despite what some may call his success, Harvey says there's a real struggle for Black artists, particularly in KC.

"There's a lack of appreciation for Black lives and it's going to reflect in Black art as well," says Harvey.

See **ARTIST** Page 23 →



Soulfully Rooted



Vibrancy

MISSOURI-SIDE, from
Page 15 ↓

Brown reached his term limit and is running for lieutenant governor. She is a first-time candidate for office but is the 17th Ward Democratic Party committeewoman. She brings her 17 years of experience as a KCPS homeless family liaison and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in business and public administration.

Races to Watch

State House District 12 in the Northland presents an engaging contest. Democratic incumbent **Jamie Johnson**, who made history in 2022 as Platte County's first Black representative, faces a challenge from Air Force veteran and business owner Mike Jones. Johnson focuses on health-care access and gun safety legislation, while Jones emphasizes tax cuts and law enforcement support.

House District 36 in southern Jackson County features an intriguing match-up. Democratic incumbent **Anthony Ealy Jr.**, Missouri's youngest-ever state representative and Grandview's first Black representative, faces Vietnam veteran and former military chaplain Dave Thomas. Ealy, a practicing attorney and former Cleaver aide, champions public transit expansion and library funding, while Thomas runs on a Trumpian "America First" platform.

The District 28 race centered in Raytown features Democrat **Donna Barnes** seeking to succeed her term-limited husband, Jerome Barnes. A retired postal worker and Connection Point church member, Barnes prioritizes healthcare and senior tax relief, carrying forward her husband's community focus. Her Republican opponent, Steven W. Hinton, has maintained no visible

campaign presence.

In District 26, first-time candidate Democrat **Tiffany Price** is looking to fill the shoes of Ashley Bland Manlove, who chose not to seek reelection despite having one term remaining. Price brings her experience as founder of Hold Em Up 4 Care, a youth-focused nonprofit. She emphasizes mental health access and anti-discrimination protections. Her Republican opponent, Anthony Zarantonello, has not actively campaigned.

District 22's race features Democratic incumbent **Yolanda Young**, an Ivanhoe neighborhood advocate and partner in the urban Young Family Farm, is facing Republican Mireya Barragan. Young won the seat in 2020 when Brandon Ellington was elected to the KC City Council. Young's legislative work includes school mental health funding and minimum wage increases, while Barragan has

maintained no visible campaign presence.

In District 23, incumbent Democrat **Michael Johnson**, an insurance agent and Army veteran, faces Republican Daniel P. Contreras. Johnson, whose uncle Charles Hazley served on the city council, has focused on urban internet access and environmental legislation. Contreras, a Jackson County Republican committeeman, runs a multimedia brand and podcast.

The Senate District 9 race covering eastern Jackson County pits incumbent Democrat **Barbara Washington** against Republican Derron Black. Washington, an attorney and former House member, has sponsored nearly 50 bills on criminal justice reform. Long-time activist Black makes his first Republican bid after several Democratic campaigns. He advocates for school choice and business deregulation.

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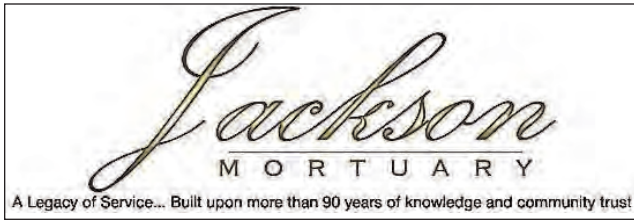
Directed by KC's own Nedra Dixon, and featuring a selection of Billie Holiday's most well-known songs, including "Strange Fruit" and "God Bless the Child" performed live, the magic of *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* is an unforgettable experience that celebrates the enduring legacy of one of the greatest jazz vocalists of all time.

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Robinette Echols, 87

Nov. 1, 1936 - Oct. 17, 2024
Service will be held at 11 a.m. Wed., Oct. 30, at St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 1350 N. Ash.

Clifford Jones, 62

Nov. 10, 1961 - Oct. 16, 2024
Service will be held at 10 a.m. Fri., Nov. 1, at Calvary Baptist Church, 2653 N. Hillside.

Wanda Caesar, 62

Dec. 16, 1961 - Oct. 15, 2024
Service will be held at 2 p.m. Sat., Nov. 9, at Greater Mizpah Baptist Church, 2211 S. Bluff.

George Coleman, 67

Nov. 9, 1956 - Oct. 13, 2024
Service will be held at 10 a.m. Sat., Nov. 2, at St. Mark Cathedral COGIC, 1018 N. Dellrose.

William Eubanks IV, 32

March 25, 1992 - Oct. 12, 2024
Service will be held at 2 p.m. Sat., Nov. 2, at Vernon A.M.E Church, 311 N. Greenwood Ave., Tulsa, OK.

