

# THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



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# THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 22  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

## LOOKING AHEAD

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**Stop Looking for a Print Edition of The Community Voice:** You can read editions of The Community Voice

on our website. Not just current and recent issues. You can read issues dating back several years. Go to [www.CommunityVoiceKS.com](http://www.CommunityVoiceKS.com), click on "e-editions." Plus, our archive is searchable. If there's a particular story you're looking for, just enter a defining word for the story in the search box.

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

YOU'RE MISSING A LOT

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

### Arts & Culture

Arts Conference Brings Industry Leaders to Kansas City  
Local artists got a chance to learn from experts Nov 2 at Zhou B. Arts Cent

## WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE VOICE?



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# Help Us Keep the Community Voice Strong, Support Our Reporting

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



Bonita Gooch

As we approach our 30th anniversary in 2025, we reflect on The Community Voice's journey from its early beginnings to its position as a trusted source of information and empowerment for African-Americans across Wichita, Kansas, and the Kansas City metro area.

Our tagline, "A Trusted Voice from the Community's Perspective," has helped guide us in our mission to keep the community informed with the news and resources they need to make a positive impact in their lives and communities.

We believe that what you don't know can often hurt you, and that's why we work tirelessly to bring our readers essential information, covering not only local news but also relevant regional and national stories. From overlooked

topics like the consequences of unpaid speeding tickets to critical community resources, we strive to shed light on the issues that matter most. For example, it wasn't until later in life that I learned an unpaid ticket could lead to a warrant for my arrest. Understanding processes like these can make a huge difference, and we're committed to making sure our readers are never in the dark about information that impacts their lives.

Our dedication goes beyond simply reporting news; we're here to uncover the positive

aspects of our community that major media often ignore. While larger papers may focus on crime and sports, we bring attention to community successes, valuable resources, and empowering opportunities that help our readers thrive.

However, delivering this kind of impactful journalism is costly. Producing quality content requires a talented team dedicated to making a difference, and as demand for our work grows, so does the need for resources. Our goal is to keep The Community Voice free—free to read, free online, and never behind a paywall—so that everyone has access to this vital information, especially those who need it most.

Right now, we are stretched as far as we can go, but there is so much more we want to do, and so much our readers ask us to cover. There are stories to tell, issues to investigate, and countless resources to



connect our community with. Yet, to expand our efforts and maintain the quality of our reporting, we need to grow our team—a necessity that comes with significant costs.

If you believe in our mission and the positive impact our work has on our community, we ask you to consider making a one-time donation or recurring contribution. Your support will enable us to continue delivering trusted, empowering information that uplifts our community and helps individuals create change in their own lives.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

## MISSOURI NEWS

**Poor Student Performance Leads St. Louis NAACP to File Discrimination Complaint**

The organization found Black students in the city of St. Louis are on average more than four grade levels behind the national average in reading.

## ELECTION NEWS

**'This is a Bond for Life:' From Sisterhood to the Presidential Race**

Kamala Harris' college sorority sisters share what she's really like.

## NATIONAL

**FTC Fines CarShield \$10 Million for Deceptive Ads**

Ice Tea's promise that "you'll

never pay for expensive car repairs again" doesn't ring true says FTC. Here's things to look out for in a car repair contract.

## HEALTH

**Your Water Bottle May Be Growing Mold: Here's How To Prevent It**

Mold and bacteria in your reusable water bottle can cause health issues like infections, respiratory issues and allergic reactions

## ENTERTAINMENT

**How Michael Jackson's Estate Surged Pass \$2 Billion in Revenue**

The King of Pop's will endowed his executor — John

Branca and John McClain — with broad powers to manage

his estate. The results has been a remarkable financial revival.

## CARTOON



## THE COMMUNITY VOICE

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## CONTACTS:

**Editor-in-Chief/Press Releases**

Bonita Gooch  
Wichita | [press@tcvpub.com](mailto:press@tcvpub.com)  
KC | [cvoicekc@tcvpub.com](mailto:cvoicekc@tcvpub.com)

**Press Releases:** [press@tcvpub.com](mailto:press@tcvpub.com)

**Advertising:** [adcopy@tcvpub.com](mailto:adcopy@tcvpub.com)

## Contributing Writers:

Thomas White | Kansas City  
[twhite@tcvpub.com](mailto:twhite@tcvpub.com)

## Advertising Sales:

Cornell Hill | [hill@tcvpub.com](mailto:hill@tcvpub.com)

## Office Administration:

Elaine Guillory | [guillory@tcvpub.com](mailto:guillory@tcvpub.com)





# Conversations With *Ron Holt*

An interview & Q&A with **Wichita Corporate Trailblazer**

**Mon., Nov. 18, 5:30 - 7 p.m.**  
 Kansas Leadership Center  
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**This event is free, but space is limited. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/48wl6g1>**

**Recognizing 2024 THE VOICE Corporate Standouts**  
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# Two Black Women Seats in the U.S. Senate

By Voice News Service

While things may not have gone the way Black Americans – particularly Black women – had hoped, Tuesday night there were two historic wins that make Kamala Harris' win easier to swallow.

Two Black women were elected to the U.S. Senate: Delaware's Lisa Blunt Rochester and Maryland's Angela Alsobrooks.

Two Black women have never served in the U.S. Senate at the same time and only three Black women have ever served in the senate.

The first Black woman elected to the Senate, Democratic Sen. Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois in 1992, served a single term. Harris was the second. And a third Black woman, Sen. Laphonza Butler, was appointed to fill out the term of long-serving California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who died in 2023.

Blunt Rochester, 62, marks the milestone by saying that the reason she does this work is not about making history, "but to make a difference, an impact, on people's lives."

A four-term member of the House representing Delaware, Blunt Rochester is replacing Sen. Tom Carper, her former mentor, who won the seat after serving as the state's governor.



Lisa Blunt Rochester



Angela Alsobrooks

As Carper's hand-picked successor, Blunt Rochester was widely considered the favorite in the race and had a solid financial advantage. She raised \$8 million in campaign funds while her Republican opponent, businessman Eric Hanson, raised only around \$1 million, including loaning his own pocket.

Alsobrooks, 53, said that people like her, and stories like hers, don't usually make it to the U.S. Senate, "but they should."

Alsobrooks, the former county manager of Prince George's County, Maryland – the richest majority-Black county in the country – fills the seat of retired Sen. Ben Cardin, who served five terms. Her race drew national attention after Republicans, sensing an opportunity to flip a blue Senate seat, tapped Larry Hogan, the state's popular former governor, to run against her.

On the campaign trail Blunt

Rochester has shared the story of the Reconstruction Era documents showing her great, great, great-grandfather, who had been enslaved in Georgia, as having the right to vote.

Blunt Rochester and Harris are close, both entering Congress the same year and often sitting together at Congressional Black Caucus events. Blunt Rochester was national co-chair of Kamala Harris' presidential campaign.

Alsobrooks launched her campaign for the Senate in a video telling her family's story of leaving South Carolina for Maryland after her great-grandfather was shot and killed by a sheriff's deputy after a traffic stop.

As a young prosecutor she first met Harris, then attorney general in California, a friendship that formed more than a decade ago.

FYI. Alsobrooks is a member of Delta Sigma Theta and Blunt Rochester is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

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Wichita Journalism Collaborative



## Yes, Trump Won. Here's What Happens Next

Trump doesn't represent policy, but that's not what people voted for. Here are six key takeaways about election night – and our future.



# BUILDING SUCCESS ON PROSPECT

## Inside KC's Business Development 'Best Kept Secret'

Prospect Business Association provides workshops and resources for entrepreneurs all over KC.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

When Elaina Paige Thomas returned to Kansas City after touring as a dancer with Beyoncé, she saw untapped talent in her community but noticed many artists lacked the connections to showcase their abilities.

She turned to the Prospect Business Association (PBA), a nonprofit business support

organization, for guidance. PBA helped her transform her observation into The Next Paige, a thriving talent agency now representing celebrities, including former Chiefs players Dwayne Bowe and Tamba Hali.

It's the kind of success story that's become common at PBA, though you might not have heard about them.

PBA began in 2014 as a grassroots initiative of ten

businesses focused on addressing blight along Prospect Ave. Since then, it has evolved into a full-service entrepreneurial support organization with six full-time staff members and three consultants.

