

THE VOICE

A trusted voice from the community's perspective

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW?

PAGE 19



Jenay Manley
Longtime Organizer Now
Leads KC Tenants **Page 5**

Dockum Sit-in Ballet
Wichita Dancers to Bring Historic
Protest to Life in April **Page 18**



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THE VOICE

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We're Going on Spring Break

Instead of our regular two-week cycle, we'll return in three weeks, giving our team time to work on special projects and enjoy a few days off.



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We Can't Win a War We Ignore

By **Aswad Walker**
Defender Network

There's a dangerous lie circulating among us: That what Black people are experiencing right now is just another rough political season, another pendulum swing we can ride out by keeping our heads down and minding our own individual business.

That lie is deadly.

What's unfolding isn't random, happenstance, or temporary. It's a coordinated, escalating assault—across law, politics, culture, education, business, and media.

Citizenship Under Attack

Black people legally registered to vote have been purged from state and county voter rolls by the hundreds of thousands.

The legal and political apparatus designed to protect us from discrimination in housing, banking, employment, and education has been systematically dismantled.

The very tools Black people relied upon to challenge racist and illegal practices have been blunted or removed. This isn't oversight. It's strategy.

Blocking Black Advancement

Moves to earn advanced degrees, fund businesses, and scale professional careers are being met with new barriers at every turn.

Anti-DEI directives have opened the floodgates for mass firings of Black professionals, with more than 300,000 Black women alone losing their jobs.

This is not about merit. It's about removing Black



Just because we ignore the attacks doesn't mean they're not doing damage. So, we'd do well to push back against the ongoing attacks on our well-being. CREDIT: CANVAAI

excellence so white mediocrity can continue to rule the day.

Erasing Our History and Future

Education, long recognized as both a battleground and a lifeline, has been placed under siege.

Black contributions to U.S. and world history are being erased from classrooms.

That "whitewashing" tactic is old, and those deploying it know exactly what they're doing, and why.

Policing, Deportation, and Occupation

The assault does not stop at policy; it has teeth. ICE agents have arrested and deported countless law-abiding U.S. citizens and immigrants who followed legal procedures, many of them African Americans and Black immigrants from African and Caribbean nations.

Militarized police forces are being deployed, giving off more than a vibe of "occupation."

Silencing the Truth-Tellers

And on cue, Black journalists, tasked with telling uncomfortable truths, are under attack. The arrests of Don Lemon and Georgia Fort



What's unfolding isn't random, happenstance, or temporary. It's a coordinated, escalating assault."

ASWAD WALKER

are meant to warn, threaten, and scare.

Silence is being enforced, not requested. The message they want us to take from this: resistance is futile.

The Cost of Complacency

In less than a year, Blackfolk have experienced the erosion of more than 60 years of Civil

Rights-era victories.

Yet, for many of us, life continues as business as usual: go to work, go home, scroll, shop, and hope things blow over. But what is happening around us and to us is neither normal nor temporary.

History is clear: change has never come simply with the passage of time, and ignoring danger has never produced safety.

What Fighting Back Actually Means

If anything is going to change for the better, it will not be because help finally arrives on someone else's timetable. It will be because we act.

By "we," I mean Black individuals doing their part within organizations, institutions, and communities to create the structures, protections, goods, and services we need.

No movement moves unless people first recognize that a war is already being waged against them.

If the assault on Black humanity is ever to stop—if Black advancement and thriving are to become concrete again—it will be because we rebuild our walls: unity and community, cooperation, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, creativity, purpose, and faith. These are not abstract ideals. They are survival strategies. They are the principles that have carried us through every previous storm.

Ignoring a war has never brought anyone victory. Only recognizing it, organizing for it, and fighting back gives us a chance at the tomorrow our ancestors envisioned, and the future our children deserve.

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CONTACTS:
Editor-in-Chief/Press Releases
Bonita Gooch
Wichita | press@tcvpub.com
KC | cvoicekc@tcvpub.com
Press Releases: press@tcvpub.com
Advertising: adcopy@tcvpub.com

Contributing Writers:
Tyjuan Davis | Wichita
tdavis@tcvpub.com
Advertising Sales:
Cornell Hill | hill@tcvpub.com
Office Administration:
Elaine Guillory | guillory@tcvpub.com

Illinois Democrats Move Closer to Sending Another Black Woman to Senate

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

Illinois voters delivered a series of decisive results in Tuesday's primary elections, putting Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton on a clear path toward the U.S. Senate while closing the door on former Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. and his attempt at a political comeback.

Stratton's victory in the Democratic primary for the Senate seat being vacated by longtime Sen. Dick Durbin positions her as the likely next senator from Illinois in a state where Democrats dominate statewide elections. If she wins in November, Stratton would become one

of the few Black women ever elected to the U.S. Senate.

The race drew national attention and millions in outside spending. Stratton defeated two sitting members of Congress — Raja Krishnamoorthi and Robin Kelly — in what had been one of the most competitive Democratic primaries in the country.

Her campaign was strongly supported by Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, her longtime political ally. Political observers say the outcome also underscores Pritzker's growing influence within Illinois Democratic politics, as his backing and financial support helped propel Stratton past well-funded opponents.

Stratton will face Republican candidate Don Tracy in November, but Illinois' strong Democratic leaning makes her the early favorite to succeed Durbin.

Jackson Comeback Falls Short

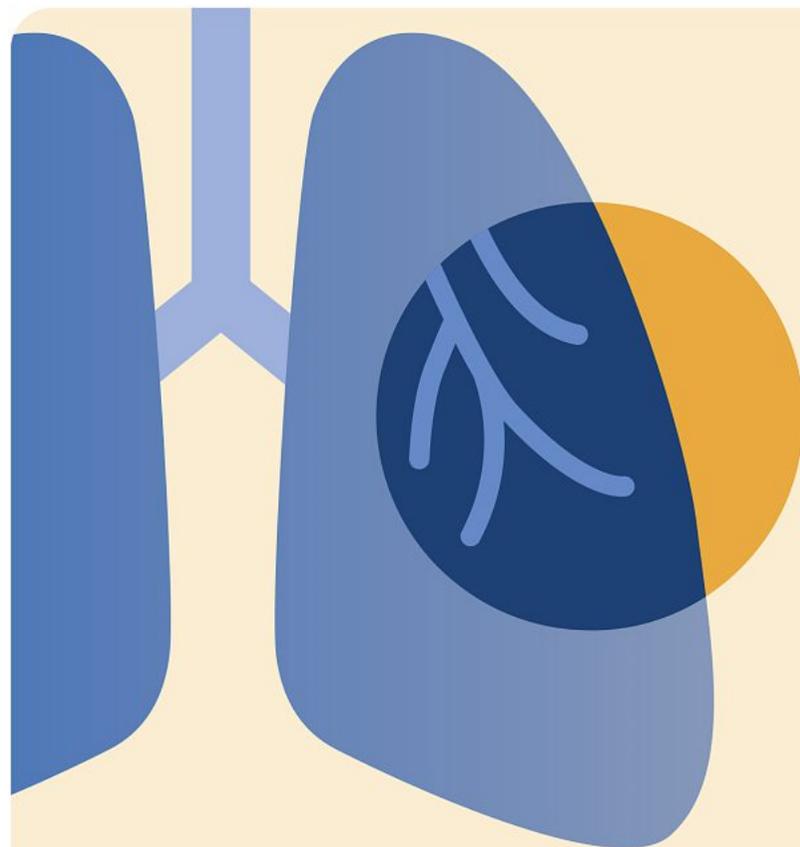
In another closely watched race, voters rejected the attempted political comeback of former Congressman Jackson.

Jackson sought to return to Washington by running for the Democratic nomination in Illinois' 2nd Congressional District, but he was defeated by Donna Miller.

See STRATTON Page 8 →



Illinois Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton won the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate Tuesday, while former Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.'s attempt at a political comeback fell short in a Chicago-area congressional race.



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Kansas City Lawmakers Warn Missouri Tax Plan Could Shift Burden to Working Families

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

A proposal moving through the Missouri legislature could dramatically change how the state collects taxes — and some Kansas City lawmakers say the plan could shift more of the cost of government onto working families.

The proposal would gradually eliminate Missouri's income tax and replace it with a broader sales tax that could apply to many goods and services that currently are not taxed.

Supporters say the change would modernize Missouri's tax system and eventually reduce taxes on income. But Democratic lawmakers from Kansas City — including State Reps. Mark Sharp and Michael Johnson and Sen. Barbara Washington — say the plan could raise new taxes in places Missourians aren't used to paying them.

How the Proposal Would Work

Missouri currently collects taxes in two main ways: through income taxes and through sales taxes on most goods.

The proposal would allow lawmakers to expand the sales tax to **many goods and services that are currently untaxed**, while gradually reducing the income tax until it eventually disappears.

The proposal focuses on eliminating Missouri's **individual income tax — the tax people pay on their wages**. Income taxes on **corporations, estates and trusts would remain in place**.

Supporters say that would allow workers to keep more of their paychecks. Critics argue that replacing billions in lost income-tax revenue would likely require expanding sales taxes to many more goods and services.

That means lawmakers could potentially apply sales taxes to services such as haircuts, plumbing work, auto repairs, legal services and other professional services.



Kansas City State Reps. Mark Sharp and Michael Johnson are speaking out against a Missouri proposal to eliminate the state income tax and expand sales taxes on goods and services.

It could also open the door to sales taxes on things that currently have special protections — including gasoline — though some supporters say they do not intend to tax fuel.

For many Missourians, that would represent a major shift in how they experience taxes. People who are used to paying sales tax mainly on retail purchases could begin seeing taxes added to many everyday services.

Why Some Lawmakers Oppose the Plan

Rep. Mark Sharp said he worries the change would move more of the tax burden onto people who already struggle financially.

“The shift in the tax burden to the sales tax disproportionately affects working families,” Sharp said during a community meeting. “They’ll be spending a larger share of their income on everyday goods and services.”

Johnson also explained how eliminating income taxes could change the way Missourians contribute to state revenue.

Right now, income taxes are tied to how much people earn.

“If some of y’all out there make \$400,000 a year, people like me might make \$40,000 a year,” Johnson said. “They’re going to look at a percentage of your income and determine your contribution.”

If income taxes disappear, Johnson said the system would look very different.

“I make \$40,000, another person makes \$400,000, another person makes \$2 million — we’re all going to pay taxes at the gas station, at

grocery stores and everywhere else.”

Johnson described the proposal as shifting Missouri toward a tax structure that could hit lower-income households harder.

“It’s a tax that hurts the people who make the least money and gives the biggest discount to those who make the most money,” he said.

Why Some Lawmakers Say Missouri Is Different

Supporters of eliminating income taxes often point to states such as Tennessee or Texas that rely heavily on sales taxes instead.

But Sharp and Johnson argue Missouri does not have the same economic advantages as those states.

Missouri does not have the level of tourism revenue seen in places like Nashville, Tennessee, and it does not have oil revenues like Texas.

Without those sources of income, they say Missouri may struggle to replace billions of dollars in income-tax revenue.

Concerns About Funding State Services

Lawmakers also question how the state will replace the billions of dollars currently collected through income taxes.

