



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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### The Honorable Mike Kehoe

Governor of the State of Missouri  
Missouri State Capitol  
201 W Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

July 8, 2025

Dear Governor Kehoe,

With the passage of Senate Bill 3, Missouri now has a powerful tool to play a significant role in attracting and retaining professional sports teams—most notably the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals. I'm writing to share with you, and with the Director of the Department of Economic Development and the Commissioner of the Office of Administration of the state of Missouri, a proposal that I believe meets the requirements of the law while also delivering generational investments in public health and public safety—all without increasing taxes on our residents.

As outlined in Senate Bill 3, one of the key conditions for state funding is that:

"The director and the commissioner are satisfied that there is sufficient public investment made or to be made by units of local government to support infrastructure or other needs generated by the project."

I believe Jackson County is positioned to meet that requirement through a responsible and community-driven approach. I'm proposing the renewal of the existing 3/8-cent sales tax, originally approved by voters in 2006 to fund improvements to Arrowhead and Kauffman Stadiums. Renewing that tax—without raising it—would give us the ability to pursue three high-impact priorities:

1. **Modernizing and improving Arrowhead Stadium** so the Chiefs can remain in Jackson County and Missouri for decades to come, while also funding ongoing **repairs and maintenance**



2. **Restoring and upgrading public safety infrastructure**, including the historic downtown Jackson County Courthouse and our juvenile rehabilitation facility
3. **Investing in public health** through critical capital improvements at University Health

This isn't just a local plan. University Health serves patients from across western Missouri. It operates one of the state's busiest Level I trauma centers, delivers nearly half of all births in Kansas City, and anchors our region's public health infrastructure—including the largest WIC program in the state and the only direct connection to Children's Mercy's Level IV NICU. The impact of these improvements will be felt well beyond county lines.

The public safety portion of this proposal is about more than buildings—it's about preserving a Missouri landmark envisioned by one of my predecessors, former County Executive and President Harry S. Truman, and ensuring it continues to serve the public with dignity and purpose. The downtown Jackson County Courthouse must remain safe, accessible, and functional for the thousands who rely on it for justice and protection each year. At the same time, this investment would finally allow us to modernize our juvenile justice facility, creating a more secure, accountable, and rehabilitative space for young people in crisis. These are not just capital projects—they are commitments to fairness, safety, and a more just future.

I also want to be clear about the Royals: I fully support keeping them in Jackson County. Since the April 2024 vote, the City of Kansas City has taken the lead on identifying a new site and working with the team, and I've respected their desire to do so. At the same time, I've made it clear to the Royals that Jackson County is ready to support the City's efforts and is willing to step back in should the team present a proposal for us to consider or express interest in reengaging. To date, the Royals have not done so.

Governor, I'm aware that some have tried to suggest that I'm opposed to any level of public funding for these teams. That's just not true. What I am opposed to is continuing the status quo for another generation—because I've seen firsthand the strain that has placed on the County and our taxpayers. I believe we owe our residents something better: a balanced approach that protects their interests and secures a stronger future for everyone.

To move forward, I'm respectfully asking for two things:

1. **Confirmation that this proposed local investment structure satisfies the requirement in Senate Bill 3**—specifically, that the Director and Commissioner would view it as sufficient to meet the law's standard for local participation

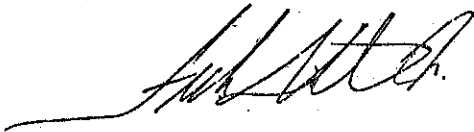
2. **Support for a narrow statutory amendment** that would clarify the renewed tax may be used for more than one related purpose, rather than requiring three separate ballot questions—an impractical path for a unified community plan

I believe this proposal could generate between \$500 million and \$700 million for each of the three core priorities. It offers a clear path to retain the Chiefs, protects taxpayers, and delivers meaningful long-term public benefit.

This approach represents exactly the kind of balanced, responsible investment the moment calls for. As your office has previously stated, *"any action taken must be a good return on investment for Missourians."* We agree—and believe this proposal delivers not only on that expectation, but also on the opportunity to build something greater for our residents.

I hope the State of Missouri will partner with us—not just to keep these teams—but to ensure that any public investment is no more than what's necessary and firmly grounded in what's best for the people we serve. I'd welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you or your team at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank White, Jr.', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

**Frank White, Jr.**  
County Executive  
Jackson County, Missouri

*Attachment: Proposed Amendment to RSMo §67.700*

CC: Director of Department of Economic Development, Michelle Hataway  
Commissioner of the Office of Administration, Kenneth Zellers