"People often call us the best-kept secret," says PBA Executive Director Simone Curls. "They're like, 'We didn't know you existed! What do you do?'"

What they do has transformed the landscape for Black businesses in Kansas City. In just the past two years (2021-2023), PBA has served more than 1,500 businesses with combined revenues of approximately \$16 million. In that same timeframe, the organization has helped those businesses secure more than \$5 million in debt and equity capital.

While their heart remains on Prospect Avenue, where they work to correct decades of disinvestment and systemic barriers, PBA's doors are open



The Prospect Business Association CEO Simone Curls presents a grant to LC Lomax of CCI MDE LLC.

to entrepreneurs from across the metro." Our goal is to provide services to a historically under-resourced area and neighborhood," says Curls. "But we understand that strengthening the entire Kansas City business community lifts everyone up."

When COVID-19 hit, many Black-owned businesses were struggling to access federal support. PBA stepped up.

They never closed their doors; instead, they created a micro-business center to help entrepreneurs navigate complex government and online systems.

Their efforts secured over \$1.4 million in PPP funding for local businesses – at a time when reports showed few Black-owned businesses across all of Kansas City had received PPP support.

"We're here to advocate, but let's not underestimate the power of small local businesses," Curls says. "We must all come together with intentionality to bring up the urban core; we all rise or we all fall."

That philosophy drives their comprehensive approach, taking entrepreneurs from initial concepts to successful businesses. Maurice Gay, PBA's director of operations, recently

described helping a would-be entrepreneur with nothing but a recipe and dream of selling her potato salad in grocery stores.

"The whole formation of PBA is that we take a business idea and make it into reality," says Gay. "We formulate it from their idea, create a business plan, help them get incorporated, and proceed through the steps. We have a road map that we walk our clients through, allowing them to take it from whatever point they're currently at and keep proceeding down the road to success."

The process begins with an initial inquiry and welcome packet. PBA then pairs entrepreneurs with business development specialists who provide one-on-one coaching tailored to the individual's needs and goals. PBA services both for-profit and nonprofit businesses in just about every sector, from entertainment to construction.

The majority of PBA's resources are free and supported by grant funding. Their services span from monthly coaching sessions to workshops on everything from accounting and legal issues to artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.



### Upcoming PBA Free Workshop:

Small Business Legal Workshop  
Led by: Attorney Alfred Jordan

Topics: Legal basics, business structure selection (LLC vs. sole proprietorship), legal compliance

Tue., Nov. 12, 9:30 a.m.

PBA offices at 2420 E. Linwood Ave., KCMO

Cost: FREE

For those just getting started, PBA's "Incorporate You" program partners with KC BizCare Office to guide entrepreneurs through every step of becoming a formal business entity.

Their "Eco-Expert Boutique" provides specialized one-on-one assistance on environmental issues, while the "Technology Today" program partners with Grow with Google to help businesses build digital skills.

**For emerging businesses, PBA has partnered with the Economic Development Corporation of KC to create a micro-loan program that doesn't require credit checks or collateral; removing traditional barriers that have historically locked out Black entrepreneurs from accessing capital.**

**For those interested in starting or growing a business, PBA can be reached at their offices on Linwood Boulevard. While they may be Kansas City's "best-kept secret" now, their impact on the community is becoming impossible to overlook.**

**PBA can be found online at** PBAKC.org.

2420 E. Linwood Ave., KCMO



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

## JUSTICE DELAYED

# Former KCK Detective Golubski Finally Faces December Trial

71-year-old former detective faces civil rights charges stemming from alleged sexual assaults and kidnapping in first federal trial

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

After decades of allegedly terrorizing Kansas City, Kansas' Black community, with seeming impunity, former police detective Roger Golubski will finally face a jury of his peers. Golubski has been accused of a litany of misdeeds, including rape, kidnapping, running a sex trafficking ring and a protection racket.

A federal judge in Topeka set Dec. 2 as the start date for the first of two criminal trials against the former KCKPD detective, whose alleged reign of terror on the force spanned 35 years.

The 71-year-old former detective has been awaiting trial under house arrest since Sept. 2022, and not without controversy. In Feb. 2023, he was spotted at a Culver's restaurant in KCK, leading federal prosecutors to attempt to revoke his pretrial release.

While a federal judge ultimately allowed him to remain on house arrest, the incident heightened community concerns about the level of freedom afforded to a man accused of such serious crimes.

Golubski's medical issues

of diabetes and kidney disease were cited for the need for house arrest and an unusual trial schedule. The December trial will follow a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule that accommodates the former KCKPD detective's dialysis treatments.

### The Charges

In this first federal case, Golubski faces six felony counts of civil rights violations, each carrying a potential life sentence. The charges stem from allegations by two Black women, one of whom was barely a teenager when the alleged assaults began.

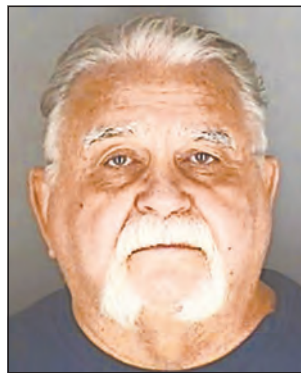
One victim, identified in court documents as S.K., was just 13 or 14 years old when Golubski allegedly began assaulting her in 1998. The other victim, Ophelia Williams, has bravely come forward to share her story publicly.

Williams says that Golubski forced her into sex acts while on duty and in his squad car over the course of about a year – all while her teenage sons were facing murder charges, highlighting the devastating way Golubski allegedly used his badge to exploit vulnerable Black families.

Seven additional women will be allowed to testify about similar allegations, helping prosecutors establish what they say was a clear pattern of predatory behavior that stretched across Golubski's career from 1975 to 2010.

### A Pattern of Exploitation and Terror

According to other recent civil lawsuits and criminal



Roger Golubski's mug shot from his 2022 arrest.

indictments, Golubski's alleged crimes went far beyond individual assaults. While wearing the badge of KCKPD, prosecutors say he operated as part of a larger criminal enterprise that targeted and terrorized the Black community.

In a second federal indictment, Golubski faces charges of participating in a sex trafficking ring between 1996 and 1998.

Prosecutors allege he partnered with Cecil Brooks, a notorious drug dealer, providing police protection while young women – many of them Black teenagers – were trafficked at the Delevan Apartments complex.

The indictment describes a horrifying operation where young girls, some recently released from juvenile facilities or experiencing homelessness, were locked in apartments and forced to provide sexual services to adult men, including Golubski himself.

### Not Just 'One Bad Apple'

An additional civil lawsuit filed by five Black women against the Unified Government of Wyandotte



Ophelia Williams speaking at a Justice 4 KCK rally put on by Team Roc. Williams, one of the named victims in the first Golubski trial, is expected to testify.

County and Kansas City, KS, paints an even broader picture of corruption. The lawsuit alleges that Golubski was not simply a "bad apple" but rather part of a systemic problem that reached the highest levels of law enforcement in KCK.

The suit names four former police chiefs – Thomas Dailey, James Swafford, Ronald Miller, and Terry Zeigler – as defendants, alleging they protected and enabled a protection racket despite knowing of its existence. Zeigler, notably, was Golubski's former partner before being promoted to chief.

"The squad room openly joked about mistreating Black women and the many 'halfbreed' offspring Golubski had likely fathered by his victims," the lawsuit states, highlighting how openly Golubski's alleged behavior was discussed within the department.

### The McIntyre Connection

Perhaps the most well-known case connected to Golubski is that of Lamonte McIntyre, who spent 23 years in prison for a double-murder he didn't commit. McIntyre's mother, Rose, alleged that Golubski framed her son because she rejected his sexual advances.

The case brought Golubski's alleged misconduct to light and led to a \$12.5 million settlement with the Unified Government in 2022.

Recent indictments suggest the McIntyre case may have been even more sinister than initially thought. The same Cecil Brooks named in Golubski's sex trafficking indictment was allegedly connected to the murders McIntyre was wrongly convicted of committing. According to court documents, Brooks had reportedly beaten and threatened one of the victims days before the

murder over stolen money or drugs.

### The Path to Accountability

The December trial represents what many hope will be the beginning of broader accountability. The trial is expected to run through January, with opening statements set for Dec. 6.