Missouri collected more than **\$9 billion in income tax revenue last year**, which helps fund schools, health care programs, roads and other services.

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See TAX PLANS Page 8 →

KC Tenants Celebrates Seven Years, Names Jenay Manley as New Director

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

One of Kansas City's most influential grassroots advocacy organizations is entering a new chapter.

KC Tenants, the citywide tenant union that has helped shape housing policy and elect local leaders, announced Saturday that longtime organizer **Jenay Manley** will become the group's new director. She succeeds **Tara Raghuvver**, who helped found the organization in 2019 and has led it since its early days.

KC Tenants announced the leadership transition during an event marking the organization's seventh anniversary. According to the organization, the celebration included remarks from KC Tenants board members and Kansas City Councilman **Johnathan Duncan**, along with a performance by the Salvation Choir. Kansas City Mayor **Quinton Lucas**, several members of the City Council and other civic leaders also attended.

For many observers, the moment reflected how far the



KC Tenants has grown into a major voice in Kansas City housing policy since its founding in 2019

organization has come in a relatively short time.

From Small Meeting to Major Civic Influence

KC Tenants was founded by **Tiana Caldwell, Diane Charity, Brandy Granados and Tara Raghuvver**. The group's first meeting, held Feb. 17, 2019, drew just 12 people. Three weeks later, organizers gathered on the steps of City Hall in sub-zero temperatures to publicly launch the union and unveil a **People's Housing Platform**.

Since then, KC Tenants has become a major presence in Kansas City housing debates and policy fights.

The organization helped write and win several housing protections now embedded in city law, including:

- **Kansas City Tenants Bill of Rights (2019)**
- **Right to Counsel for tenants facing eviction (2021)**
- **Source of Income Discrimination Ban (2024)**, preventing landlords from rejecting tenants based on housing vouchers
- **Creation of a City Office of Language Access (2024)**

KC Tenants has also helped push broader housing initiatives, including helping secure a **\$50 million bond for deeply affordable housing** and **\$10.5 million for the city's Housing Trust Fund** in 2022. Organizers also mobilized opposition that helped defeat a proposed **\$2 billion downtown stadium tax in 2024**.

During the pandemic, the union organized direct actions aimed at preventing thousands of evictions. Tenants affiliated with the organization have also organized building-level campaigns to address unsafe conditions, negotiate with landlords and in some cases launch rent strikes.

According to KC Tenants, those



Tara Raghuvver (left), who helped found KC Tenants in 2019, is stepping aside as director as longtime organizer Jenay Manley takes over leadership of the Kansas City tenant union.

efforts have resulted in what organizers describe as **the longest and largest rent strikes in regional history**, leading to negotiated agreements that reduced or froze rents and erased some tenant debts.

Today, the organization says its membership includes **more than 10,000 households across Kansas City and eastern Jackson County**, making it one of the largest tenant-organizing groups in the country.

Raghuvver Helped Build a National Movement

Much of that growth occurred under Raghuvver's leadership.

Raghuvver helped found KC Tenants after several years researching eviction patterns in the Kansas City area beginning in 2013. Her work helped frame housing instability as a systemic issue affecting thousands of local residents.

Over time, she became a national voice on tenant rights and housing policy.

She also helped launch **KC Tenants Power**, a sibling political organization created in 2022 that can endorse and support candidates for office. The group quickly demonstrated its influence, helping elect four

while working overnight shifts at **QuikTrip** and struggling to keep up with rent. Within months, she became a key organizer in the campaign that led to the Tenants Bill of Rights.

She later served as the group's **City Hall liaison and a Black Organizing Fellow**, working on city budget issues and tenant protections during the pandemic.

In 2023, Manley ran for the **2nd District At-Large seat on the Kansas City City Council**, advancing to the general election and earning nearly **20,000 votes**.

For the past several years she has served as KC Tenants' **organizing director**, helping coordinate tenant campaigns across the city. Among her efforts was helping tenants at **Quality Hill Towers** organize the region's largest tenant union and supporting a major rent strike there in 2024.

Supporters say Manley's leadership has been visible inside the organization for years.

"Having watched Jenay's work ethic over time, I can scarcely think of someone more qualified for leadership," said Robert Reital in a congratulatory message shared after the announcement.

Robert Richardson, another supporter, said Manley has long been central to the organization's work.

"Seen you going hard from the very beginning, Jenay," Richardson wrote. "We know you've always been the heart of this fight."

Manley, who is the mother of twins Lilly and Avery, said the union's strength comes from the people most affected by housing issues.

"Our union is all of us," Manley said. "It has never been and will never be one person's vision. We make decisions and take action together. Our power is in our collective."

Looking Ahead

Even as leadership changes,

Kansas City City Council members in 2023 — including **Councilman Johnathan Duncan**, a member of the tenant union.

Raghuvver will continue organizing nationally as the director of the **Tenant Union Federation**, a coalition of tenant unions across the country aimed at expanding tenant organizing and political influence.

"Organizing is a practice of faith. We have to believe in what we can't yet see," Raghuvver said. "I've never believed in something more than I believe in the power we've built together at KC Tenants, and the power that's yet to come."

She said the organization is well positioned for the future under Manley's leadership.

"There is no person better positioned to lead KC Tenants than Jenay Manley, who is a visionary, an experienced organizer and a brilliant strategist," Raghuvver said.

A Leader Who Rose From the Ranks

Manley's path to leadership reflects the grassroots nature of the organization itself.

She joined KC Tenants in 2019

See **KC TENANTS** Page 8 →

Hundreds Of Millions At Stake In Kansas City's April Election

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Kansas City, Missouri voters will decide April 7 whether to continue one of the city's largest sources of revenue — a tax that funds nearly half of the city's general operations.

At issue is Kansas City's **1% earnings tax**, a levy on wages and business profits that has helped pay for city services for more than 60 years. The tax must be renewed by voters every five years under Missouri law.

The question itself is simple. The official ballot language reads:

"Shall the earnings tax of 1%, imposed by the City of Kansas City, be continued for a period of five (5) years commencing January 1 immediately following the date of this election?"

A **"yes"** vote would keep the tax in place for another five years, returning it to the ballot in 2031. A **"no"** vote would trigger a gradual phase-out, reducing the tax by one-tenth of a percent each year beginning in 2027 until it disappears entirely in 2036.

What the earnings tax is

Kansas City's earnings tax is collected from workers and businesses.

The tax applies to **1% of wages and salaries** earned by people who live in Kansas City as well as people who work in the city, regardless of where they live.

For example, a resident of Overland Park who works at Crown Center pays the earnings tax to Kansas City. Likewise, a Kansas City resident who commutes to Lenexa also pays the tax because they live in the city.

The tax also applies to **net profits from businesses located in Kansas City**, from large corporations to self-employed workers.

The tax **does not apply to Social Security, retirement benefits or unemployment payments.**

A major piece of the city budget

The earnings tax is one of the most important revenue streams for Kansas City government.

In the most recent fiscal year, the city collected about **\$351 million** through the tax — roughly **44% of Kansas City's general fund revenue.**

By comparison, Kansas City collected about **\$81.6 million in property taxes**, or about **10% of the general fund.**

The general fund pays for a wide range of city services, including police and fire operations, road maintenance, trash collection and other programs. Under Missouri law, Kansas City must also spend **25% of its general fund** on its state-controlled police department.

Because earnings tax revenue flows into the general fund, the City Council has broad authority to decide how to spend it. That flexibility makes it different from many other revenue sources, such as federal grants or certain sales taxes, which can only be used for specific purposes.

Why the vote happens every five years

Kansas City first adopted the earnings tax in **1963**, when voters approved a change to the city charter. Then-Mayor **Ilus Davis** championed the measure, and it passed with about **63% of the vote.**

For decades, the tax remained in place without requiring voter renewal.



Voters wait in line at a Kansas City polling location during a previous election. In the April 7 election, Kansas City voters will decide whether to renew the city's 1% earnings tax, a major source of city revenue.

That changed in **2010**, when Missouri voters approved a statewide ballot measure known as **Proposition A**. The measure requires Kansas City and St. Louis — the only Missouri cities with earnings taxes — to seek voter approval every five years to continue collecting the tax.

If Kansas City voters reject the tax in April, it would be phased out gradually over 10 years, with the rate declining each year until it reaches zero in 2036.

The 2010 ballot campaign was heavily funded by St. Louis businessman **Rex Sinqfield**, who donated about **\$1.3 million** to support the proposal.

Statewide voters ultimately

approved Proposition A with about 68% support, though voters in both Kansas City and St. Louis largely opposed it.

Support for renewing the tax

Despite the political debate that led to the five-year renewal requirement, Kansas City voters have consistently supported the tax in past elections.

Each time the measure has appeared on the ballot since 2011, it has passed by large margins.

A broad coalition of business and civic organizations has backed the tax's renewal again this year, including the **Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City and**

Freedom Inc.

Supporters argue the tax is essential to maintaining city services and helps ensure that people who work in Kansas City — even if they live elsewhere — contribute to the cost of operating the city.

There is not a formal organized campaign opposing the tax in this year's election. However, the earnings tax has long drawn criticism from some tax-reform and conservative policy groups in Missouri that argue the tax discourages economic growth and job creation.

Those arguments helped fuel the 2010 statewide ballot initiative requiring Kansas City and St. Louis voters to renew their earnings taxes every five years.



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Holy Kingdom of Judah Combines Faith and Safety in Wichita Gun Buyback

By Ty Davis
Wichita Reporter

A Wichita-based organization, the Holy Kingdom of Judah, is preparing to host a community gun buyback event later this month, combining violence prevention efforts with a broader mission centered on identity, spirituality and unity.

The event, organized through the group's Judah Tribal Council of Chiefs, is scheduled for **March 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the organization's office at **1741 N. Poplar.**

The Holy Kingdom of Judah describes itself as a modern tribal nation rooted in ancient biblical tradition. Leaders say the movement

was formally organized around 2017, though members say their ancestry traces back to the Tribe of Judah, one of the 12 tribes descended from the patriarch Jacob in the Hebrew Bible.

Their beliefs are grounded in monotheism—the worship of one God—and they also recognize Jesus as a spiritual figure within that tradition. However, leaders say the group does not operate as a traditional church. Instead of gathering in formal houses of worship, they say their faith is expressed through community engagement, education and cultural restoration.

Organizers describe their work as teaching people about identity, spiritual principles and peaceful living. Community initiatives, including the upcoming gun buyback program, are part of that mission. Leaders say the effort reflects their belief that protecting life, promoting peace and preventing harm—especially among children and young people—are essential expressions of their spiritual values.

Leaders of the organization describe the buyback effort as voluntary, inviting individuals to turn in firearms they no longer want or need. Participants may receive compensation ranging from \$20 to \$300 depending on the type of firearm. All eligible weapons collected during the event are intended to be destroyed.

“We’re not here to force anything,” one of the chiefs said. “If someone has a firearm they no longer need, they can bring it in. Our goal is to remove even one weapon—that alone makes an impact.”



Chief C.W. Lewis with the Holy Kingdom of Judah, whose governing council is organizing a March 30 gun buyback in Wichita aimed at reducing gun violence.

