



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: ABBIGAIL KING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 8:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am the spouse of a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service and sacrifice. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDY DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BETTIE RUARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 6:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Statement for Missouri House Committee Hearing on Veteran Property Tax Relief and Real and Personal Property

Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Bettie, and I am a Missouri resident and the spouse of a disabled veteran. I am here to share the lived reality behind the need for clear, consistent, and accessible property tax relief for Missouri’s disabled veterans.

For many of us, our homes are the only stable asset we have after years of service. Yet rising property taxes create a financial strain that grows heavier each year, especially for veterans living on fixed incomes, disability compensation, or retirement pay. When a veteran becomes 100% disabled, that disability affects every part of life—employment, mobility, medical needs, and long term financial stability. Property tax relief is not simply a benefit; it is a safeguard that allows disabled veterans to remain in their homes and maintain independence. We have had many friends and family leave the area for states that offer military veterans property tax relief so I know of what I speak.

Recent legislation has shown that Missouri recognizes this need. However, the implementation has been uneven across counties. Veterans have reported confusion, delays, and inconsistent guidance when attempting to apply for the relief they are legally entitled to. Some counties have not provided clear instructions, some have declined to accept applications, and others have interpreted the law differently. This inconsistency places the burden back on the very people the law was designed to support. When I inquired in Pulaski County, after learning that surrounding counties offered this program, I was told that Pulaski County (where Fort Leonard Wood is located) elected not to participate. This led to me reaching out to Senator Josh Hawley for further assistance as I was not aware that a county could simply elect “not to participate” in a law. In my mind that would be like me getting stopped for speeding or not having insurance and refusing to accept or pay the ticket because I elect not to participate in that law. My sincere hope is that this bill is passed and that every county in the state will be required to participate.

A statewide standard—clear, uniform, and consistently enforced—would ensure that every eligible veteran receives the same treatment regardless of where they live. Veterans should not have to navigate conflicting information or face resistance at the local level. They should not have to hire legal assistance or repeatedly contact elected officials simply to access a benefit already granted by the legislature.

Property tax relief for disabled veterans is more than a financial adjustment. It is a recognition of sacrifice, a commitment to stability, and a promise that Missouri will stand with those who served. When the process is unclear or unevenly applied, that promise is weakened. When it is implemented consistently and transparently, it strengthens trust between veterans, counties, and the state. Pulaski County is quick to state that they love their “military family” and have no issues with taking the extra

funds provided by the government to the county due to Fort Leonard Wood being located here but they also seem quick to slap that “military family” in the face by electing to not participate in a law that would greatly benefit them.

I understand that in addition to the bill being presented in reference to property tax that there is also one moving forward on real and personal property tax, I have the same view point on these bills. Why should we be paying tax on personal property that we paid tax on when purchased for personal use and stored on our own property. We have retired friends that have actually sold their RVs (that they hoped to enjoy during retirement) due to the high annual personal property taxes that they had to pay on them. Taxes are paid when vehicles are purchased, and taxes are paid when you buy fuel for those vehicles. Why tax annually on an asset that had taxes paid in full on the date of purchase?

I respectfully ask this committee to not only pass this legislature but to ensure that the law is applied uniformly across all Missouri counties, that guidance is clear and accessible, and that disabled veterans are not left to navigate this process alone. Missouri has taken an important step by bringing this legislation forward. The next step is ensuring that it works as intended for every veteran who qualifies.

Thank you for your time and for your continued attention to the needs of Missouri’s veterans.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BLAKE LEITCH		PHONE NUMBER: 217-246-9484	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: PARMELE DISABILITY ADVOCATE		TITLE: OUTREACH SPEC	
ADDRESS: 1545 E PRIMROSE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRET D. NELSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 2:04 PM
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I believe disabled veterans have given enough for this country, and therefore should be exempt from all property tax.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRUCE A BECKER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 10:20 AM

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As a VFW Post Commander for the last few years, I have had the privilege and the responsibility of working directly with veterans in my community who are facing very real financial hardships. At VFW Post 8828 in Troy, Missouri, we have helped veterans who struggle to afford basic necessities like food on the table, life-sustaining medications, the denial of well-deserved VA benefits, the inability to pay basic utilities and the ever-increasing burden of property taxes while surviving on limited incomes.

Now it is time for action, for more than 7 years, there has been no meaningful legislation passed in Missouri that truly benefits veterans statewide.

It is time for Missouri to honor its promise to Veterans!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES A SANDERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 8:27 AM	
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Veterans have long been overlooked when it comes to returning the favor they have done not only to the nation, but directly to the citizens of the State of Missouri. For the most part they come home, melt back into the civilian life, raise families, and most important pay their taxes. They have no issue supporting the cause of the everyday folks of this state, but they see all these benefits given to individuals who do not. They work, day in and day out, many with service-connected disabilities to pay those taxes. The amount that our Missouri veterans can be compensated in property tax exemptions for the disabilities they have from the service that have provided is important to the quality of life. As a 70% disabled veteran, I not only have worked in federal government for 10 extra years and the State of Missouri for an additional 22 years I have paid those taxes with pride and will continue until I am no longer able. It is not because it is the law, it is because it is important that all citizen's support those in need. Now we have many veterans that have that need and we see expanded Medicaid and other benefits being the top issues that our state legislators addressing and letting our veterans set on the sideline.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES CANADY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER P GRIGGS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:36 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri Vietnam Veteran that is 100% disabled due to Agent Orange. The chemical caused damage to my heart, caused cancers, and chronic kidney disease. The constant noise from the cannons and missile launchers damaged my hearing. I have PTSD from being in combat for two years. I belong to nationwide veteran groups. Missouri is embarrassing when compared to other states that support their veterans with tax relief. Please support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Show that MO honors their veterans. Thank you for your consideration. - Christopher P Griggs