At least 100 potential jurors will be called, with special questionnaires being required due to the sensitive and high-profile nature of the case.

While the date for Golubski's second federal trial on sex trafficking charges has yet to be set, community advocates continue pushing for wider reforms. Justice for Wyandotte and other organizations have successfully advocated for the creation of a Cold Case Unit within KCKPD to investigate more than 280 unsolved cases, many involving Black victims whose cases had been neglected for years.

# Jackson County ARPA Funds Hang in Balance as Legislature, Executive Clash Over Millions

If Jackson County doesn't allocate \$70M by the end of the year, the money will return to the federal government

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

A parade of nonprofit leaders, business owners, and community organizers made urgent pleas to Jackson County officials this week as the clock ticks down on \$70.4 million in federal pandemic relief funds that could be forfeited if not allocated by year's end.

The public hearing highlighted the growing tension between community needs and political gridlock as organizations that were approved for funding through a 2023 grant process continue waiting for answers nearly a year later.

"Our organization and many others in this room that provide critical services to families and citizens of Jackson County are still feeling the impacts of COVID to this day," testified Michael Baxley of Inglewood Arts. "We urge you to find a compromise to get these final funds allocated before the end of 2024."

Time is running out for Jackson County to spend the remaining federal pandemic relief funds, with a political standoff between legislators and the county executive threatening to send the money back to Washington.

The stakes are particularly high because Jackson County has struggled to distribute previous pandemic aid. Of the nearly \$150 million in American Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA) funds the county received in 2021, nearly half never reached the community.

Legislator Manuel Abarca IV says that the current impasse stems from leadership changes earlier this year that stalled a previously established process.

"[We] went through a pretty rigorous process throughout the year, had third party grading, had a transparent public hearing process and then, kind of sat on hold as the leadership turned over at the beginning of this year," says Abarca. According to Abarca, the process began with budget town halls in January 2023, followed by discussions with the executive's office in February. A competitive portal was opened for applications in August 2023. Applications were received from 118 organizations totaling over \$80 million in requests.

After public testimony and years of disagreement, the County Legislature approved two ordinances: a \$70.4 million ARPA package supporting projects vetted through last year's grant process and a \$30 million allocation from the county's general fund that largely covers County Executive Frank White's infrastructure priorities.

Jackson County Executive Frank White previously proposed a smaller \$32.4 million package focused on immediate infrastructure needs. The County Executive says he opposes the legislature's approach, arguing the process they used to select grantees wasn't legal. If the process isn't legally up to snuff, the federal government could claw back the money anyway. "While I do not support this resolution, nor the process



Jackson County Legislators are at an impasse with county executive Frank White on how to spend ARPA funding.

used to adopt it, I do believe there is a great deal of agreement," White said. "My compromise proposal is about taking action now to support our residents with the critical investments we all agree on."

Legislator Abarca strongly disputed White's legal concerns. He pointed to precedent in St. Louis County, which has a similar governmental structure, who allocated their ARPA dollars in the same process.

The fundamental disagreement between the legislators and the executive isn't just about the process but also specific funding and priorities.

"The reality that we're fighting over the last 10% should turn people over in their graves," says Abarca. "The main line item disagreement relates to the use of significant funds to 1300 Washington for the executive office suite and assessment office suite."

White could still veto the ordinances, though he hasn't publicly stated his intentions. If he does, Abarca warns there may not be enough time to salvage the funding.

"Time is absolutely of the

essence," says Abarca. "If the executive vetoes these ordinances, he is likely dooming this process completely. There is currently no alternative

ordinance to this effort, so as of right now there is nothing else to debate or work through."

For community organi-

zations awaiting funding, the political deadlock has real consequences. Director of Development at ReStart, Stacy Mayer, testified that their nonprofit that combats homelessness has seen increased need and that the funding is necessary.

"This is a gift we can't afford to give back," said Mayer. "On behalf of the women, children, families, veterans, and individuals we serve, we ask you to think of us."

With the year-end deadline approaching, the county risks losing tens of millions in federal assistance if the executive and legislative branches cannot find common ground. The funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.





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# Kansas Board of Education Election Results Favor Conservative Power

Election put conservatives with “anti-woke” agendas in control of state’s highest educational body.

By Suzanne Perez  
Kansas News Service

Two conservative Republicans have won seats on the Kansas State Board of Education and join four other conservative Republicans to tilt the ideological balance on the 10-member board.

In District 4 in northeast Kansas, Republican Connie O’Brien — a retired teacher who served four terms in the Kansas House — edged Democrat Kris Meyer with 51% of the vote.

Republican Debby Potter, a homeschooler who supports

school choice, was elected to represent District 10, an area that covers southern Sedgwick County.

They join four other board members — Michelle Dombrosky, Cathy Hopkins, Dennis Hershberger and Danny Zeck — who won election two years ago on a campaign against what they described as “woke” leanings in public schools.

Together, they make a 6 to 4 conservative majority on the Board.

O’Brien says she opposes diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, books about gender identity, and what she calls “transgender nonsense.”

Potter’s campaign website describes her as an advocate for “parental empowerment and school choice.”

Speaking to a Republican

women’s club during her primary campaign, Potter said she was 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 at the forum. “I feel like there’s a lot of undermining of the families going on.”

The existing four conservative members of the Board have expressed frustration with Kansas public school policies and secured seats on the Board of Education by speaking out against lessons on racism, sexuality and gender identity. They also say parents should have more control over what happens in classrooms.

Several times, they have voted no or abstained on key policy decisions, including



Beryl New

kindergarten readiness standards and federal funding for homeless students.

## New and Arnold Elected

Two incumbent Democrats — Betty Arnold in Wichita and Melanie Haas in Johnson County — held on to their seats on the state board. They will be joined by Democrat Beryl New



Betty Arnold

who will represent District 6, which includes Lawrence and Topeka.

“There are conversations about vouchers, about privatizing education, and I know people have reasons for their agendas, but what we ought to always remember is that there are young people whose families cannot afford anything

other than public education,” said New, a former Topeka educator.

Arnold, a former Wichita school board member, said she’s concerned that issues such as book-banning have dominated school board races in recent years rather than student achievement.

“I’m more concerned about getting kids to read. I’m more concerned about the percentage of kids that are falling way behind in math,” she said during a Democratic watch party at Wichita State University. “I’m concerned about kids feeling safe, and I have yet to see a kid being killed by books.”

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.

*Suzanne Perez with the Kansas News Service and reporters from the Kansas Reflector contributed to this story.*

## Other Kansas Races and Issues

Elected a district attorney, a new sheriff, a new judge and a bond issue approved

By Bonita Gooch  
Voice Editor-in-Chief

### Johnson County Elects First African-American Sheriff

Byron Roberson made history with his election as the first African-American elected Johnson County Sheriff. He’s also the first Democrat to be elected sheriff in Johnson County in nearly 100 years.

In a close race, Roberson defeated Doug Bedordm a former Johnson County Undersheriff.

Roberson’s role as sheriff continues his role as a law-enforcement leader in Johnson County. Roberson joined the Prairie Village police force in 1995 and worked his way up through the ranks to the department’s chief in 2021.



Byron Roberson

In 2019, Roberson helped implement Prairie Village’s first mental health co-responder program, where a mental health professional responds to calls along with an officer when someone is suspected of being in a mental health crisis. He hopes to expand the program throughout Johnson County.



Mark Dupree

### Wyandotte County Mark Dupree Wins reelection.

Wyandotte County’s popular District Attorney Mark Dupree was elected to this third, four-year term in office. He ran unopposed.

Dupree is known for his role in the exoneration of Lamonte McIntyre, who wrongfully



Jacqueline Kelly

spent 23 years in prison because of corrupt police actions. Known as a progressive prosecutor, Dupree established a Conviction Integrity Unit and worked to diversify his office. This year, Dupree said he wants to focus on maintaining safety in the county, fighting fentanyl and illegal drugs,

looking out for victim health and wellness and engaging youth.

### Kelly Elected District Judge in Sedgwick County

Jacqueline Kelly was elected as District Court Judge in Sedgwick County after prevailing in a four-way primary race for the seat. She’s the only African-American on the Sedgwick County District Court Bench.

It helped that Kelly ran as a Republican, because in Sedgwick County — the complete opposite of Wyandotte County — only Republicans get elected.