Unlike many gun buyback programs that are led by local governments or law enforcement agencies, this initiative is being organized independently by the group. Leaders say that while the organization is not federally recognized, it intends to operate within existing laws and safety protocols. Any firearms found to be illegal, altered or tampered with will be turned over to appropriate authorities.

Organizers say the event will also include education about firearm safety, secure storage and conflict resolution. Spiritual counseling will be available through members of the organization, with an emphasis on healing and community support.

Safety procedures will include controlled intake of firearms and trained personnel responsible for dis-

mantling weapons on site using specialized tools and disposal equipment. Certificates of destruction will be issued for firearms that are dismantled, and those records will be submitted for documentation.

Organizers say their success will not be measured solely by the number of firearms collected, but by the conversations and awareness created in the community.

“Whether we receive one firearm or many, the goal is education and unity,” a chief said. “If people walk away thinking differently about violence and peace, then we’ve done our job.”

As Wichita continues to explore solutions to violence, the Holy Kingdom of Judah’s effort reflects a community-driven approach that blends safety initiatives with cultural and spiritual outreach.



Kansas Moves to Restrict Cellphones in Schools and Certain Driving Zones

By Voice News Service

Kansas lawmakers have taken steps this year to limit cellphone use both in schools and in some high-risk driving areas, citing concerns about student well-being and roadway safety.

Beginning with the next school year, students across Kansas will no longer be allowed to use cellphones during the school day after Gov. Laura Kelly signed House Bill 2299 into law.

The bipartisan measure requires public and private K-12 schools to prohibit the use of personal electronic communication devices during school hours. The ban covers cellphones, tablets, laptops, smart watches and wireless headphones. Students will still be allowed to use devices issued by their schools.

Under the law, students must power off personal devices and store them in an inaccessible location such as a locker or vehicle, although lawmakers said a powered-off

phone stored in a backpack would also comply. School districts must establish their own enforcement policies and disciplinary procedures for students who violate the rules.

Students with medical needs or individualized education programs that require a device will be exempt.

“When our students’ mental health and academic performance are on the line, I felt strongly that a statewide solution was best,” Kelly said when signing the bill.

Supporters argue that limiting cellphone use in schools could help improve classroom focus and address growing concerns about the mental health effects of social media. Critics, however, say many districts already have policies in place and worry the law creates an unfunded mandate without providing schools additional resources to enforce it.

Meanwhile, lawmakers are also targeting cellphone use on the road. The Kansas Legislature has passed Senate Bill 324, which would prohibit drivers from using handheld

cellphones while traveling through active school zones or construction zones.

If the bill is signed by Kelly, the restrictions would take effect July 1. During the first year, drivers would receive warnings rather than fines. Beginning July 1, 2027, violations would carry a \$60 fine.

The proposal is backed by traffic safety advocates including AAA Kansas. Supporters say distracted driving contributes to about one-fourth of crashes in the state and that construction workers and children near schools face particular risks.

The law would apply only to handheld phone use, meaning drivers could still use hands-free systems or speakerphone functions. Exceptions would also allow drivers to use phones to contact emergency services.

Advocates say the measures represent incremental steps toward reducing distractions for both students and drivers across Kansas.



A driver holds a cellphone while behind the wheel — a behavior Kansas lawmakers are targeting with proposed restrictions in school and construction zones.

STRATTON, from Page 3 ↓

Jackson represented the district from 1995 until his resignation in 2012 amid a federal corruption investigation. He later pleaded guilty to wire and mail fraud for misusing about \$750,000 in campaign funds on personal purchases ranging from luxury items to home renovations. Jackson served prison time following the conviction.

His campaign attempted to frame his return to politics as a redemption story, relying heavily on the Jackson family name and decades of recognition in Chicago and surrounding communities. But voters ultimately chose Miller,

who now becomes the favorite to win the heavily Democratic district in November.

Governor's Race Heads Toward Rematch

Illinois voters will also see a familiar matchup in the race for governor this fall.

Gov. Pritzker, who ran unopposed in the Democratic primary, is seeking a third term. He will face Republican Darren Bailey, whom Pritzker defeated by nearly 13 percentage points in the 2022 election.

Pritzker is now running with a new lieutenant governor candidate, Christian Mitchell, after Stratton stepped aside to run for the Senate.

Miller is a thirty-something Black male, former State Representative and currently serves as Vice President for Civic Engagement, University of Chicago.

A New Face in a Long-Held Seat

Another major race came in Illinois' 7th Congressional District, where longtime Congressman Danny Davis decided not to seek reelection after nearly three decades in Congress.

State Rep. La Shawn Ford won the crowded Democratic primary to succeed Davis, emerging from a bruising contest that drew national attention and millions in outside spending.

TAX PLANS, from Page 4 ↓

Sharp warned that removing that revenue source could put pressure on the state budget.

“This could threaten our funding for education, infrastructure and municipal services,” he said.

What Happens Next

The proposal has passed the Missouri House and is expected to be taken up by the Senate.

If the Senate approves it, the measure would not immediately change taxes. Instead, it would place the issue before Missouri voters as a constitutional amendment — potentially **as soon as the November 2026 ballot**.

Voters would then decide whether to allow lawmakers to begin the process of phasing out the income tax and expanding the state's sales tax system.

Johnson said that means

residents need to pay attention to the debate now.

“People need to know how bad this is,” he said, urging voters to stay informed about what the proposal could mean for their wallets.

For now, the debate centers on a fundamental question: whether eliminating the income tax would truly reduce taxes — or simply move them to places Missourians have never paid them before.

KC TENANTS, from Page 5 ↓

organizers say KC Tenants' mission remains the same — building tenant power and shaping housing policy.

The organization is now part of the **Tenant Union Federation**, which aims to coordinate tenant organizing

nationally and push for policies such as rent protections tied to federal housing financing.

Locally, KC Tenants continues its work organizing renters, advocating for housing policy changes and supporting tenants in their buildings and neighborhoods.

Seven years after its first small meeting, the organization that began with a handful of renters has grown into one of Kansas City's most visible grassroots advocacy groups — powered not by large financial resources, but by the residents most affected by housing issues themselves.

VIBRANT VOICES

A Special Publication for Seniors

Glenda DuBoise

Leading AARP's Work Across Kansas

SPECIAL SECTION

Fighting Fraud

What Seniors — and Others —
Need to Know



Welcome to Vibrant Voices — And a Conversation We Need to Have About Fraud

Welcome to another edition of **Vibrant Voices**, our quarterly section created especially for older adults who want to stay informed, engaged and living life to the fullest.

At **The Community Voice**, we created Vibrant Voices to focus on issues that matter most as we age — health, financial security, community connections and the information people need to remain active and independent. Each edition takes a closer look at topics that can help readers navigate this stage of life with confidence.

This time, we're focusing on a problem that has grown far too common: **fraud**.

For years, organizations that work with older adults have warned that seniors are prime targets for scams. And for a long time, I'll admit, it sometimes seemed like an issue that



was talked about more than it was experienced.

When **AARP Kansas** first began partnering with us back in 2015, I remember thinking, *all they want to do is talk about fraud*.

Today, I understand why. Fraud isn't a joke anymore.

It has become one of the fastest-growing crimes in the country, costing Americans billions of dollars every year. Scammers reach victims through phone calls, text messages, email, social media and even online marketplaces. They impersonate banks, government agencies, tech companies and sometimes even family members in distress.

And the rise of artificial intelligence has made the situation even more complicated. Voices can be cloned. Images can be generated. Messages that look completely legitimate



can still be fake.

In other words, the tools scammers use are becoming more sophisticated — and more convincing.

But there is also good news. The more people understand how scams work, the easier they are to recognize and avoid.

That's why in this edition of **Vibrant Voices**, we're taking a closer look at some of the most

common fraud schemes circulating today and the warning signs people should know.

You'll also find resources from organizations such as AARP that have spent years helping educate the public about fraud prevention and what to do if you believe you've been targeted.

Knowledge may not stop every scam, but it is still one of the most powerful tools we have.

And if reading this section helps even one person avoid becoming a victim, the conversation will be well worth having.

Our Top Anti-Fraud Tip SKEPTICISM!!

Consumer advocates say the most effective protection is skepticism. Unexpected requests for personal information, urgent payment demands or offers that sound too good to be true are all warning signs.

Care doesn't have to wait for open enrollment



PACE is available year-round!

Call 316-830-5921 (TTY: 800-766-3777) to speak with a person from our local center today.

For more information about PACE services and benefits, visit AscensionLiving.org/HOPE

 Ascension Living

HOPE

Participants must be at least 55 years old and live in Sedgwick County. All PACE participants agree to receive all services other than emergency services from HOPE staff and its network of providers, and may be fully and personally liable for the costs of unauthorized or out-of-network services.



Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE®) benefits and services highlights

- No bills, co-pays or deductibles for covered services
- Door-to-door transportation with a familiar face
- Social work/care management and home health included
- Medication and medical equipment/supplies fully covered and delivered to your home
- Day center and activities
- A personalized plan to help you with your symptoms and to help you reach your goals

Financial Institutions Taking Larger Role in Stopping Elder Fraud

By Paula Span
In partnership with
The New York Times

The New York Times

The call came just before Thanksgiving. The 76-year-old Rhode Island woman didn't recognize the number but answered anyway.

The man on the other end said he was an officer with the Department of Criminal Investigations investigating drug trafficking and money laundering. He seemed to know personal details about her — where she and her late husband had lived, his occupation, and her current address.

On her phone, he even displayed what looked like a badge and official identification.

"You can hire a very expensive criminal defense attorney, or you can cooperate with me," he told her.

Frightened she might be arrested, the woman agreed to cooperate. The man — who identified himself only as "Frank" — began calling every morning, asking where she was going and warning that investigators were watching her movements. She became so fearful she looked around while driving to garden club meetings, wondering if someone was following her.

It was all a scam.

The caller's goal was to get access to her money. First, he urged her to move about \$250,000 from an investment account into her checking account. When that failed, he directed her to withdraw \$70,000 in cash from a home-equity line of credit.

At her local bank, a teller hesitated. Quietly alerting the branch manager — who had known the woman and her husband for years — the bank intervened and contacted police.

The money never left her account. Cases like hers are becoming



Financial scams targeting older adults are rising, with banks stepping up efforts to spot suspicious activity.

increasingly common as scammers target older adults and financial institutions step up efforts to stop them before life savings disappear.

Financial predators targeting older adults represent "a heightened focus for us now," said Mary Noons, president and chief operating officer of Washington Trust.

A regional community bank, Washington Trust cranked up its efforts last fall to advise older customers and their families about finances, including the dangers of elder fraud and exploitation. It published and distributed a booklet called "Age With Wisdom" and brought in an expert on dementia to speak with staff members.

And it became one of the 1,500 financial institutions to date to use BankSafe, a free AARP video program that trains front-line employees to spot the red flags indicating possible elder exploitation and to intervene. Everyone at the branch where the 76-year-old banked had taken the training.

"Some older customers visit their

bank far more frequently than they see their health care providers," Noons pointed out.

Until recent years, financial institutions placed "more of an emphasis on the autonomy of the client," said Pamela Teaster, director of the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology and an elder abuse researcher. Their approach was, "an adult has the capacity to make poor choices, and we're going to let them make them," she added.

