



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 23		DATE: 1/28/2025	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANTONIA VIENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Toni@PleaseVote.One	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 10:39 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The situation with the Jackson County assessor is untenable. Gail McCann Beatty's previous appraisal experience was NOT in mass appraisal, but in single family house appraisal. Her background does not make her fit to handle the assessment of Jackson County commercial and residential properties. This is obvious with the county's lack of Mass Appraisal proper methods and techniques. Her values are excessive with many homeowners may be losing their homes due to excessive assessment. As an appointed official by Frank Write, she is not answerable to the property owners of the county. Her valuation for commercial real estate does not adhere to property methods and may drive many commercial property owners to leave the county. I fully support Representatives Caton's bill to have the Kansas City assessor be an elected official. Additionally, this should have been done years ago based upon Jackson County's population.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C.HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 11:50 PM

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I am in Full Support of this State Constitutional Amendment. The Residents of the County of Jackson and the City of Saint Louis deserve an Elected Assessor Accountable to the People.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY AL-SHAWISH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ashley.alshawish@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 11:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a legislative aide at Jackson County. Taxpayers who are being taxed out of their homes deserve real representation during tumultuous and erroneous assessments. An appointed position answers to a select few within a corrupt administration. The taxpayers deserve an Assessor who will answer to them as constituents, and who will run a department with reasonable independence and autonomy, such as the Prosecutor's office.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETTY LLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bettyallen1950@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 1:17 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Please understand that I am not AGAINST paying taxes. I am AGAINST not having any say in how much taxes we do pay. The current system does not work. Let's put this to a vote of the public!!!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA KAY WEST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: brendawest1981@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 12:51 PM
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I support this bill because it is the only way to correct this totally unfair mess that Jackson County and Frank White's office has created.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DALE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: recallfrankwhite@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 7:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I fully support making the county assessor an elected position. This would require the assessors to have more accountability to their constituents rather than to those who appointed them.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELISA MARIE BREITENBACH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Elisa1doughgirl@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 7:07 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

We are in full support of HJR 23. Growing up in Jackson County was a wonderful experience. It was affordable and everyone understood what they were going to pay in taxes. All across our county many businesses are closing, and more will be doing the same. The need for this is far greater than words could ever say. As a former business owner for many years in Jackson County. I saw firsthand the heartbreaking destruction our Assessor had on our fellow residents and business community. I believe we should all have a right to vote people out of this office that believe they don't need to follow our laws in Missouri. We are thankful to Mo. State Representative Caton for bringing this bill forward for us.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GLORIA CORBIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jackglocorbin@comcast.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 9:12 PM
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I would like to see voters elect assessment official



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BUTLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: johnb@intrafloproducts.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 6:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

During the last re-assessment year, 2022, Jackson County's assessor oversaw a process that resulted in massive increases in assessed value for tens of thousands of property owners in Jackson County. Despite a requirement of a physical inspection for an increase over 15%, assessed values on homes on my block alone rose from 18.4% to as high as 87.5%. With NO physical inspection other than a photo taken from the curb. Our resulting tax bill just for our home rose from \$2668 in 2022 to \$3788 in 2023, and our assessed value rose by \$104,100 - 59.8%. With an appointed Assessor in Jackson County, we have no recourse other than an appeal. Had our Assessor been an elected position, we would be able to vote this person out of office, and the officeholder would be accountable to the people he or she represents. I am supportive of making this position one that the voters elect



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MADONNA B GORDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: donnabgordon@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 5:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

During the last re-assessment year, 2022, Jackson County's assessor oversaw a process that resulted in massive increases in assessed value for tens of thousands of property owners in Jackson County. Despite a requirement of a physical inspection for an increase over 15%, assessed values on homes on my block alone rose from 18.4% to as high as 87.5%. With NO physical inspection other than a photo taken from the curb. Our resulting tax bill just for our home rose from \$2668 in 2022 to \$3788 in 2023, and our assessed value rose by \$104,100 - 59.8%. With an appointed Assessor in Jackson County, we have no recourse other than an appeal. Had our Assessor been an elected position, we would be able to vote this person out of office, and the officeholder would be accountable to the people he or she represents. I am supportive of making this position one that the voters elect.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN HENEGAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Rmhenegar@sbcglobal.net		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 8:21 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK ANTHONY JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: 4thwardcommitteeman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 12:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Our 2023 assessment for property taxes went up 341% over 2023 in Jackson County. We appealed, but are still not done with the appeal to this date Jan 24, 2025. There seems to be no rhyme or reason for the disparity in assessments. Please take the assessor job out from being the County Executives appointment. It needs to be an elected position; the people's choice.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY WILCOX		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: fastest2.mw@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 6:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

If you live in Jackson County and own property, you have been subjected to the largest racketeering scheme ever perpetuated in the State of Missouri [starting in 2023] with the Jackson County Assessment. Not only incompetence but criminal actions. We must have a voice for the people. Stop the good ol' boy sinister agendas and allow the PEOPLE to have a voice in who runs our assessments. No longer "appointed by their pal". The people MUST have a voice. Nearly 100% of MO Counties have elected Assessors and we in Jackson County want that right, as well. Thank you!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PRESTON V SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: pvsmith@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2025 12:40 PM