Kelly previously served as City Attorney of Derby and Park City, KS.

### Wyandotte County Residents Pass School Bond Issue

Kansas City, KS voters overwhelmingly approved a downsized School Bond issue just six months after defeating a larger bond proposal by a 16 point margin (68%-42%).

The original \$420 million bond issue was projected to raise property tax bills by \$97.50 annually for each \$100k of home value. The revised \$180 million bond issue will fund major — but fewer — construction projects without increasing property taxes.

Approved projects include constructing two new middle schools, a new elementary school and an addition to Sumner Academy.

# New Candidates Don't Fare Well in Kansas Legislature Races

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

For more than three decades, African Americans have held seven seats in the Kansas Legislature.

In Kansas City, there have consistently been two House seats and one Senate seat held by African Americans and Wichita had a similar composition, with two House seats and one Senate seat. These seats are all in core city districts with large African-American populations. The seventh seat is in liberal-leaning Lawrence, KS; while the seat has been held by an African American, the district is not largely African American.

Growing the number of African Americans in the legislature would require gaining seats in districts without large African-American populations and that's exactly what many of the new African-American candidates who stepped up to run for seats in the Kansas Legislature attempted to accomplish.

## New Candidates

In June, at the close of the Kansas candidate filing deadline, 14 new African-American candidates

had filed to run for office. Four of them were running for traditionally African-American seats in Wyandotte County, but nine were running for seats that weren't currently held by African Americans.

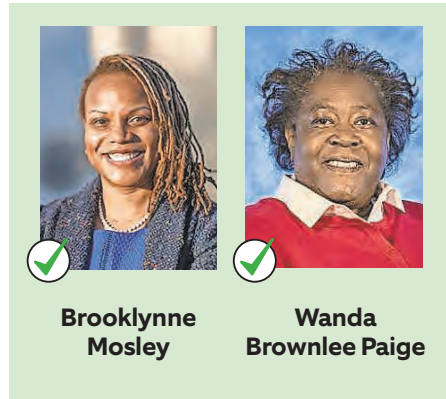
All but one of them were running as Democrats in heavily Republican Kansas.

## Primary Win All

Three of the new candidates filed for the House District 34 seat in Wyandotte County against incumbent Marvin Robinson. The newcomers were **Michele Watley**, **Kimberly DeWitt** and **Wanda Brownlee Paige**, who was already serving on the Kansas City School Board. Paige won that primary and a seat in the Kansas House since she didn't have an opponent in the general election.

**Ephran Taylor III** took on long-serving Sen. David Haley from Wyandotte County and lost in the primary. Like Paige, Haley won reelection without a Republican opponent.

**Brooklynne Mosley** competed in a three-way primary for the House District 46 seat in Lawrence. She won that race and also advanced to victory without a



**Brooklynne Mosley**

**Wanda Brownlee Paige**



**Aonya Kendrick Barnett**



**Carol Brewer**



**ShaMecha King Simms**



**Stacey Knoell**



**Keisha McClish Coutts**



**Jessica Porter**



**Keenen Smith**



**Vanessa Vaughn West**



**Eli Woody**

Republican opponent.

**RESULTS:** One new representative in a traditional House seat and one net gain in African Americans in the Kansas Legislature.

## Other Races

Here are the other nine candidates and their results in the general election.

In one of the closest losses of the evening, Johnson County candidate Vanessa Vaughn West made a strong bid for the Kansas House

District 39 seat in northern Johnson County, but came up short by less than 500 votes, with 48% of the vote.

Also in Johnson County, **Stacey Knoell** came up short again, with just 47% of the vote, in her second run for the Senate District 23 seat.

In far west Wyandotte County, **Eli Woody** lost his bid for House District 33.

In Topeka, **Jessica "J.P." Porter** lost in her bid for Kansas House District 50.

Also In Topeka, **ShaMecha King Simms** lost in the primary for the Senate District 9 seat. In an important gain for the Democrats, the winner of that primary, Patrick Schmidt, won in the general election.

In Wichita, **Carol Brewer** lost in her bid to represent House District 98 in south Wichita and **Aonya Kendrick Barnett** lost in her bid to unseat Black Republican **Patrick Penn**,

who is the only Black Republican in the Kansas Legislature.

**Keisha McClish Coutts** lost in her bid to represent House District 91, which covers parts of far north Wichita, Park City, Kechi, and Bel Aire.

Our sole new Republican candidate, **Keenen Smith**, lost in his bid to unseat Democratic incumbent Mary Ware in Senate District 25.

**RESULTS:** Zero Wins

# Legislators Returning in January

African-American Democrat incumbents ran unopposed for the Kansas Legislature.

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

Incumbents in six of the seven seats held by African-American Democrats in the Kansas Legislature ran in the general election unopposed.

**Sen. David Haley**, the longest-serving member of the Kansas Senate, had an opponent in the primary whom he easily defeated but did not have an opponent in the

general election.

Incumbent **Rep. Marvin Robinson**, who died just weeks after the August primary, lost in a four-way primary for the House District 35 seat he'd represented for just one term. The winner of that primary, Wanda Brownlee Paige, did not have an opponent in the general election.



**David Haley**



**Ford Carr**



**Oletha Faust Goudeau**



**KC Ohaebosim**

**Returning to the Kansas Legislature are:**  
Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, District 29, Wichita  
Rep. Ford Carr,

District 84, Wichita  
Rep. K.C. Ohaebosim, District 89, Wichita  
Sen. David Haley, District 4, Kansas City

Rep. Valdenia Winn, District 34, Kansas City  
Rep. Barbara Ballard, District 45, Lawrence

# A Majority of Missouri Amendments Pass

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

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

Four of six constitutional amendments and propositions on the ballot were approved. Here's how the vote went and briefly what each of the six mean to you.

## APPROVED: 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 will boost

the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026 and guarantee paid sick leave for private-sector workers. While labor advocates said the proposition was about basic dignity and living wages, business groups warned 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

## APPROVED: Amendment 2 – Sports Betting

Missouri joins the growing list of states embracing legal sports gambling. This measure should 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:

- Legalized sports betting for ages 21+ in Missouri
- 10% tax on gambling revenue is estimated to generate \$28 million annually for education.
- Regulated by Missouri Gaming Commission

## APPROVED: Amendment 3 – Abortion Rights

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:

- Establishes constitutional right to abortion until fetal viability – generally seen as the point at which a fetus can survive outside the womb on its own, or around 24 weeks, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- The amendment goes into effect in 30 days,
- The amendment also protects access to other reproductive health care, like birth control.
- Protects reproductive healthcare decisions from government interference

## FAILED: Amendment 5 – Lake of the Ozarks Casino

What was once a weekend getaway spot was proposed to become Missouri's newest gambling destination. The initiative, which was

See **AMENDMENTS** Page 15 →

## KC Area Race Results

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

### Jackson County Prosecutor

With incumbent Jean Peters Baker not seeking re-election, the race for Jackson County has been the most engaging race of the election season. However, from the primary through the general election, Democrat Melesa Johnson was the frontrunner.

After a competitive primary win over two highly qualified opponents, she faced off against Tracey Chappell, a Black Republican and defense attorney, in the general election.

The race presented voters with two candidates focused on reshaping the county's approach to criminal justice. Johnson emphasized preventative programs, while Chappell focused on prosecution priorities and transparency.

In what was a close race in heavily Democratic Jackson County, Johnson prevailed with 57% of the vote to Chappell's 43%.

### Missouri Unopposed Races

Mark Sharp ran unopposed for his last two-year term representing Missouri House District 37. He was first elected in 2019 and reaches his eight-year term limit at the end of 2027. His legislative record includes sponsoring Blair's Law, addressing celebratory gunfire, and strengthening witness protection programs.

Melissa Douglas was the sole candidate in House District 27 after Richard Brown reached his term limit. What an easy start for a first-time candidate. She brings to the position 17 years of experience as a KCPS homeless family liaison

and she holds bachelor's and master's degrees in business and public administration.

### Competitive Race Results










Jamie Johnson, who made history in 2022 as Platte County's first Black representative, faced a challenge from Air Force veteran and business owner Mike Jones. While Johnson's campaign focused on healthcare access and gun safety legislation, Jones emphasized tax cuts and law enforcement support.

It was an appealing message that helped him eke out a victory by just 200 votes in this Northlands race.