But changes in government and industry policies and practices have encouraged greater vigilance. Congress passed the Senior Safe Act in 2018, protecting banks and financial firms from liability if they reported suspected exploitation to authorities.

That year, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority began requiring member firms to ask for a trusted contact person when investors open or update accounts. (The account holder isn't obliged to provide one, however.) And since 2022, it has allowed firms to place

holds on older investors' transactions if they suspect exploitation is involved.

About half of states have enacted laws that permit financial institutions to deny suspicious transactions or impose holds for specified periods to allow investigations, said Jilene Gunther, the director of BankSafe.

"It adds friction," she explained. "With space and time, the criminal gets worried and might move on. And the potential mark has time to stop and think."

Teaster's analysis of data from BankSafe, during a six-month pilot in 82 financial institutions, found that participants were much more likely to report suspected cases and save customers money than a control group was.

Not all of older adults' losses result from predators, however. They can, on their own, get caught up in investment fads, take on too much debt, or make otherwise unwise decisions, even without criminals pulling the strings or relatives looting their accounts.

Managing finances presents complex cognitive challenges, said Mark Lachs, co-chief of geriatrics and palliative medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. "It requires a lot of brain," he said, including: "Memory, remembering that a bill is due. Executive function, the ability to manage your time. Abstraction, hypothesizing about your future."

He added, "Financial errors are not infrequently the first sign of impending dementia or a neurocognitive disorder."

A 2024 study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, for instance, found an increased probability of delinquent payments and deteriorating credit ratings in the five years before a dementia diagnosis. Those errors can reduce seniors' access to credit and raise their interest rates on loans at the very point when caregiving expenses are likely to soar.

Lachs has called on fellow doctors to recognize what he calls Age-Associated Financial Vulnerability, a syndrome that can affect even older people with normal cognition, especially if they contend with medical illnesses, sensory deficits, or social isolation.

And he remains skeptical about the financial industry's claims of heightened attention to its oldest customers. "I still see concerning financial transactions executed that should have received far greater scrutiny," he said.

Training more front-line staff members and increasing emphasis on establishing trusted contacts for older customers would help, Gunther said, because "once the money leaves the account, it's near impossible to ever retrieve it." More states could enact laws allowing financial institutions to deny suspicious transactions or impose holds.

Several related bills with bipartisan support are working their way through Congress. The National Strategy for Combating Scams Act would require the FBI to coordinate efforts to protect seniors. A bill that restores an IRS deduction would at least provide the consolation of excusing scam victims from paying taxes on money they no longer have.

However, new weapons like artificial-intelligence voice cloning — in which the supposed grandson four states away who urgently needs \$5,000 in gift cards actually sounds like the victim's grandson — keep advocates and bankers awake at night.

In the Washington Trust branch where the Rhode Island woman didn't lose her money, employees just days earlier had stopped a scam similar to the one that had targeted her.

But more recently, nobody spotted any danger signs when an older woman withdrew \$9,000 for a kitchen renovation, until it went to a scammer instead of a contractor.

The New Old Age is produced through a partnership with The New York Times.

Top 10 Scams Consumers Should Watch for in 2026

By [consumerfraudreporting.org](https://www.consumerfraudreporting.org)

Americans continue to lose billions of dollars each year to fraud. According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers reported **more than \$5.8 billion in fraud losses involving 2.8 million victims in the most recent reporting year** — a jump of more than 70% from the previous year.

Data compiled by ConsumerFraudReporting.com, along with reports from the FTC, Fraud.org and the Better Business Bureau, shows a familiar pattern: scammers often pretend to be someone you trust or offer something that sounds too good to pass up.

Here are **10 of the most commonly reported scams in 2026.**

1 Identity Theft, Phishing and “Pharming”

Scammers send emails, texts or phone calls pretending to be banks, credit card companies or other trusted organizations. Victims are directed to fake websites or asked to “verify” personal information. Once scammers obtain Social Security numbers, birth dates or account information, they use it to open credit cards or loans in the victim’s name.



2 Phone Scams and Robocalls

Fraudsters call pretending to represent a bank, tech company or government agency. Some violate the national **Do Not Call Registry**, while others use automated robocalls. A common tactic is claiming there’s a problem with your computer, bank account or Microsoft license.

3 Debt Collection Scams

Victims receive aggressive calls demanding payment for debts they may not even owe. Scammers often threaten legal action or arrest unless immediate payment is made. Others promise to eliminate credit card debt or repair credit histories for a fee.

4 Fake Government Officials

Scammers impersonate agencies such as the IRS, FBI or Social Security Administration. They often demand payment through wire transfers, prepaid debit cards or cryptocurrency — methods the government never uses to collect money.

5 Scam Text Messages

Also called “smishing,” these messages appear to come from banks or other companies. The texts ask users to click a link to verify or reactivate a debit card or account. The

link leads to a fake website designed to steal personal information.

6 Loan and Credit Repair Scams

Fraudsters promise easy loans or guaranteed credit repair, often targeting people with bad credit. Victims are asked to pay fees upfront — and the promised services never materialize.

7 Fake Prizes, Sweepstakes and Lottery Winnings

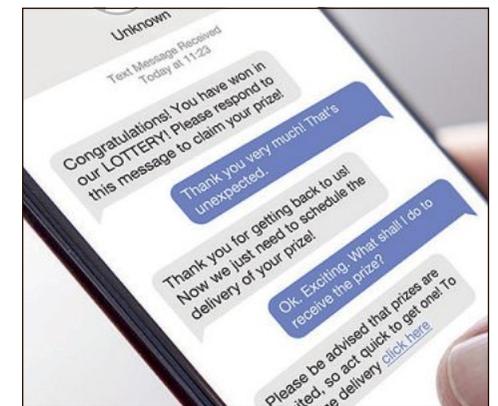
Victims are told they’ve won a large prize but must pay taxes or fees before claiming it. The winnings never arrive. Legitimate lotteries do not require upfront payments.

8 Online Shopping and Merchandise Scams

Consumers buy products online that never arrive — or receive items that are counterfeit or significantly different from what was advertised. These scams are common on social media marketplaces and online classifieds.

9 Automobile-Related Scams

Complaints include fraudulent auto repair charges, fake extended warranties and vehicle sales where the buyer never receives a title.



10 Extortion Scams

Scammers claim they possess embarrassing photos, emails or other personal information and demand payment to keep it private. Many threats are fake but designed to pressure victims into sending money quickly.

Consumer advocates say one of the biggest challenges today is that many scammers now use technology — including artificial intelligence — to make fake messages, voices and websites appear legitimate. That means the best protection is slowing down before responding to unexpected calls, texts or emails and confirming requests through official sources.

Glenda DuBoise and AARP Kansas: Serious Defenders for Older Adults

After a 35-year corporate career, DuBoise continues a lifetime of service helping lead AARP's work across Kansas.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Just four months after retiring from a 35-year career with Southwestern Bell, she was back in the community — volunteering and giving back in a series of leadership roles that eventually led her to the position of **State Director for AARP Kansas, where she has served for four and a half years.**

"I enjoy the work," DuBoise said. "I like connecting people with resources and helping bring people together."

Today, DuBoise leads AARP's efforts across Kansas, traveling the state, meeting with community leaders and working with volunteers who carry out much of the organization's work.

It's a role that reflects a lifetime built around community service.

From Arkansas to Topeka

DuBoise grew up in **Eudora,**

Arkansas, a small town where family and faith shaped her early life.

At 18, shortly after graduating high school, she moved to **Topeka** to pursue education and opportunity. Two of her brothers were already living in Topeka and serving as ministers: including **Rev. Dr. John Kearney Sr.,** who pastored Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and **Rev. Dr. Joseph Clark, Sr.** who pastored Truevine Baptist Church.

"I came to Topeka to get a good education and a good job," she said.

To support herself while attending **Washburn University,** DuBoise took a job at **Southwestern Bell Telephone Company** during her sophomore year.

What began as a way to pay for college soon turned into a career.

She eventually earned a degree in **business and communication arts with an emphasis in journalism and public relations,** though she chose to remain with Southwestern Bell after graduation. The company helped pay for her education and offered opportunities that allowed her to develop leadership and community engagement skills.



Glenda DuBoise, State Director for AARP Kansas, continues a lifetime of community service and advocacy for older adults across the state.

She retired after **more than three decades at Southwestern Bell, which later transitioned into AT&T.**

During those years, she was also very active in the community,

volunteering, serving on non-profit boards and participating in leadership programs that connected business leaders with civic initiatives.

When Volunteer Work Becomes Leadership

After her retirement, DuBoise began stepping into nonprofit leadership roles — often with organizations where she had already volunteered or served on the board of directors.

She served as executive director of the **YWCA,** worked with the **Marian Clinic and Marian Dental Clinic,** and later led the **Antioch Family Life Center,** all places where she had previously volunteered or served on their boards.

Later, she worked in community engagement roles with **Community Coordinating Opportunities in Kansas City,** the **Greater Topeka Partnership,** and the **Topeka Center for Peace and**

Justice, where she helped bring together faith leaders, community organizations and law enforcement to hold conversations around community concerns during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through many of those years, DuBoise was deeply involved with **AARP as a volunteer,** serving in leadership roles including six years as **AARP Kansas state president.**

When the position of State Director became available, she applied. When the position of State Director became available, she applied. **For DuBoise, the role represents another opportunity to serve — something that has guided her work throughout her career and volunteer life.**

"I believe in the mission. I had already seen the good work AARP does," said DuBoise.



Glenda DuBoise, state director of AARP Kansas, stands with AARP volunteers who help lead community programs and outreach across the state.

AARP Kansas Helps Wichita Residents Fight Back Against Fraud

Fraud and scams are on the rise, and Wichita residents are seeing it firsthand. From fake government phone calls and identity theft to online shopping and romance scams, criminals continue to target people of all ages across Sedgwick County.

To help fight back, AARP Kansas is bringing fraud prevention directly into the Wichita community through its FraudWatchNetwork, a free national program designed to help people spot scams, avoid fraud, and get support if they've been targeted.

Fraud Prevention Is Happening Right Here in Wichita

AARP Kansas regularly hosts **free, in-person fraud prevention workshops in Wichita**, often in partnership with trusted local institutions such as the Wichita Public Library and K-State Research and Extension. These events give residents a chance to learn directly from trained presenters and ask



questions in a supportive environment.

Upcoming Wichita-area events include:

- **“Vigilance Against Cybercrime”**, a free workshop in Wichita focused on online fraud and identity theft, hosted at the Wichita Public Library. To register, visit our website at <https://aarp.cvent.com/ksevents>

- Looking for a safe way to dispose of old documents? Join us for a free **Shred Event** on April 18 at the WSU Hughes Metroplex. For more information and to register, go to <https://events.aarp.org/a4mbgZ>

- **Fraud Basics: The Scam Landscape & Staying Safe** is a free event designed to familiarize you with the latest scams and fraud tactics and provide tactics and tips to avoid them. To register, visit our website at <https://aarp.cvent.com/ksevents>.

These events are open to the public, and **AARP**

membership is not required to attend.