Priscella J. Brown, 87

May 4, 1937 - Oct. 10, 2024
Service was held Oct. 24 at Holy Temple COGIC.

Marie Rita Hill, 80

Oct. 27, 1943 - Oct. 10, 2024
Service will be held at 11 a.m. Sat., Nov. 9, at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Ora Lee Looney, 93

June 10, 1931 - Oct. 10, 2024
Service was held Oct. 25 at Koinonia Bible Church, KCMO.

Carolyn Rutledge-Scott, 66

Jan. 15, 1958 - Oct. 10, 2024
Service will be held at 3 p.m. Tue., Oct. 29, at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th St.

Arthur "Blood" Lee Richardson Jr., 80

Oct. 9, 1944 - Oct. 9, 2024
Service will be held at 1 p.m. Sat., Nov. 2, at New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 625 N. Madison.

Ida Smith, 86

Jan. 21, 1938 - Oct. 9, 2024
Service was held Oct. 26 at St Paul AME Church.

Vietta Kirksey-Davis, 88

March 26, 1936 - Oct. 7, 2024
Service was held Oct. 26 at Greater Mizpah Baptist Church.

MO AMENDMENTS,
from Page 14 ↓

- Could incentivize more tickets/charges
- Unreliable funding source for pensions

IF PASSES:

- Court fees fund law enforcement benefits
- Reverses Supreme Court ruling
- Stabilizes pension funds

IF FAILS:

- Sheriff retirement fund risks insolvency
- Alternative funding

needed
- Current fee ban remains

**AMENDMENT 7:
VOTING
RESTRICTIONS**

At a time when voting rights and methods are under national scrutiny, this amendment would set another ban on voting in Missouri. The "ballot candy" on this amendment, which is being pushed as a way to get this amendment passed, is a measure that doesn't accomplish much

- if anything.

This two-part amendment is being promoted as a way to keep non-citizens from voting in Missouri. However, this first part of the amendment is already covered by state law. It is already illegal for non-citizens to vote in Missouri. This measure just makes existing law part of the state constitution.

The second part of the measure would make it illegal for legislative bodies to implement a ranked-voting process. Ranked-choice voting is growing in popularity across the country, but

individuals and groups that oppose it typically dislike it because it helps lead to less partisan and more moderate representation. Just like drop boxes and absentee voting, banning ranked-choice voting is another form of voter suppression.

For more on ranked-choice voting, read our story "Understanding Ranked-Choice Voting at <https://bit.ly/48jpBvA>

The important thing to note is that if you vote "YES" for this amendment, you're casting a "NO" vote for ranked-choice voting even being considered

as a voting option in Missouri and "YES" that non-citizens can't vote in Missouri, something that's already covered by state law.

KEY POINTS:

- Bans ranked-choice voting (except St. Louis)
- Specifies "only" U.S. citizens can vote
- Affects election rules

PROS:

- Maintains traditional voting system
- Prevents potential voter confusion
- Clarifies citizenship requirements

CONS:

- Limits voting method options
- Redundant citizenship language
- Restricts local voting flexibility

IF PASSES:

- Ranked-choice voting prohibited
- Constitutional language changes
- Current voting system preserved

IF FAILS:

- Ranked-choice remains possible
- No change to current laws
- Local flexibility maintained

McCownGordon Construction is requesting bid proposals for the Renovation of Barney Allis Plaza - Public Streetscape, MGC Project No. 1-07-1868 located at 1220 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. Proposals are due to McCownGordon by 2:00pm, November 8, 2024. For Plans, Specifications, Bid Packages, and Pre-bid Meeting information contact Doug Bell at dbell@mccowngordon.com or 816.960.1111. The following scopes of work are being solicited for bids: site concrete, asphalt, unit pavers, and landscaping. MBE and WBE established goals are 14% MBE and 14% WBE. The project is tax exempt. Prevailing wages will be required based on the Missouri Annual Wage Order #30. **MCCOWNGORDON**

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FOR GODSIN WITHOUT WALL

Minister of Worship Arts

Tabernacle Bible Church of Wichita, Kansas is seeking a passionate, spiritually grounded individual to lead and inspire our Worship Arts Ministry. The Minister of Worship Arts will oversee all musical aspects of our worship experience, fostering an environment where creativity and faith flourish. If you have a heart for worship, a vision for leading diverse teams, and the ability to connect our congregation to God through artistic expression, we'd love to hear from you!

To apply
visit www.tabernaclebiblewichita.com submit a profile and upload a resume which are the steps in the application process. For additional information, contact (316) 681-3954.