House District 36 in southern Jackson County featured an intriguing matchup. Democratic incumbent Anthony Ealy Jr., Missouri's youngest-ever state representative and Grandview's first Black representative, faced Vietnam veteran and former military chaplain Dave Thomas. Ealy, a practicing attorney and former aide to Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, championed public transit expansion and library funding, while Thomas ran on a Trumpian "America First" platform.

In a rather close race, Ealy prevailed with 61.5% of the vote.

The District 28 race centered in Raytown featured Democrat Donna Barnes seeking to succeed her term-limited husband, Jerome Barnes. A retired postal worker and Connection Point Church member, Barnes prioritized healthcare and senior tax relief, carrying forward her husband's community focus. It was enough to gain her a win over Republican opponent Steven Hinton with 68% of the vote.

				
<b>Donna Barnes</b>	<b>Melissa Douglas</b>	<b>Anthony Ealy</b>	<b>Michael Johnson</b>	<b>Tiffany Price</b>
				
<b>Mark Sharp</b>	<b>Yolanda Young</b>	<b>Barbara Washington</b>	<b>Jamie Johnson</b>	

In District 26, first-time candidate Democrat Tiffany Price was 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. She beat her Republican opponent, Anthony Zarantonello, who did not actively campaign, with 84% of the vote.

District 22's race featured Democratic incumbent Yolanda Young, an Ivanhoe neighborhood advocate and partner in the urban Young Family Farm, who faced off against Republican Mireya Barragan. Young won the seat in 2020 when Brandon Ellington was elected to the KC City Council. She won her race with 77.3% of the vote.

In District 23, incumbent Democrat Michael

Johnson, an insurance agent and Army veteran, faced Republican Daniel P. Contreras. Johnson, nephew of former Councilman Charles Hazley, has focused on urban internet access and environmental legislation; he won with 86% of the vote.

The Senate District 9 race covering eastern Jackson County put incumbent Democrat Barbara Washington against Republican Derron Black. Washington, an attorney and former House member, has sponsored nearly 50 bills on criminal justice reform. Black, a long-time activist, made his first Republican bid after several Democratic campaigns. Washington won with 79% of the vote.

## Visionary of Nicodemus Preservation Retires

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

Last month, more than 75 family members, friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate the legacy and 35-year career of Angela Bates. The gathering, on the Bates Family Farm, located one mile north of Nicodemus, was an appropriate place for the fourth-generation member of the Bates family and for the visionary who recognized Kansas' only remaining historic Black town was worth saving.

Bates founded the Nicodemus Historical Society in 1986 and her tireless efforts ensured preservation of the small city's history and safeguarding for future generations.

As president and executive director of the Nicodemus Historical Society, she spearheaded efforts to secure Nicodemus as a National Historic Site. She helped secure federal funding for historic preservation of five buildings in the city.

In addition, she secured Nicodemus as a National Historic Site and part of the National Park Service

The city's preserved community center serves as the National Park Service Visitor Center and has hosted thousands of visitors since its designation in 1996. Visitors learn about the resilience of the Black homesteaders who settled the city.

Among Bates' most prominent achievements was the creation of the Nicodemus Historical Society and Museum to collect, preserve, and interpret for the nation the rich history and epic stories of Nicodemus and its residents.

As part of that project, she collaborated with the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas and created, through donations, the Nicodemus Historical Society's collection of photos and



Angela Bates

archives.

As a prolific public speaker, Bates helped put Nicodemus on the map as a historic destination. Through organizations such as Kansas Humanities, she performs first-person characterizations of African-American women of the West as a way to educate, entertain and enlighten. She also co-created the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldier Association and performed with them throughout the nation.

For her work, she's received a litany of awards and recognitions.

Dr. Ashley Adams, descendant and board president of the Nicodemus Historical Society, said, "Angela has made a deep impact, not only within the Nicodemus descendant community but across the nation, honoring the legacy of our ancestors and keeping their memory alive. The ancestors are smiling, and we will continue to build upon what she has created for future generations to come."

In her retirement, she plans to republish her children's books, finish writing her memoirs, and write a sequel to her recent Nicodemus documentary film. She says she will also, finally, pursue her personal lifelong passion as an artist and oil painter.

## Civil Rights Icon Ruby Bridges Coming to Kansas for Walk to School Day

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

Many may not recall her name, but they recognize the photo and painting of the small girl being escorted into school accompanied by the U.S. Marshals. That girl, in her neat dress, shoes, white socks and a bow in her hair, was Ruby Bridges, who in 1960 walked past a White mob full of hatred to integrate her school in New Orleans.

A simple act of courage by a 6-year-old has grown into a day to encourage students to take part in their own forms of activism to bring an end to racism and all forms of bullying.

In her honor, since 2017, there's been a growing movement to recognize Nov. 14 as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, an annual day of dialogue to commemorate her historic steps.

This year, Bridges, who has made it her life mission to advocate on the values of tolerance respect and appreciation of all differences, will celebrate Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in Topeka with an in-person presentation from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thu., Nov. 14, at Washburn University's White Concert Hall.

In addition, to help spread the conversation about ending racism and bullying across the state, 10 remote live streams of the event will be available to schools across Kansas. Additional info on school registrations for the in-person event and the remote live streams can be found at [www.RubyBridgesinKS24.org](http://www.RubyBridgesinKS24.org).

Districts, schools, clubs, church/community groups can sign up to participate in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, as they see fit, even if their school is not part of the Topeka event. There are no "rules," but plenty of suggestions for a "Day of Dialogue," if they need help getting started.

"The primary mission of this event is to inspire youth through Ruby Bridges' story, promoting unity, bravery, and the power of young



Artist Norman Rockwell painted this famous picture "The Problem We All Live With." It was published in the Jan. 14, 1964, issue of Look magazine.



You may remember the 6-year-old Ruby Bridges featured in historic 1960 Civil Rights photos and the Norman Rockwell painting.

people to drive positive change," says Kansas state Rep. Valdenia Winn.

"We aim for students to leave the event feeling empowered and more deeply connected to Kansas history and the stories that reflect resilience, progress, and the importance of standing up for what's right," adds Winn.

### Why Topeka, Kansas?

In 2023, Kansas celebrated its first Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day with a proclamation by Gov. Laura Kelly and participation in

seven counties.

Recognizing the connection between Bridges' and Topeka's history with school desegregation, organizers saw a unique opportunity to ask Bridges to celebrate Walk to School Day this year in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Topeka Board of Education.

With leadership from state Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, the Kansas Legislature passed a resolution and joined students around the state to extend an invitation to Bridges to "Come to Kansas."

And Ruby Bridges said YES!

### Sponsorship Support Needed

Steering committee members for the event include state Rep. Barbara W. Ballard, former state School Board member Carolyn Campbell, state Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau; Dr. Beryl New, state Rep. Mari-Lynn Poskin; state Rep. and KCK School Board member Dr. Valdenia Winn; and former Wichita City Council member LaVonta Williams.

A variety of sponsorship packages are available. For more info, go to <https://bit.ly/3UjLOUG> or contact Rep. Poskin at [info@RubyBridgesinKS24.org](mailto:info@RubyBridgesinKS24.org).

Event sponsors will also have the opportunity to meet with Ruby Bridges following the event.

# AARP and Urban League of Kansas Partner for Digital Elder Computer Skills Training

By Voice News Service

Are you not sure how to Zoom or Google Docs or if you still need basic training on using your computer or smartphone, you're in luck.

AARP, in partnership with AT&T and the Urban League of Kansas are offering free Digital Elder Training classes, designed especially for individuals who are age 50 and older.

The classes aim to enhance the digital skills of seniors, enabling them to navigate the online world with confidence

and ease.

Classes are every Thursday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Best of all, the classes are free and you don't have to have your own computer. You'll have access to computer's in the Urban League's digital lab.

Classes are offered at the Urban League's offices at 2918 E. 9th St. Wichita

Space is limited, so interested participants are encouraged to register early to secure a spot. Register online at: <https://wkf.ms/4dxVmCa> or reach out to Kisha Bell at (316) 202-5271 or via email at [kisha.bell@urbanleagueks.org](mailto:kisha.bell@urbanleagueks.org).