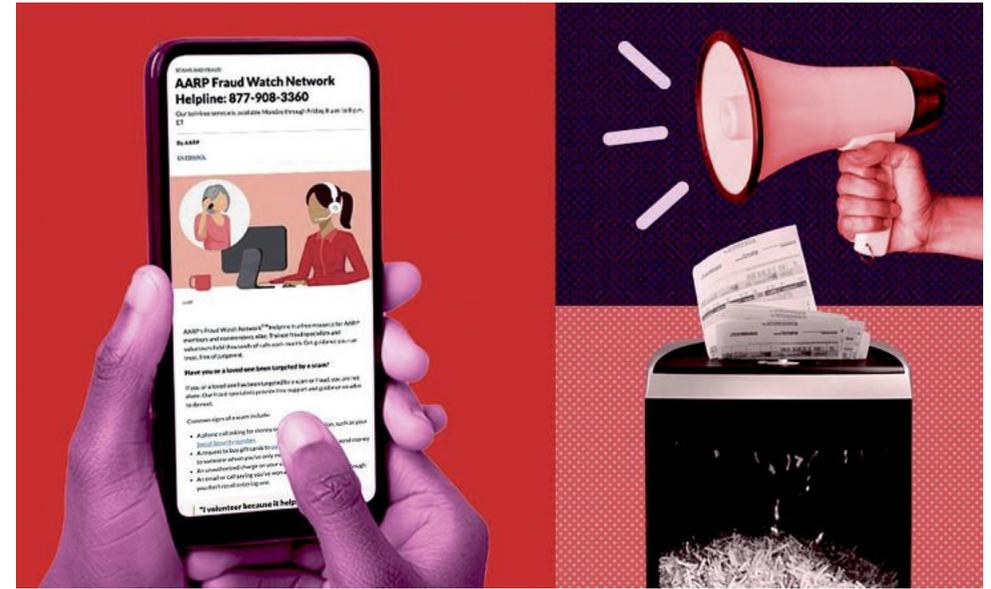
Real-World Tools for Wichita Neighbors

In addition to in-person events, AARP encourages Wichita residents to use everyday fraud-fighting tools available through the Fraud Watch Network. One of the most popular is the **Scam-Tracking Map**, which allows people to see scams reported in their area and share warnings with neighbors.

Residents can also sign up for **Watchdog Alerts**, which provide biweekly email or text updates on scams currently circulating in Kansas and across the country.

Free, Confidential Help for Scam Victims

For those who suspect fraud or have already been targeted, AARP operates the **AARP Fraud Watch Network™ Helpline at 877-908-3360**. The toll-free helpline connects callers with trained fraud specialists who offer guidance, reassurance, and next



steps—without judgment.

The helpline is available to **anyone**, including Wichita residents who are not AARP members. In addition, AARP offers free online peer support groups to help fraud victims cope with the emotional impact of scams.

Fighting Fraud Beyond the Classroom

AARP's fraud prevention work doesn't stop at

education. The organization also advocates for stronger consumer protections at the local, state, and federal levels—working to shut down scams, strengthen enforcement, and protect people before fraud occurs.

By combining local education efforts in Wichita with statewide advocacy and national resources, AARP Kansas aims to give communities the tools they need

to stay one step ahead of scammers.

Learn More or Get Involved

Wichita residents can learn more about upcoming fraud prevention events, sign up for alerts, or get help by visiting aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork or calling the **AARP Fraud Watch Network™ Helpline at 877-908-3360**.

DuBOISE, from Page 13 ↓

More Than Discounts

For many people, AARP is best known for the discounts that come with membership — discounted hotel stays, car rentals, insurance or cell phones.

But DuBoise says that's only one part of what the organization does, and AARP leaders nationally have been working to expand public understanding of the organization's broader mission.

DuBoise says the goal is for communities to recognize AARP as the **“wise brand and a fierce defender” it is for people as they age**.

That means advocating for policies that protect older adults and families while also providing resources, education and programs in communities across the country.

Nationally and locally, the

organization works on issues such as:

- Protecting Social Security
- Supporting family caregivers
- Preventing fraud and scams

That advocacy continues at the federal, state and local levels, where AARP works with lawmakers, community leaders and volunteers to address issues affecting older adults and their families.

“We want people to understand who we are and what we do,” DuBoise said. “It's about making sure people have the resources and support they need to live well as they age.”

A Small Staff With a Large Reach

AARP's Kansas office is small — just **four staff members plus DuBoise** — but the organization's work extends statewide through a large network of volunteers.

Those volunteers help lead community events, educational programs and advocacy efforts.

DuBoise estimates she spends about **70% of her time traveling across Kansas**, meeting with residents and community leaders.

While the organization works throughout the state, **Wichita serves as AARP Kansas' designated key community**, meaning it receives a significant share of the state's programming and engagement efforts.

Wichita has been the site of several AARP-supported projects, including the creation of **Grandparents Park at Central and Grove**, a space designed to encourage physical activity and intergenerational connections.

AARP has also helped support community improvements through its Community Challenge

grant program, including projects such as a **community garden opening soon near Riverside Park in Wichita**.

The organization also works with communities across the state — including **Johnson County, Wyandotte County, Topeka and rural areas** — helping local leaders explore ways to create more livable environments where residents can age in place.

Still Moving Forward

Outside of work, DuBoise continues to stay deeply involved in community service. She serves on the board of **Living the Dream**, which organizes one of the largest Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebrations in Kansas. She recently completed a six-year term on the board of **Brewster Place**, a senior living community in Topeka. She

is also an active member of **The Links Incorporated**, a national service organization, where she participates in the Topeka Chapter and **holds a leadership position at the Central Area level**.

She and her husband, Melvin, have been married **35 years** and share a large extended family that includes children, grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

DuBoise enjoys **traveling, interior decorating and fashion**. Her travels have taken her across the United States and internationally, including trips to Africa, Europe, Asia and Australia.

But even with a lifetime of accomplishments behind her, DuBoise says she's not planning to slow down anytime soon.

I like meeting people,” she said. “I like helping people. That's what we do — we serve people.”



Groundwater, Health, and You.

A Clear Way Forward: Free Health Testing
 These tests look for health effects that may be linked to contaminated groundwater exposure.



FREE Health testing events provided by the Wichita Black Nurses Association for those in the 29th & Grove Area

- **Saturday, April 4, 2026** 10am–2pm
 Evergreen Park Recreation Center
 2700 N Woodland St, Wichita, KS
- **Saturday, April 11, 2026** 9am–12pm
 GraceMed Eastridge
 830 S Woodlawn, Wichita, KS
- **Saturday, April 18, 2026** 10am–2pm
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church
 220 W 13th St N, Wichita, KS
- **Saturday, April 25, 2026**
 Homebound Visits
 If you are homebound, please call 316-882-1778 between 9 AM to 3 PM, Mon-Fri, to schedule a home testing appointment.

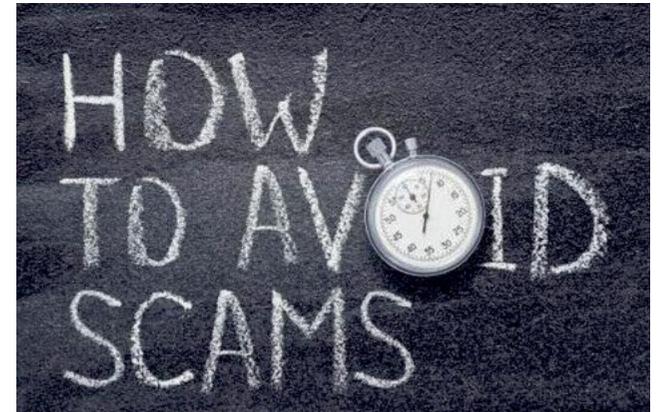


10 Tips That Can Help Protect You From Most Scams

Scammers constantly change their tactics, with thousands of new fraud schemes appearing each year. That makes it difficult for consumers—especially older adults—to keep track of every new trick.

But experts say avoiding most scams doesn't require knowing every scheme. Instead, it comes down to recognizing common warning signs and following a few basic habits that protect your money and personal information.

Here are ten simple tips that can help you avoid many of today's scams.



1 Never send money through gift cards or wire transfers to strangers. If someone asks you to pay using a gift card, prepaid debit card or wire transfer, it's a major red flag. Those payments are hard to trace and are often as good as cash.

2 Don't click links or open attachments in unsolicited emails. Links in unsolicited emails can install malware on your device, allowing criminals to steal personal information. If something seems suspicious, delete it and block the sender.

3 Don't assume something is real just because it looks official. Scammers are skilled at copying logos, seals and website designs. They can even fake caller ID numbers, making fraudulent messages appear legitimate.

4 Verify websites before making online purchases. Before entering payment information, make sure the site is secure. Look for "https" and a lock icon in the browser. It's also wise to research unfamiliar businesses and confirm they have a real address and phone number.

5 Be cautious with people you meet online. Scammers often use dating apps, social media and online marketplaces to build relationships with victims before asking for money.

6 Never share personal information with someone who contacts you unexpectedly. Treat requests for Social Security numbers, bank details or credit card information as a warning sign.

7 Slow down and resist pressure. Many scams rely on urgency, pushing victims to act immediately before they have time to think or ask someone for advice.

8 Use secure and traceable payment methods. Avoid cash-only deals, large upfront payments or unusual payment methods. Always read contracts carefully and understand the terms.

9 Work with reputable local businesses whenever possible. When hiring contractors or working with businesses handling your money or personal information, verify they are licensed and insured.

10 Be mindful of what you share on social media. Scammers often gather personal details from social media accounts to impersonate friends or family members.

While scams continue to evolve, most rely on the same tactics: pressure, deception and requests for unusual payments or personal information. Recognizing those warning signs can help protect you and your family.



Fraud Prevention



Fight fraud. Shred it!

AARP Fraud Watch Network™ can help you protect yourself against identity theft. Join us for a free document-shredding event in your community.

Reserve your spot for an AARP Kansas shredding event. Your documents will be shredded on-site, free of charge.

Join us for a free shred event:

April 18, 2026. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

WSU Hughes Metroplex

North Parking Lot

For more information or to register scan the QR Code below:



You May Qualify for Free Pregnancy Coverage — Even With Your Income

Kansas and Missouri women, if you're pregnant and don't have insurance, READ THIS!!

By Voice Health News

If you're pregnant and uninsured, you may have more options than you think.

Many people assume Medicaid is only for those living in deep poverty. But pregnancy changes the rules. Both Kansas and Missouri allow pregnant women to qualify for Medicaid coverage at income levels significantly higher than those allowed for most adults.

That means even women who consider themselves middle class — especially those who recently lost insurance or work in jobs without benefits — may still qualify for prenatal and maternity care.

This is particularly important information for Black women, who face significantly higher risks of pregnancy complications and maternal death, since access to prenatal care is considered one of the most effective ways to improve outcomes for both mothers and babies.

Kansas: Coverage Through KanCare

In Kansas, Medicaid coverage is provided through the state's KanCare program.

Pregnant women may qualify with income up to about **171% of the federal poverty level**, which is higher than the limit for most other adults. For example, a pregnant woman with one expected child — counted as a household of two — can qualify with income of roughly **\$3,000 per month**, with higher limits for larger households.