ARTIST, from Page 21 ↓

However, he says he's beginning to see positive change, with more opportunities for people to see Black art, like the two-year-old 18th and Vine Art Festival that showed the art of nearly all the Black artists from around the region.

Opportunities like the festival help expose Black art to more individuals and grow both fans and collectors.

He also sees the change in the growing number of talented Black artists who are taking their work seriously and fine-tuning their craft.

"It's allowing us to believe in ourselves more, and the more we do that the more we inspire each other, the more it (Black Art) will be recognized."

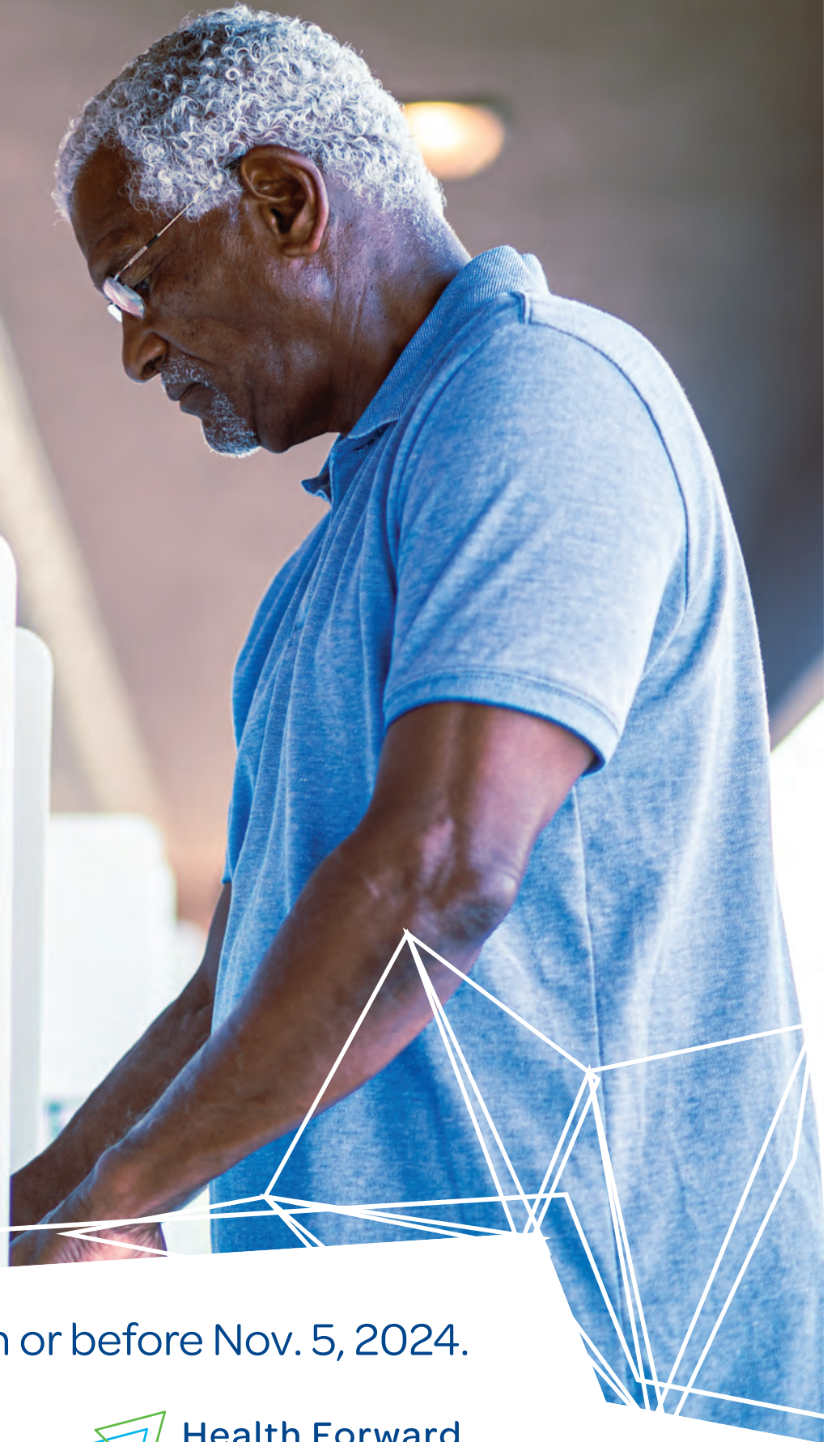
Sometimes it gets difficult and it's a sacrifice, but Harvey has no plans of giving up or out.

"I look back from time to time, but my heart is always just rooted in art."

Our vote
Our voice
Our health
Our power



VOTE



Make a plan to vote on or before Nov. 5, 2024.



Do your research with
the 2024 KC Voter Guide.



Health Forward
FOUNDATION
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