November 14 – Protecting Yourself from Fraud  
November 21 – Social Media  
December 5 – Online shopping  
December 12 – Intro to Virtual Meetings (i.e. zoom, teams, etc.)  
January 9, 2025 – Accessing Healthcare through Telehealth  
January 16, 2025 – Basic emails and calendars  
January 23, 2025 – Google docs and apps  
January 30, 2025 – Using Search engines  
February 6, 2025 – Navigating websites  
February 13, 2025 – Intro to Microsoft Word  
February 20, 2025 – Intro to Microsoft Excel  
February 27, 2025 – Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint  
March 6, 2025 – Intro to Canva for Graphic Design



# Conversations With Ron Holt Event Offers Young and Old a Chance to Grow

Event will also recognize for The Voice's 2024 Corporate Standouts

By Voice News Service

From meter reader to chairman and CEO of a major utility company is an incredible trip up a corporate ladder, but for an African-American man, whose journey up the ladder began during segregation, his was a rise that was so outrageous that it was beyond even imagining.

However, this is the story of Ron Holt, who The Community Voice recognized last month as a Corporate Trailblazer is a story that offers lessons for everyone, no matter their stage or current position in life.

Ron has agreed to share his story before a live audience of friends, fans and young upstarts

during an event "Conversations with Ron Holt, to be held on Mon., Nov. 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Leadership Center, 325 E. Douglas, Wichita. The event is free and open to the public but reservations are requested because space is limited.

To RSVP use the QR code on the ad on page 3 or go to <https://bit.ly/3YBoMLg>

Ron will be interviewed by Junetta Everett, another corporate trailblazer, who recognizes how Holt opened doors for her and others. The conversation will be followed by a question and answer segment, open for public participation.

In addition to the conversation and recognition

of Holt, The Voice will also recognize its five 2024 Corporate Standouts: Bradley Dyer, Jr., Ricki Ellison, LaShonda Ganes, Moji Rosson and John Rolfe. If you missed reading our Corporate Standout special section, you can learn more about their corporate achievements at a <https://bit.ly/3Ayu29q>.

This event is co-sponsored by The Kansas Leadership Center, The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Community Voice.



# Tabernacle Bible Church Expands Community Education Initiative with Parent University

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

In a Northeast Wichita neighborhood where families struggle to find educational resources, Tabernacle Bible Church has transformed itself into a beacon of learning. The church, which successfully ran a summer learning program, now takes on another challenge: equipping parents to become better educational partners for their children.

Tabernacle Bible Church will host a Parent University event on Nov. 16, packing the morning with workshops that bridge the gap between home and school.

This free community program builds on the Tabernacle's successful participation in the Wichita Collective Impact program,

where they joined four other locations to offer summer learning programs in the 67214 ZIP code. During the morning sessions, each participant will select three workshops from the following options:

- Little Learners, Big Beginnings: Laying the Foundation for Birth to Five
- Innovate, Create, Educate: Careers through Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Unlocking Literacy: Strategies for Improving Reading Skills in All Learners (K-5)
- Unlocking Literacy: Strategies for Improving Reading Skills in All Learners (6-12)
- Time to Thrive: Building

Strong Study Habits and Organization Skills (K-5)  
• Time to Thrive: Building Strong Study Habits and Organization Skills (6-12)  
• Ready, Set, Succeed: Preparing Students for College and Beyond

The workshops span every educational stage, from early childhood through college preparation. Organizers have tailored sessions to specific grade levels, ensuring parents receive age-appropriate strategies and resources for their children's needs.

The keynote speaker will discuss the Department of Justice and Wichita Public Schools settlement over a provided lunch. The day concludes with a Community Resource Fair, linking families to additional support services.

These educational initiatives serve crucial needs in the 67214 ZIP code, where families face significant economic challenges. The area is statistically the second-most impoverished ZIP code in Kansas, spurring organizations like Tabernacle Bible Church to step forward with essential educational resources and support.

While the Parent University is free to attend, organizers ask participants to register in advance. The church will provide a continental breakfast and lunch to all attendees.

**Parent University**

Nov. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tabernacle Church 1817 N. Volutsia, Wichita

Register for Free at: [bit.ly/4fcaJBQ](https://bit.ly/4fcaJBQ)

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# Once Unpopular, Affordable Care Act Opens Enrollment for 11th Year

By Bonita Gooch  
Editor-in-Chief

Since its first open enrollment in 2013, perceptions about the Affordable Care Act have become a part of the expected norms for health care insurance.

People who were sick in the early 2000s and needed health insurance can remember how difficult that was. A pre-existing condition could price you out of or prevent you from getting insurance altogether. If you had a job with insurance, you wouldn't dare leave, because your preexisting condition wouldn't be covered.

While there are still "Obama Care" – as it was originally tagged – haters around, popularity of certain ACA provisions are especially popular, including protections for

pre-existing conditions, subsidies to reduce premiums, and allowing young adults to stay on their parents' plans until age 26. These elements have bipartisan support, even among some who may not favor the ACA overall.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2025

Enrollment for 2025 insurance opens Nov. 1 and runs until Jan. 15. To have coverage start on Jan. 1, individuals must sign up by Dec. 15. If you enroll between Dec. 16 and Jan. 15, coverage will begin on Feb. 1.

**Eligibility and Renewals:** If you're already enrolled, you should review your coverage options, as plans, premiums, and out-of-pocket costs can change yearly. Renewal is often automatic, but checking

for updates in benefits or costs is beneficial.

**Financial Assistance and Subsidies:** Most enrollees qualify for subsidies that lower monthly premiums. The American Rescue Plan and Inflation Reduction Act extended subsidies, which remain available. If your income has changed, be sure to update it to maximize savings.

**Expanded Coverage Options:** More insurers have entered the marketplace in recent years, offering more choices. This might result in competitive pricing and a better range of coverage.

**Medicaid Coverage:** The ACA is only available for individuals and families with income above 100% of poverty. Those with lower incomes may qualify for Medicaid in Missouri, where citizens

voted to expand Medicaid coverage for individuals with income up to 100% of poverty. In Kansas, where Medicaid has not been expanded, there still exists a gap in available insurance coverage between the very-low-income level that qualifies individuals for Medicaid to the income level (100% of poverty) that qualifies them for ACA coverage.

**Health and Wellness Incentives:** Some ACA plans offer wellness programs and perks, such as access to telehealth, discounted gym memberships, and health screenings at no additional cost.

**Special Enrollment Periods:** Outside of the main open enrollment period, people may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) due to life events like marriage, birth, job loss, or a move.

Scan for more information!




[www.wichita.edu/vub](http://www.wichita.edu/vub)



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903 S. Edgemoor St.  
Wichita, KS 67218



(316) 973-4000  
[usd259.org](https://www.usd259.org)

## WICHITA

**Mon., Nov. 11, 9 am - 5 pm: Veterans Day at SCZ.** Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 W. Zoo Blvd. Complimentary admission to all military personnel and their immediate families. To receive **FREE** admission, visitors must show a military or veteran ID, discharge papers, or other official identification. Families of deployed military personnel must show an active-duty ID.

**Mon., Nov. 11, 10 am - 5 pm: Veterans Get in Free,** Museum of World Treasures, 835 E 1st. For military personnel (with ID) and their families. Step into history with our captivating military exhibits, where stories of bravery and resilience come to life. From ancient battles to modern heroes, Museum of World Treasures is a tribute to the strength and courage of those who have served. **FREE**

**Mon. Nov. 11, 2:15 pm: Veterans Day Celebration,** St Joseph's Catholic School, 139 S Millwood. Veterans are invited to attend the ceremony and the small reception. If you cannot attend the ceremony, but would like to honor a veteran, please email the veteran's name and photo to [mdeters@stjosephwichita.com](mailto:mdeters@stjosephwichita.com). **FREE**

**Wed., Nov. 13, 6:30 - 9:30 pm: Blue Note Night** at Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N. Mosley. Spektrum Muzik, an authorized Blue Note vinyl dealer, will be having a pop-up at Walker's. Blue Note records will be introduced and played, some of which will be onsite to purchase. **FREE**

**Thu., Nov. 14, 2:30 - 4 pm: Canva Workshop,** Wichita Public Library, 711 W. 2nd St. Learn about Canva, a graphic design tool on the web that uses drag-and-drop templates. Register by calling 316-261-8500. **FREE**