Kansas also counts the unborn baby when determining household size, which can help more women qualify.

Women enrolled in



Even women who think they earn too much for Medicaid may qualify for free prenatal and maternity coverage during pregnancy.

KanCare receive coverage for prenatal visits, lab tests, ultrasounds, hospital delivery and medications. Kansas also provides **12 months of postpartum coverage**, allowing new mothers to continue receiving medical and mental health care during the first year after childbirth.

Missouri: Higher Income Limits

Missouri offers similar coverage through its **MO HealthNet** program, but with slightly higher income limits.

Pregnant women in Missouri can qualify with income up to about **196% of the federal poverty level**.

Missouri also offers a second program called **Show Me Healthy Babies**, which extends coverage even further — up to roughly **300% of the federal poverty level** for women who earn too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid but still cannot afford private maternity coverage.

Like Kansas, Missouri provides prenatal care, hospital delivery and **12 months of postpartum coverage**.

Immediate Coverage While Applications Are Processed

Both states allow many clinics and hospitals to grant presumptive eligibility for pregnant women.

This allows a woman to begin receiving care immediately while her full Medicaid application is reviewed, rather than waiting weeks for approval.

Other Supports for Expectant Mothers

Medicaid pregnancy coverage often comes with additional benefits beyond doctor visits.

Many women enrolled during pregnancy may also receive:

- Transportation to medical appointments through Medicaid's non-emergency transportation program
- Nutrition assistance through **WIC**, which provides healthy foods, breastfeeding support and nutrition counseling
- Home visiting programs that connect new parents with nurses or family support specialists

- Automatic Medicaid coverage for their newborn during the first year of life

Community health clinics in Wichita and Kansas City — including federally qualified health centers — often help pregnant patients enroll in Medicaid or connect them with these services.

Why Prenatal Care Matters

Medical experts say early and consistent prenatal care plays a major role in preventing complications.

Regular checkups allow doctors to monitor a baby's development and detect conditions such as pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes and infections. Early care also helps reduce the risk of premature birth and low birth weight — two leading causes of infant death.

Research shows babies born to mothers who receive prenatal care are more likely to be born healthy and survive their first year of life.

For mothers, care during pregnancy and the year after birth can also help detect heart problems, mental health challenges and other conditions that contribute to pregnancy-related deaths.

A Message Many Women Don't Hear

Despite the availability of these programs, many women do not realize they may qualify.

Pregnancy changes Medicaid eligibility rules in every state. Even women who were previously denied coverage may qualify once they become pregnant.

For women who are uninsured — or who recently lost coverage — it is worth checking.



More Kansas children may soon qualify for health insurance.

Outdated Rule May Change, Expanding Children's Health Coverage in Kansas

By The Kansas Reflector

Kansas is the only state where eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program is tied to 2008.

The government-funded program, which provides low-cost insurance for children whose families earn too much for Medicaid but still struggle to afford coverage, currently bases eligibility on whether a family earns under 250% of the federal poverty level from 2008.

Yes, 2008 — 18 years ago.

At that time, the federal poverty level for a family of four was \$21,200 a year. In 2026, it's about \$33,000.

Over the years, lawmakers have applied temporary fixes to address the gap, but a bill that recently passed the Kansas Senate 40-0 and cleared the House 119-0 would permanently eliminate the outdated benchmark. Instead, eligibility would be based on 250% of the current federal poverty level.

That change would raise the income limit for a

family of four from about \$53,000 to roughly \$82,500.

As of March 2026, more than 57,000 Kansans were enrolled in CHIP and about 15,000 more were covered through a Medicare-CHIP hybrid program. Nationally, a majority of children rely on CHIP or Medicaid at some point before turning 18.

Supporters say the update is long overdue.

Similar legislation has been introduced since 2022 but repeatedly stalled before reaching a final vote. Advocates say the challenge this year is ensuring the measure finally makes it across the finish line.

They argue the change is a commonsense fix backed by data showing children with consistent health coverage have better school attendance, are more engaged in learning, and arrive at school better prepared to succeed.

CHIP is funded jointly by the federal government and the state and operates in Kansas under the KanCare system.

Dockum Sit-In Story Takes the Stage in Ballet Wichita Production

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

A pivotal moment in Wichita's civil rights history will soon come to life through movement.

Ballet Wichita's spring production, "**Breaking Barriers**," will feature two contemporary dance works inspired by history and community when it takes the stage **April 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Doc B-29 Hangar**, located on the grounds of **Wichita Municipal Airport, 1788 S. Airport Road.**

The production includes a piece created especially for Wichita that draws inspiration from the **1958 Dockum Drug Store sit-in**, the protest that integrated the Dockum drug-store lunch counter in downtown Wichita.

The piece was choreographed by **Yusha-Marie Sorzano**, a New York-based choreographer who has danced with major companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Sorzano said she was immediately drawn to the project after learning about the Wichita story.

"I knew nothing about it," Sorzano said. "I'm always interested in learning about stories that weren't taught in my education."

Originally from Trinidad and raised in the United States, Sorzano said the project became an opportunity to study the history and voices connected to the protest.

She reviewed archival material and interviews with **Ron Walters and other sit-in organizers to understand the deeper meaning behind the protest.**

"What kept coming up in those interviews was dignity and self-respect," she said.

Rather than recreating the protest literally, Sorzano said the work explores the spirit of the sit-in and what it means for



New York choreographer Yusha-Marie Sorzano created a contemporary dance inspired by Wichita's historic Dockum Drug Store sit-in for Ballet Wichita's "Breaking Barriers."

today's generation.

"I'm not trying to recreate the Dockum Drug Store sit-in," she said. "I'm examining what it looks like now for young dancers to ask the question: what does it mean to stand for something and hold your ground?"

The performance includes **13 dancers**, with participants drawn from Ballet Wichita's company, the Ballet Wichita school and the **Wichita State University dance program.**

Sorzano said it was

important that the dancers reflecting on the history included Black performers.

"The people that get to sit in those chairs are all Black people of color," she said, noting the casting was intentional in honoring the story being told.

On stage, dancers interact with a row of stools representing the lunch counter, while projected images provide historical context for the audience.

The choreography blends elements of classical ballet and modern movement but is rooted in contemporary dance rather than traditional ballet.

"It's touching classical ballet and classical modern," Sorzano said. "But it's also touching my own voice and signature."

The second work in the program, titled "Invisible," was choreographed by Ballet Wichita's new executive director, **Sandra Shih Parks.**

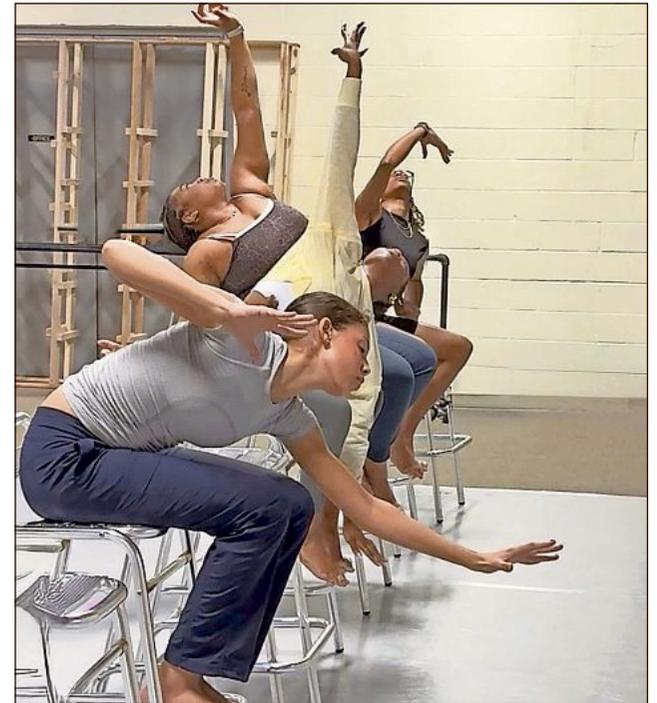
The piece is inspired by the female musicians of Venice's Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage and music school where young women

performed the works of composer Antonio Vivaldi but often received little public recognition. In Ballet Wichita's staging, the work has been reimagined to honor women in Wichita whose leadership and contributions have helped shape the community.

Breaking Barriers is presented in partnership with **The Kansas African American Museum and the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum.**

Tickets are **\$20 for general admission** and **\$30 for a limited number of reserved seats** and can be purchased at **balletwichita.com.**

For those planning on attending, the Doc B-29 Hangar has **70 parking spaces on site**, with additional event parking available next door directly north of the hangar and across the street to the west and southwest of the facility.



Dancers rehearse a contemporary piece inspired by Wichita's historic Dockum Drug Store sit-in for Ballet Wichita's "Breaking Barriers" performance April 3-4 at the Doc B-29 Hangar.

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Start Planning Now: Obama Presidential Center Opens This June

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

Nearly a decade after former President Barack Obama first announced plans for a presidential center on Chicago's South Side, the long-awaited Obama Presidential Center will officially open this summer with four days of celebrations.

The \$850 million campus in Jackson Park will begin its opening events June 18 with an invitation-only dedication ceremony. The following day — Juneteenth — the campus will open to the public for the first time, with celebrations continuing through June 21.

Former President Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama say the center is designed to be more than a traditional presidential library. Instead, it will serve as a community-focused campus built to encourage civic engagement, leadership and youth empowerment.

"Hope is getting a permanent home," Obama said in announcing the opening.

Invitation-Only Dedication Ceremony

The official dedication ceremony on **June 18** will be a **private, invitation-only** event honoring Obama's presidency and the supporters who helped make the project possible.

Former presidents have traditionally attended such events, and George W. Bush has confirmed he will attend the Chicago ceremony.

Reports say current President Donald Trump did not receive an invitation and will not attend. Foundation officials say the event is intended primarily for members of the Obama administration, longtime supporters and community leaders who helped bring the center to life.

Entertainers and celebrity guests have not yet been announced, but organizers say the opening celebration will bring together changemakers, supporters and community members who played a role in Obama's political journey.

Public Opening Begins on Juneteenth

The campus will open to the public



The Obama Presidential Center in Chicago's Jackson Park - under construction in this photo - will open to the public June 19 with four days of celebrations marking the launch of the museum campus honoring President Barack Obama.

June 19, aligning the opening with Juneteenth, the holiday marking the end of slavery in the United States.

Public celebrations will continue through June 21 with open-house-style programming that will include performances, storytelling, art displays, food and family-friendly activities.

Foundation officials say the goal is to create a celebration that brings together local residents and visitors from around the country.

What Visitors Will Find on the Campus

The Obama Presidential Center was designed as a **multi-building civic campus** spread across roughly 19 acres of Jackson Park.

The centerpiece is a **225-foot museum tower** that will house exhibits exploring Obama's presidency, his early life and his rise from community organizer on Chicago's South Side to the White House.