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There are elected county assessors in every county in Missouri except for Jackson and the City of St. Louis, where the assessors are appointed. When the 2023 assessment increases were analyzed by the State Auditor, Jackson County had far and above the highest increase of any county in the state, at 24.35 percent, compared with 2022 assessments. The Consumer Price Index was only 6.5 percent. The next largest increase was in St. Charles County, at 18.2 percent. In the 2019 reassessment, Jackson County again had the largest increases of any county in the state, with 19.75 percent. The CPI was just 1.9% then. The county with the next-largest increase in 2019 was St. Louis County, at 11.53%. Just having an elected assessor is not going to guarantee that the assessment increases will be lower, but it will at least make the assessor accountable to the general public. Right now we have an assessor who does make public appearances to groups, does few media interviews and rarely appears before the County Legislature. At least let the voters decide whom should be assessing the property, and not the Jackson County Executive who appoints the assessor without any Legislative approval. As it stands, the Jackson County Assessor reports to no one except the County Executive, and has absolutely no accountability to the taxpayers or voters. As an amendment, to this bill, I ask that a special election be held in 2026 for the Jackson County Assessor so that we do not have to wait until 2028 to elect the Assessor, under the State Constitution.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT D. MURPHY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SEAN SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON P MARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: spmartin2014@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 8:53 AM	
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The Jackson County Assessments for 2023 and 2019 are greatly biased toward the county's benefit and damn the home owners. I had nearly 50% increase in my real estate taxes both times. I appealed both times and once before for my mother when she was near death. The County seems to think that homes are well-maintained and fixed up ready for sale, in their assessments. Many people cannot afford to do many repairs and can have really old homes that need a lot of repairs and updates.... like would be typically found in homes offered for sale. The fact that the County Assessment Office keeps putting in large increases in multiple reassessments and the long term of the County Executive make it difficult to get fair values. They have essentially no oversight. Both should be elected positions with fairly short terms so the voters have some power to adjust for inequalities and greediness of public officials. Currently Jackson County is very corrupt and certainly not working to aid the people in the county, but that is their job... to allow for all to pay equal and relative values relative to current market values and the reality of life's misgivings that not all can afford to keep their homes and property up to date, thus most homes should be valued based on reality. I know the county has many residents and it is a lot of work to reassess all homes every 2 years. There are other ways to manage fairness. Perhaps the law needs to reflect today's reality? There are surely better ways to manage this many properties. Perhaps only cover less properties per year, so that they have time for onsite inspections and they should follow the law in not increasing a properties value without adequate inspection. What they did for my inspection, which occurred without proper notification, was take a few pictures from near the street and only viewing part of my property, and not asking if the owner wanted an interior perspective. Having officials doing proper work will be better achieved if they are subject to voter approval.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN MCBRIDE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kcchiefs.teresa@proton.me	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 3:16 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I firmly believe that Jackson County needs to have an elected assessor. I know that having an elected assessor would not solve all of Jackson County’s problems in the Assessment Department, but it would definitely be a step in the right direction. As it now stands with an appointed assessor, we, the taxpayers of Jackson County, have little recourse to resolve disputes. The Board of Equalization is the only resource available to taxpayers. The members on this board are also appointed to their positions. Therefore, I feel HJR23 put forth by Representative Caton would be a great start in giving The People of Jackson County and the State of Missouri a larger voice in these matters. I would like to share a recent experience I had with the Jackson County Assessment Department. When I received my 2024 real estate tax bills, the classification on one parcel had changed from residential to commercial. It has always been taxed as residential by Jackson County since I have owned it. I have owned this parcel since 2005, and it is currently and has always been a vacant lot. It is a part of a Planned Unit Development within the city limits of Grain Valley, Missouri. The whole Planned Unit Development is Residential Senior Housing and zoned R-3 by the city. This particular parcel has not been built on as of January 2025 and is vacant property (no improvements). When I contacted the Assessment Department to find out why the classification had changed, I was told they do this because any vacant property that the assessment department thinks might be commercial someday, is automatically switched to commercial until improvements are made. They said the city classification has no bearing on what the assessor’s office classifies any parcel in the county. This is in spite of the fact that I could not build commercial on this parcel unless I got it rezoned by the City of Grain Valley. The Assessment Department also told me that they send their employees out to look for parcels that they (arbitrarily) think might be used for commercial someday and then report back. Then the classifications are changed without notifying the owner of the property. I was told I had no choice but to pay the commercial amount for 2024. This resulted in the taxes going from approximately \$1,300.00 in 2023 to approximately \$2,600.00 for 2024 (Even though there was no change in assessed value). The Assessment Department told me that I could request a hearing with the BOE in May 2025 to request this parcel be changed back to residential classification. They said that it was unlikely to happen as this is just their policy. The Assessment Department in Jackson County has abused the power that this department holds. The property owners of Jackson County currently have no way to make changes in the Assessment Department. Therefore, I believe having an elected Assessor would be an important first step in giving the people of Jackson County a way to have their voices heard in these matters. I am asking for the committee to support this resolution and move it along quickly so the voters of Missouri will be able to make the choice to stop unelected bureaucrats from running our government. As President Lincoln said.... For our government is set up to be Of the People, By the People and For the People. Respectfully submitted. Stephen McBride



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TERESA MCBRIDE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM J HADLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: bmcookhill@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 10:41 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JACQUELINE BARDGETT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-239-9444	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF ST. LOUIS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jacque@bardgett.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 7:26 AM	
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