**Fri., Nov. 15, 6:30 pm: Film Tribute to Gordon Parks,** University United Methodist Church, 2220 N. Yale. A tribute to the life and work of Gordon Parks, featuring a screening of one of his films. An event by A.R.I.S.E. COST: \$10 available at Roseline's, 5025 E 21st St (off Oliver), or from any ARISE member

**Sat., Nov. 16, 1 pm: Treasurers of the Midwest Genealogical & Historical Society,** Wichita Advance Learning Library, 711 W. 2nd St. Learn about using our library: more than 10,000 items from around the country, a focus on Kansas and Sedgwick County (these are original courthouse records!), vertical files have more than 2500 surnames files and binders from local genealogists, special interest groups, and volunteer projects. **FREE**

**Sat., Nov. 16 (10 am) - Nov. 17 (5 pm): Gingerbread Village,** Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean. Each ticket includes a gingerbread house kit, dedicated time to build and decorate your sweet structure and museum admission to visit the exhibits. COST \$6+

**Sat., Nov. 16, 10 am - 3 pm: Native Art Market,** Mid-America All-Indian Museum,



650 N. Seneca. Buy art directly from local Native artists at this market. **FREE**

**Sun., Nov. 17, 1 - 4 pm: Gowns & Crowns Pageant Workshop,** Evergreen Recreation Center, 2700 N. Woodland. An exciting and comprehensive Pageant Workshop. This workshop will cover everything you need to shine on stage: Perfect your Pageant Walk, Master Interview Skills, Excel in the Fitness/Swimsuit Competition. Don't miss this opportunity to boost your confidence, enhance your skills, and meet fellow pageant enthusiasts. Sponsored by Miss ICT & ICT Teen Pageant and Denise Colborn. **FREE**

**Sun., Nov. 17, 5:30 pm: ARISE Annual November Concert "Spirit of Unity".** WSU CAC Campus Theater 1845 N Fairmount. Limited seating, for admission tickets contact Gerald Norwood 316-258-2749 or pick Roseline's 5025 E 21st. **FREE**

**Mon., Nov. 18, 10 - 10:45 am: Stearman Plane Dedication,** Ruffin Building, 100 N. Broadway. Dedication of the 1934 Stearman Kaydet. This historic and iconic airplane served during the early days of World War II, and was a primary trainer for the Tuskegee Airmen. Manufactured in Wichita, and beautifully restored by KAM volunteers, this is a fitting piece for Wichita. **FREE**

**Tue., Nov. 19, 6 - 9 pm: Kansas Aviation Honor Awards,** Kansas Aviation Museum, 3350 S. George Washington Blvd. Featuring Gen. Richard Myers, retired 4-star general, Joint Chiefs of Staff member and Kansas State University president. Enjoy hearing from him as well as our inductees. With special guest Charlie Moon. <https://bit.ly/4hz8yd1> COST \$175

**Fri., Nov. 22, 8 pm: Keith Sweat's "Make it Last Forever Tour"** - Live at Century II, 225 W. Douglas. A night of music, love & soul. Keith Sweat featuring LeVelle & Sunshine Anderson. COST \$59+ [selectaseat.com/sweet](https://selectaseat.com/sweet).

**Sat., Nov. 23, 9 am - 8 pm: 10th Annual Midian Shrine "Festival" of Trees.** Midian Shrine Center, 140 N. Topeka. Great way to jumpstart your holiday season. Enter raffles to win your favorite tree & all its swag, Sweet Shoppe to tickle your sweet tooth, vendors to get some Christmas shopping done, and Claustropolitans to warm you up. COST \$5

**Sat., Nov. 23, 8 - 10:30 pm: Dr. Wayne Goins Jazz Quartet,** Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N. Mosley. Rich harmony, intricate rhythms, and soulful improvisation for a night of

unparalleled jazz brilliance that captivates the soul. COST \$15

**Sat., Jan. 18, 11 am - 1 pm: Sister Circle Brunch - "How to Thrive in'25,"** Petroleum Club 100 N Broadway - 9th Floor. A panel featuring notable women. For more info, contact [cm@cmeleadup.com](mailto:cm@cmeleadup.com) or 316-512-1190.

## KANSAS CITY

**Wed., Nov. 13, 6:30 - 8 pm: Vivid Visions "The Future of Kansas City Jazz"** Folly Theater, 300 West 12th St. Join us for a night of forward-thinking panel discussion about the future of Kansas City's vibrant jazz music scene. **FREE**

**Fri., Nov. 15, 6 - 9 pm: Wine Not: A Smooth Jazz Experience,** Bliss Books & Wine, 3502 Gillham Rd. Nneoma Lanea & John Hudson are setting the mood with a night of smooth jazz at Bliss Books & Wine. Don't ask why, ask yourself wine not? COST \$10

**Sat., Nov. 16, 8 - 10 pm: The Monarchs Ball,** Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Rd. Celebrating Kansas City's Black Baseball Royalty. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) invites you to attend the induction of John Mayberry, Hal McRae, Amos Otis, Frank White and Willie Wilson into the Hall of Game. COST \$100+

**Sat., Nov. 16, 10 pm - 3 am: ALLURE,** 3421 Main St. Get ready to vibe to the hottest Afrobeats tunes with DJ GIO & DJ SWART. Afrobeats, brought to you by talented DJs and performers. COST 0+

**Wed., Nov. 20, 3:30 - 6 pm: 2024 State of Downtown,** Origin Hotel, 1001 Riverfront Dr. The State of Downtown is a celebration of downtown development, economic growth, art and culture in Kansas City. COST \$30+

**Thu., Nov. 21, 6 - 8 pm: RISE Business Awards Celebration,** American Jazz Museum, 1616 E. 18th St. Get ready to celebrate the successes and achievements of local businesses at the RISE Business Awards Celebration. Celebrate Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises that align with Rotary's 4-way test: Is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, does it build goodwill & better friendship, is it beneficial to all? COST \$25

**Sat., Nov. 23, 8 pm - 1 am: The All Black Everything X'perience,** Elevation Grille, 6141 Blue Ridge Blvd. Come dressed in your finest all-black attire, ready to shine, celebrate, and create unforgettable memories. Sagittarius, this night is for you. An unforgettable night hosted by Tez Carter & Tony Keith with vibes by DJ D-Shot bringing the heat all night long. COST \$10 [Sagkc.eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com)

**Wed., Nov. 27, 8:30 am: Pre-Thanksgiving Brunch & Concert,** Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th St. This event brings together great music,

See **CALENDAR** Page 15 →



ANGELICA LOUIS

## The Black Repertory Theatre of KC Presents: "Hip Hop Cinderella"

The Black Repertory Theatre of Kansas City, fresh off winning the prestigious Paul Robeson Award, is kicking off its new season with an imaginative take on a classic fairy tale. "Hip Hop Cinderella" launches audiences into an intergalactic adventure where the traditional story gets a fresh spin. Set on planet Zolla, teenage Cinderella and her rapping robot companion, Runka, face off against a social-media-obsessed stepfamily while competing in an epic Hip Hop Ball to restore the galaxy's groove. This family-friendly musical features a talented cast of six, bringing this space-age story to life through dynamic hip-hop numbers.

### Hip Hop Cinderella

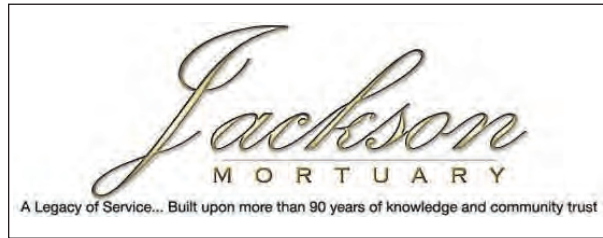
Gem Theatre, 1615 E. 18th St., KCMO  
Nov. 21 - Dec. 8

Thu.-Sat.: 7:30 p.m.

Sun. Matinees: 3 p.m.

Length: 65 minutes with intermission  
Tickets: \$30/\$15 students at [BRTKC.org](https://BRTKC.org)

No performances during Thanksgiving week and Dec. 6.



**Auline Hancock Ray, 104**

Sept. 29, 1920 - Nov. 2, 2024  
Service will be held at 1 pm on Nov 13 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E 13th.