The campus also includes:

- A public forum building for civic programs and conferences
- A branch of the Chicago Public Library
- Gardens, green space and public art installations
- The John Lewis Plaza
- A playground for children
- The Eleanor Roosevelt fruit and

vegetable garden

- A women's garden
- A wetland walk and landscaped green space
- Picnic areas and a large Great Lawn

Another feature of the campus will be **Home Court**, an athletic and community facility that includes a full-size basketball court and space for youth programs and community activities. The basketball-focused center reflects Obama's longtime love of the sport. Some fitness and training elements connected to the facility are expected to open later in 2026.

Most of the campus will be **free and open to the public**.

The museum itself will require **timed-entry tickets**, which will go on sale later this spring. Officials say ticket prices will be similar to other Chicago museums.

For comparison, general admission at major Chicago attractions typically ranges from **about \$25 to \$40**, including the Field Museum, Adler Planetarium and Shedd Aquarium. The Obama Center museum will also offer discounts and free days for Illinois residents.

Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities

The Obama Foundation says about **170 employees have already**



been hired to operate the center and have begun training for their roles ahead of the opening.

The foundation is also recruiting **75 to 100 volunteers** who will serve as campus ambassadors, greeting visitors, assisting with events and helping guide school groups through the campus.

A Project Shaped by Lawsuits and Community Debate

Obama announced in 2015 that Chicago would be home to his presidential center, selecting Jackson Park on the South Side near the neighborhoods where he began his political career.

Construction did not begin until 2021, largely because of **years of lawsuits challenging the decision to build the center inside historic Jackson Park**, along with environmental reviews required for the project.

Residents of surrounding South Side neighborhoods also raised concerns that development tied to the project could accelerate **gentrification**, driving up housing prices and potentially displacing longtime residents. Those concerns led to years of organizing for housing protections and community investment commitments.

Chicago officials eventually approved measures aimed at preserving affordability in nearby neighborhoods as development continues around the center.

Local workforce groups also participated in the construction effort. Organizations such as Chicago Women in Construction helped connect women and minority workers

with jobs on the project.

Expected Impact on South Side Communities

The Obama Foundation estimates the center could attract around **600,000 visitors each year**, bringing new tourism and economic activity to Chicago's South Side.

That visitor traffic is expected to increase spending in nearby neighborhoods such as **Woodlawn, Hyde Park and South Shore**, where tourists may stay in hotels or short-term rentals, dine at local restaurants and cafes, shop at neighborhood businesses and visit other cultural attractions.

Even before the center has opened, new restaurants and cafes have begun appearing in parts of the South Side, vacant storefronts are being redeveloped and developers have shown growing interest in residential and commercial projects in anticipation of increased tourism.

Supporters say the center could help bring long-needed investment to neighborhoods that have faced decades of disinvestment, while city leaders say housing protections are intended to help ensure longtime residents can benefit from the area's growth.

A Weekend Trip From Kansas and Missouri

For residents of Wichita and the Kansas City metropolitan area, the opening of the Obama Presidential Center could also make for an easy long-weekend trip.

Direct flights from Wichita Dwight

See **OBAMA** Page 22 →

WNBA Deal Could Quadruple Player Salaries

The WNBA and its players union have reached a historic labor agreement that could dramatically change the economics of women's professional basketball — including average salaries expected to exceed **\$500,000 a year**, a massive jump from previous seasons.

The deal, announced early Wednesday after more than a week of intense negotiations, still must be finalized and ratified by players and approved by the league's Board of Governors. But both sides are already describing the agreement as **"transformational."**

If finalized as expected, the agreement will take effect as the league enters its **30th season in 2026.**

A Dramatic Jump in Salaries

For most of the WNBA's history, even its biggest stars

earned relatively modest salaries compared with other professional leagues.

Last season:

- The **average WNBA salary was about \$102,000**
- The **minimum salary was around \$66,000**
- The **maximum salary was about \$249,000**

Under the new deal, union leaders say the **average salary will climb above \$500,000**, and the league could soon see its **first million-dollar players.**

Those increases are tied to a new system that links player pay more directly to league revenue — a key demand from players during negotiations.

"For the first time player salaries are tied to a truly meaningful share of league revenue," WNBPA president Nneka Ogwumike said when the deal was announced.

The change represents

roughly a **four-to-five-fold increase in average compensation.**

Revenue Sharing Was the Biggest Fight

Revenue sharing — how much of the league's income goes to players — was the central issue in negotiations.

Players argued that the WNBA's recent surge in popularity, television viewership and investment should translate into significantly higher pay.

The union initially pushed for a much **larger share of league revenue**, similar to the model used in the NBA where players receive about **50% of basketball-related income.**

The final deal is believed to give players a **larger percentage than before**, though still less than the NBA's split. Exact numbers are expected to be released once the full contract is finalized.

Even so, the shift marks the first time WNBA salaries will be tied closely to league revenue growth.

Fixing Long-Standing Complaints About Housing

Housing was another major issue raised by players.

For years, many WNBA athletes had to **find and pay for their own apartments during the season**, sometimes maintaining housing in two cities — their home base and the city where their team played.

Players pushed for guaranteed housing or a standard housing stipend across the league.

The new agreement is expected to provide **league-supported housing benefits**, helping eliminate one of the most frequently criticized conditions for WNBA players.



The players at the 2025 WNBA All-Star Game delivered a very public, black and white message on the court: "Pay Us What You Owe Us."

Travel Conditions Also Improving

Travel has long been another sore point.

Unlike the NBA — where teams fly on charter aircraft — WNBA players historically traveled **on commercial flights**, often dealing with long connections, delays and tight travel schedules during the season.

The league began introducing **full charter flights in 2024**, and the new labor deal is expected to make those travel improvements **permanent.**

Players have said the change is critical not just for comfort but also for **health, safety and recovery during the season.**

Still Far Behind NBA Salaries

Even with the massive pay increase, the WNBA will remain far behind the NBA financially.

In the NBA:

- The **average salary exceeds \$9 million**
- Maximum contracts can reach **more than \$50 million per year**

That means NBA players still earn **roughly 15 to 20 times more** than WNBA players on average.

But WNBA leaders say the new agreement reflects the league's rapid growth and provides a structure that allows salaries to rise as revenues increase.

"This is historical for women's sports," union vice president Breanna Stewart said.

A Frantic Offseason Ahead

Now that the labor agreement is in place, the league faces an unusually compressed offseason.

Before the season opens **May 8**, the WNBA must complete several major milestones:

- **Ratify the new**

collective bargaining agreement

- Hold an **expansion draft** for new teams in Toronto and Portland
- Open what could be the **largest free-agency period in league history**
- Conduct the **WNBA draft on April 13**
- Begin **training camps April 19**

Because many players signed short contracts anticipating the new pay structure, **more than 80% of the league is expected to enter free agency**, creating one of the most active offseasons the sport has seen.

After months of tense negotiations, players say the agreement represents more than just higher salaries.

"I hope young girls and women see this and know their voice matters," WNBA player Brianna Turner said. "They don't have to settle for less."

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After Decades Building Stronger Neighborhoods, James Roseboro Steps Back

By Ty Davis
Wichita Reporter

After more than three decades of neighborhood advocacy in Wichita, James Roseboro says it is finally time to slow down.

At 84 years old, the retired Air Force veteran stepped down at the end of last year as president of the Northeast Heights Neighborhood Association. Even though he stepped away from his leadership role with Wichita Independent Neighborhoods (WIN) several years ago, Roseboro's influence on neighborhood organizing across the city stretches back to the late 1980s.

Today, he says he is taking time to focus on his health and spend more time with family.

"I'm just sitting here relaxing," Roseboro said with a laugh.

But his path into community leadership was not something he originally planned.

From Air Force Retirement to Neighborhood Leadership

After retiring from the Air Force following a 28-year career, Roseboro assumed he would spend his days fishing and visiting with his grandchildren. His wife, however, had a different idea.

"She told me I needed something to do besides fishing," he said.

Around that same time, residents in the Northeast Heights area were reorganizing their neighborhood association and asked Roseboro to help.

The Northeast Heights Neighborhood Association represents residents in an area of northeast Wichita bounded by **29th Street to**

the north, 21st Street to the south, Oliver Avenue to the east and Hillside Avenue to the west.

Like many neighborhood associations across the city, the group brings residents together to address quality-of-life issues affecting their community. Neighborhood associations often organize meetings and events, help residents communicate with city leaders about concerns such as street maintenance or zoning changes, and provide a way for neighbors to stay informed about developments affecting their area.

At first, Roseboro was reluctant to get involved.

"I didn't want to," he admitted. "If I had known what it was going to lead to, I probably wouldn't have said yes."

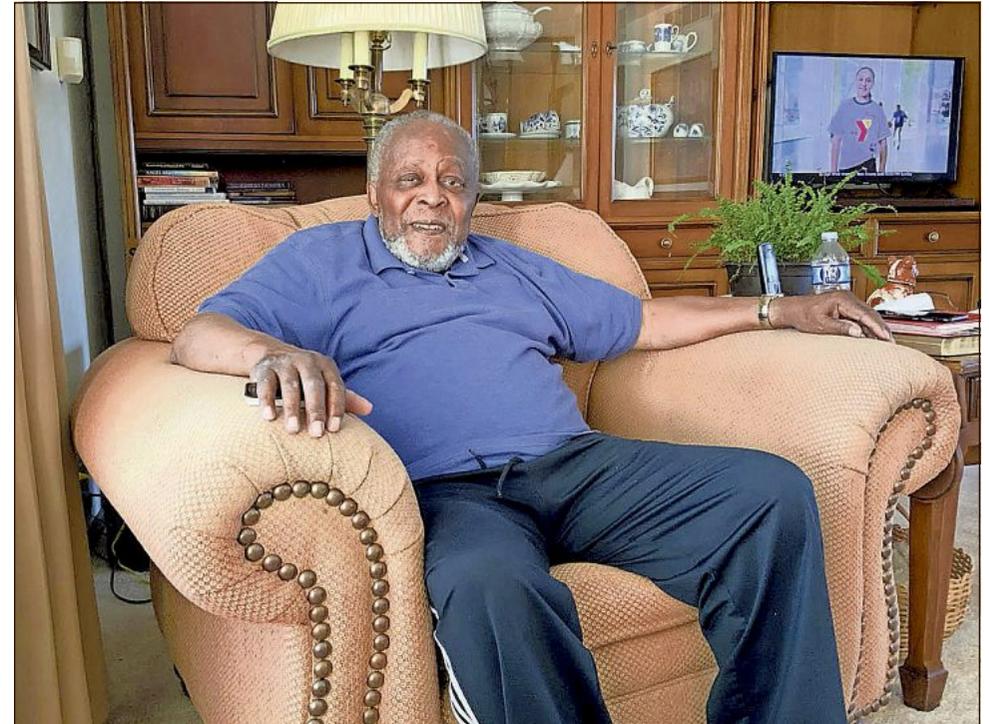
But once he agreed to help organize the neighborhood, his involvement quickly expanded. Bill Fox, a regional organizer with Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, soon invited Roseboro to help organize neighborhood groups across Wichita.

That opportunity launched what would become more than three decades of civic engagement.

"I don't believe in doing anything halfway," Roseboro said. "Once I got involved, I was all the way in."