**Armelia Leequilla Jones-Posey, 58**

Dec. 31, 1965 - Oct. 28, 2024  
Service will be held at 11 am on Sat. Nov 16 at Greater Pentecostal COGIC, 730 N. Cleveland

**Cornelius R. Carter Jr., 76**

Aug. 9, 1948 - Oct. 26, 2024  
Service will be held at 11 am on Nov 15 at New Testament Non-Denominational Church, 250 N Meridian

**Roy Hughes, 72**

May 4, 1952 - Oct. 26, 2024  
Service was held Nov. 8 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

**Willie Wilkerson, 78**

July 14, 1946 - Oct. 25, 2024  
Service will be held at 1 p.m. Thu., Nov. 14, at Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, 1502 E. 17th St N.

**Bruce Charles Willoughby, 64**

July 28, 1960 - Oct. 18, 2024  
Service was held Oct. 31 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

**AMENDMENTS, from Page 10 ↓**

being pushed by Bally Entertainment, failed with 52% of Missouri voters opposing it.

**Key Points:**

- Would have authorized a casino on Osage River at Lake of the Ozarks
- Would have Included hotel, convention center and restaurants
- Generate \$14.3M annual gaming tax revenue dedicated to early childhood literacy

**FAILED: Amendment 6 – Court Fees**

Amendment 6 would have allowed “costs and fees” to be added to judicial administration to fund the “salaries and benefits” of various law enforcement and law administration officials.

A similar charge was deemed unconstitutional in 2021 by the Missouri Supreme Court. A passed Amendment 6 would have allowed the legislature to reinstate those fees. The NAACP opposed the amendment, saying it would encourage

writing more tickets to help fund the pensions system.

Both opponents and supporters of the amendment have agreed the system needs funding but disagreed on the resolution.

**APPROVED: Amendment 7 – Voting Restrictions**

This was a purposely misleading amendment that limits its voting rights for Missouri citizens as well as non-citizens. The “ballot candy” on this amendment, which was pushed as a way to get this amendment passed, was a measure that doesn’t accomplish much – if anything.

The “candy,” or part one of the amendment, was promoted as a way to keep non-citizens from voting in Missouri. However, Missouri law already made non-citizen voting illegal. This measure just makes existing law part of the state constitution.

The second part of the measure makes 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 leads to less partisan and more moderate representation.

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

Approval of this

amendment means non-citizens can’t vote, but Missouri voters can never explore implementing ranked-choice voting. From conversations with a number of individuals, almost all of them did not understand they were voting to limit their rights.

**St. Paul**  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
“The Church In The City With The City At Heart”  
1756 N Piatt Ave • Wichita, KS 67214  
316 265-5881  
stpaulwichita@gmail.com • stpaulamewichita.com  
**In- Person and Virtual Worship Experience**  
**Sundays at 11AM**  
f LIVE

**Join us each Sunday in person @ 10 am & 5 pm for our Worship Services or online @ 10am @**  
[www.chisholmtrailcofc.org/live](http://www.chisholmtrailcofc.org/live)  
**Bible Classes for all ages on Wednesdays @ 7 pm**  
**Chisholm Trail Church of Christ**  
5833 E. 37th St. Wichita, KS 67220  
316-683-1313  
Barry L. Gainey, Minister

**CALENDAR, from Page 14 ↓**

delicious food, and community spirit, all while supporting a worthy cause. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Kemp McGee Arts Culture & Community Foundation and their HBCU Scholarship, helping fund community programs and support students pursuing higher education at HBCUs. COST \$40 <https://bit.ly/3UHTjEX>

**Thu., Nov. 28, 7:30 - 11:30 pm: TK Soul Live.** Kansas City Scottish Rite, 1330 Linwood Blvd. Performances by Skeet and The Oasis band. COST \$40

**Thu., Nov. 28, 9 am - 2 pm: Daddy’s On Duty Thanksgiving Day Breakfast Dance,** 6240

Raytown Trafficway. Thanksgiving just like back in the day. Good music, good food, (breakfast buffet) and a Good Time. \$25.

**Fri., Nov. 29, 10 pm:**

**Fade To Blac - The All Black Affair,** BLVD Nights, 2805 Southwest Blvd. The biggest All-Black Affair in the Midwest. COST \$15 up. Online.

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**  
IN THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF  
RALPHINA K PERRY (Petitioner)  
and  
SWARAY S PERRY (Respondent)  
Case No. SG24-DM006266  
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 23 OF KANSAS STATUTES  
ANNOTATED NOTICE OF SUIT THE STATE OF KANSAS TO:  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in the District Court of Sedgwick County, Kansas by Petitioner, praying for an absolute decree of divorce, and you are hereby required to plead to such petition on or before the 23th day of DECEMBER 2024, in said court at Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.  
RALPHINA PERRY  
Petitioner

**MBE / WBE / VBE INVITATION TO BID**  
JEDUNN 100 YEARS  
JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding:  
**Jackson County Detention Center/ Bid Package 6, 7000 East US Highway 40, KCMO 64129**  
and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor. In particular, we are soliciting M/W/VBE Subcontractor/Supplier Bid Proposals for the following scope(s) of work including, but not limited to:  
• Blinds  
We would appreciate your indication of the scope of work you will include in your proposal by:  
**November 6, 2024.**  
Final proposals must be submitted to our office by:  
**November 15, 2024 at 3:00PM**  
JE Dunn invites M/W/VBE subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested.  
Questions should be directed to Michelle McNitt, Project Engineer, by phone at 816-426-8379, or by email at [michelle.mcnitt@jedunn.com](mailto:michelle.mcnitt@jedunn.com).  
EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity



A rendering of the Winter Wonderland on Ice.

## Soul of Santa Brings First Ice Skating Rink to 18th & Vine District

Winter Wonderland on Ice promises affordable family fun while bringing more visitors to the district.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

This holiday season, Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine Jazz District will welcome its first-ever ice skating rink. The Soul of Santa Winter Wonderland on Ice opens Nov. 15 at 2000 Vine Street, offering a new winter attraction that aims to bring more visitors to the area while providing affordable family entertainment.

"We want to bring joy and happiness to the residents along with giving something for people with disabilities and children to enjoy," says Soul of Santa founder Tucker Lott. "It's not just for [18th & Vine] residents; it's for the whole city."

The 50-person capacity rink will operate through Jan. 2, with public skating sessions available Friday through Sunday. General admission costs \$10 per hour for adults and children five and older, while children four and under skate free. Skate rental is included with admission, though visitors can bring their own skates.

Beyond the ice, visitors can



Tucker Lott, founder of the Soul of Santa Do Good Foundation.

enjoy refreshments from various vendors, including hot chocolate served by Seven Brew and the Salvation Army. Local Black-owned food trucks and vendors, including pizza from The Combine, will offer warm treats.

For Lott, the skating rink represents more than just winter recreation. It's part of his broader vision for economic development and community engagement in the district.

"For the past several years, my eye has been on how to improve foot traffic in the district," says Lott. "Another part of the drive for doing this is to connect businesses, especially minority businesses, in the inner core of the city."

The rink's location at 2000 Vine Street was strategically chosen to create synergy with neighboring businesses, including Missouri's first Black-owned brewing company, Vine Street Brewing. This collaborative approach reflects

Lott's philosophy of community development.

"I've always been a big proponent of small businesses working together for good," says Lott. "That's what the Soul of Santa vision is all about: spreading good."

This new winter attraction builds upon the Soul of Santa Foundation's existing community initiatives. Since 2018, when Lott introduced the first Christmas tree lighting ceremony to 18th & Vine, the foundation has expanded its presence in the district through various holiday events and year-round community service programs.

The Winter Wonderland on Ice represents another first for both the foundation and the district, adding to Kansas City's growing list of winter attractions while creating new opportunities for community gathering and economic growth in the Jazz District.

### Soul of Santa Winter Wonderland on Ice

2000 Vine Street,  
KCMO  
Nov. 15 to Jan. 2  
Private Group Rentals  
Tue. - Thu.  
Fri. 4 - 10 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sun. Noon - 6 p.m.  
Tickets at  
TheSoulOfSanta.org

## Who Should Be PERSON OF THE YEAR?

- Our community is better because of him or her
- 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.



Click to nominate someone or learn more click

Nominations Open Thru Monday, Dec. 16



THE VOICE

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Since 1994, The Community Voice has been dedicated to covering stories from underrepresented communities.

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