Building a Citywide Neighborhood Movement

Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, commonly known as WIN, was created in the early 1990s to bring neighborhood associations together and give residents a stronger voice in local decision-making. Founded by neighborhood leaders



After more than three decades helping organize Wichita neighborhoods, James Roseboro says he is now focusing on his health and spending more time with family.

like Roseboro, who believed communities could be more effective when working together, the organization has helped neighborhoods across Wichita organize, share resources and advocate for improvements in their communities.

Roseboro later served **off and on as president of Wichita Independent Neighborhoods for at least 15 years**, making him the organization's longest-serving president. At the same time, he continued his work leading the **Northeast Heights Neighborhood Association, where he served as president for about 20 years.**

Over the years, WIN has provided leadership training, educational programs, and opportunities for residents to learn how local government works and how

neighborhoods can participate in shaping their communities. Programs such as Neighborhood University have helped train neighborhood leaders on everything from writing bylaws to working with city officials and addressing issues such as zoning, safety, and neighborhood development.

One initiative Roseboro remembers fondly was WIN's annual job fairs organized in partnership with **Wichita Public Schools**. The events connected **students with job opportunities**, with organizers working to host them in each quadrant of Wichita so more young people could participate.

Finding Strength in Neighborhood Unity

Through his work with WIN and local neighborhood associations, Roseboro

spent decades helping residents connect with one another and with city leadership.

"People don't realize how important their voice is," he said. "If neighborhoods learn to speak in one accord, they can influence a lot."

But getting dozens of neighborhood groups with different priorities to work together often proved difficult.

"Getting everyone to speak in one accord—that was the challenge," Roseboro said. "But once people understood the goal, they knew what we were working toward."

Changing Perceptions of Northeast Wichita

Roseboro also witnessed major changes in the

See ROSEBORO Page 22 →

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ROSEBORO, from Page 21 ↓

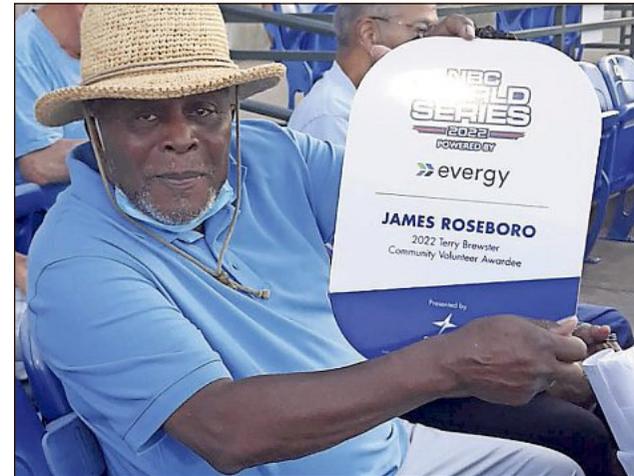
Northeast Heights neighborhood and surrounding areas of northeast Wichita over the years. When he first moved into the area in the late 1980s, he said the neighborhood had a reputation for crime and some people warned him not to buy a home there.

"I was actually told not to move into this neighborhood," he recalled.

Instead, he saw potential. Over time, he watched the community evolve and become more diverse.

"When I first came here it was mostly White," he said. "Then it shifted to mostly Black, and now it's a real melting pot. That diversity is something I believe in."

Roseboro also worked with other community leaders to change how the city referred to Wichita's historic African American neighborhood. At one point, city officials



began referring to the area as **"near-northeast Wichita."**

Community leaders argued the term was **code word for Black**, and with it came negative connotations that discouraged investment, drove down housing values and stunted neighborhood growth. Working with city officials and neighborhood advocates, they pushed to eliminate the designation and instead refer to the area simply as part of **greater northeast Wichita**.

National Recognition for Neighborhood Work

One of the accomplishments Roseboro remembers most proudly came in 2012 when Wichita received national recognition at the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference, earning recognition for the **Best Multi-Neighborhood Partnership**. NUSA is a national organization that highlights outstanding neighborhood initiatives

and community engagement across the country.

"That was probably my proudest moment," he said. "We helped put Wichita on the map."

A Changing Sense of Community

Despite those successes, Roseboro says he has seen changes in how residents engage with their communities.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, neighborhood participation was strong. Residents attended meetings, hosted community events, and made an effort to get to know the people living around them.

"Back then people knew their neighbors," he said. "I used to tell people to know the six houses to the east and six houses to the west of you."

Today, he believes many communities struggle with declining engagement.

"People don't even know who lives across the street anymore," he said. "You can't

stay in your house and expect your neighbors to know you. You have to engage with people."

Stepping Back After Decades of Service

Health concerns and the desire to spend more time with family ultimately led Roseboro to step away from leadership.

"My health isn't what it used to be," he said. "And when I was younger, I didn't always spend the time with my family that I should have."

After 46 years of marriage, he says his focus now is on spending more time with his wife and reconnecting with family.

Looking ahead, Roseboro hopes the next generation will continue the work of building strong neighborhoods and active communities.

His advice for future leaders is simple.

"Be sincere in whatever you do," he said. "Keep your word."

Faith has also played an important role in guiding his leadership.

"I'm a God-fearing person," Roseboro said. "Ask God for guidance and let Him lead your steps."

Even in retirement, Roseboro hopes the message of neighborhood unity continues.

"If this article does anything," he said, "I hope it brings neighborhoods together again and encourages someone to step up and lead in their community."

OBAMA, from Page 19 ↓

D. Eisenhower National Airport and Kansas City International Airport to Chicago typically take well under two hours gate-to-gate, making the city a convenient destination for a quick getaway.

Visitors could easily turn the trip into a three-day weekend, with the presidential center as the main attraction. Most presidential museums take two to three hours to explore, though visitors who spend time walking the campus grounds and gardens could easily spend half a day there.

Travelers visiting the center may also want to explore nearby attractions such as the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center and the historic Bronzeville neighborhood. Many visitors also make time for downtown destinations such as Millennium Park, Chicago Riverwalk and Navy Pier.

For many travelers, the center is expected to become an important new stop on the nation's growing network of Black history destinations — and a place where visitors can reflect on the legacy of the nation's first Black president while exploring one of America's most historic cities.

Morgan, Ora, 92

July 25, 1953 - March 19, 2026

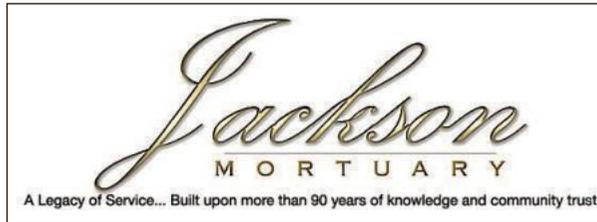
Service will be held at 12 noon on Monday March 30 at Old Mission Mortuary 3424 E 21st St. N

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Lena Breckenridge, 82

August 26, 1943 - March 10, 2026
Service will be held at 11 am on Sat., Mar. 28 at Holy Savior Catholic Church, 3000 E. 13th.

Jerome Robinson, 69

September 24, 1956 - March 10, 2026
Service will be held at 11 am on Fri., Mar. 27 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Wanda J. Beard, 75

October 16, 1950 - March 4, 2026
Service was held on Mar. 18 at Faith Mission Church.

Irma Hickles, 92

January 11, 1934 - March 4, 2026
Service was held on Mar. 16 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Darnell Guiden, Sr., 56

July 24, 1969 - March 2, 2026
Service was held on Mar. 21 at University United Methodist Church

Graze I. Kinard, Jr., 93

April 29, 1932 - February 27, 2026
Service was held on Mar. 21 at the Holy Temple COGIC

Emma Lee Davis, 81

October 13, 1944 - February 21, 2026
Service was held on Mar. 7 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Bids for the Hunt Midwest Logistics VII (the "Project") for Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development, Inc. ("Owner") to be located in in Clay County, 8701 NE 48th Street, Kansas City Missouri 64161 (see map attached) will be received by Chris Reasoner, Assistant Vice President of Construction Management for the Owner, via email at creasoner@huntmidwest.com ("Representative") RFP pricing window begins on Wednesday April 1st, 2026 and ends at 3:00pm on Thursday April 23rd, 2026. The proposed Work is set forth in the Bidding Documents. All bids must be in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Copies of the Bidding Documents, including, without limitation, Drawings, Specifications, Addenda and the Bidding Documents Manual, may be obtained from the Representative at the email address listed above, or download at the link provided in this document. The Bidding Documents Manual contains, among other things, the Instructions to Bidders, Bid Form, the Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, General Conditions of the Contract between Owner and General Contractor and certain approved forms for use in connection with the Project.

A Contractor's Qualification Statement is required with the submission of a bid. Bids will be received on a stipulated sum basis, including the alternates described in the Contract Documents, if any.

Project has Port KC MBE/WBE subcontractor participation goals of MBE 14.7% and WBE 14.4%. Project is part of the Port KC Construction Workforce Program with workforce goals of Minorities 10%, and Women 2%. Right of way or Public Work is Prevailing Wage. Port KC required monthly documentation is provided in the project manual for General Contractor compliance reporting.

The purpose of this RFP is to obtain proposals for the selection of a general contractor for the Hunt Midwest Logistics VII building.

Questions. Any general questions must be submitted to Chris Reasoner at creasoner@huntmidwest.com before Thursday, April 16th, 2026 at 9:00 AM Central Standard Time. Responses will be issued no later than April 20th, 2026 at 1:00 PM. All questions will be answered through an addendum to this RFP, and will be posted on the link listed below. Questions will be addressed as they come in and addendums will be issued along the way, until April 16th, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

Meet and Greet/Site Visit Conference Rain or Shine, we will host a Meet and Greet/ Site Visit Conference on Thursday, April 9th at 10:00am. We will meet at a location adjacent to the site, please see in the link provided below. Please use the map to find the site, as the building address is not currently recognized by map applications. I will create an attendance list with contact information for those who attend. I will publish that list in an addendum so that everyone will be able to contact each other for bidding purposes.

The Successful Bidder may be required to furnish a Performance and a Payment Bond in a form approved by Owner as security for the faithful performance of, and the payment of all bills and obligations arising from the performance of the Contract.

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If Owner accepts a Bid submitted, Owner will submit to the selected Bidder a fully completed Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, and the selected Bidder shall sign and deliver the required number of counterparts of the Agreement Between Owner and Contractor and any related documents to Owner within five (5) days of receipt of such documents.

Drawings can be downloaded beginning April 1st, 2026 at:
<https://app.box.com/s/zqjbcmb5thop9dr1i80cpreywm6rvmr>

Recap of Important Dates

- Out for RFP 4/1/2026
- Site Visit/Meet and Greet Conference 4/9/2026 at 10:00am
- Addendum Questions Due 4/16/2026 at 9:00am
- Addendum Answers Issued 4/20/2026 at 1:00pm
- RFP Due Date 4/23/2026 at 3:00pm



BREAKING BARRIERS

A contemporary ballet inspired by the Dockum Drug Store Sit-In and the women who helped shape Wichita's history. Featuring choreography by Yusha-Marie Sorzano and Sandra Parks.

April 3 & 4 at 7:30 PM | B-29 Doc Hangar





In Partnership with The Kansas African American Museum and the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum

This project was supported in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, which receives support from the State of Kansas and the National Endowment for the Arts.







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