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 6:32 PM

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Showing support for all my brothers and sisters. My wife and I are veterans.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CLAY WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 253-888-0870	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN LEGION / VFW		TITLE: VOLUNTEER SERVICE OFFICER	
ADDRESS: 101 BAILEY RENEE CT			
CITY: WAYNESVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65583
EMAIL: claywilliams98597@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 12:57 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**Testimony in Support of HB 2588
 Local Real Property Tax Credit for Certain Disabled Veterans**

Chairman, Vice Chairman, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2588.

My name is Clay Williams. I am a 100% service connected combat veteran, a father, and someone who works closely with veterans in our community. I rise today in strong support of this bill.

HB 2588 provides local real property tax relief for certain disabled veterans — men and women who have already paid a profound cost in service to this nation. Many of these veterans live with permanent service-connected disabilities. They face ongoing medical care, limited earning capacity, and in many cases rely on fixed incomes.

For them, property taxes are not just another bill — they can be the difference between stability and hardship.

A home represents security. It represents dignity. It represents independence. For disabled veterans, maintaining that stability can be challenging when compounded by medical expenses and reduced earning potential resulting directly from their service.

This bill does not create a handout. It provides targeted relief to those whose disabilities were incurred in defense of our freedoms. It is a tangible way for our communities to say: your sacrifice matters.

By allowing local real property tax credits for certain disabled veterans, we:

- Help preserve housing stability
- Reduce financial strain on fixed-income households
- Honor the principle that service should never become a lifelong financial

penalty

Supporting this bill is a practical, responsible step that reflects our values as a state and as a people.

I respectfully ask for your support and a do-pass recommendation on HB 2588.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: CLAY WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER: 253-888-0870
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN LEGION POST 331/VFW 3176/ DAV 49		TITLE: VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER
ADDRESS:		
CITY: ST. ROBERT	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65584
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CORTNEY MCKINNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 1:07 PM	

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Veterans should receive property tax relief as recognition for their service, sacrifice, and long-term contributions to their communities. Here is why:

1. Recognition of Service and Sacrifice

Veterans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, often during deployments that required personal sacrifice, time away from family, and exposure to physical or psychological risk. Property tax relief is a tangible way for states and local governments to honor that commitment beyond symbolic gestures.

2. Support for Disabled Veterans

Many veterans live with service-connected disabilities, including injuries, chronic pain, or PTSD. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a significant percentage of veterans receive disability compensation. Property tax relief helps offset long-term medical costs and income limitations that can result from these disabilities.

3. Fixed or Limited Incomes

A large portion of veterans are retirees who rely on fixed incomes such as military retirement pay or VA benefits. Property taxes can increase over time due to rising home values, making it harder for veterans to remain in their homes. Relief programs provide housing stability and prevent displacement.

4. Encouraging Homeownership and Stability

Homeownership strengthens communities. Offering tax incentives can encourage veterans to buy homes, settle long-term, and invest in local neighborhoods. Stable housing also contributes to better physical and mental health outcomes.

5. Moral and Civic Responsibility

Veterans protected the freedoms and infrastructure that allow communities to thrive. Providing property tax relief reflects a societal commitment to care for those who have served. It reinforces a culture of respect and accountability.

6. Economic Fairness

Military service often interrupts career paths and earning potential. Property tax relief can help balance the economic impact of years spent serving rather than advancing in civilian careers.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEANNA RHODES-WIDMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:30 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DUSTIN DIXON		PHONE NUMBER: 618-960-9594	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LAKESIDE WARRIORS		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 140 CHARLESTON DR			
CITY: LAKE OZARK		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65049
EMAIL: dixd10@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 7:41 AM	

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These heroes deserve at the least a tax break as almost every other state offers it to them.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EDWIN B FARNHAM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 11:29 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EVA MALONEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:54 PM	

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?? ACTION NEEDED – Disabled Veteran Property Tax Bills ??
 The Missouri House Veterans Committee is holding a hearing on several Disabled Veteran Property Tax bills.
 ?? Tuesday, March 3, 2026
 ? 12:00 PM
 ?? House Hearing Room 7
 ?? Watch Live Here:
<https://house.mo.gov/CommitteeDetail.aspx?category=all&year=2026&code=R&cluster=true&committee=4346&nid=11308>

- Bills Being Heard Include:**
- 4 statewide homestead exemption bills (tiered property tax relief based on VA disability rating)
 - 2 county-option real property tax credit bills
 - 1 county-option personal property tax bill (up to two vehicles)
- This hearing will help determine which bills move forward.

?? Submit Testimony Here:
<https://witness.house.mo.gov/Default.aspx?bill=HB2276¬iceid=11308>
 You do NOT have to attend in person.
 When submitting testimony:

- Select ALL of the disabled veteran property tax bills listed for the hearing.
- The same written statement can be copied and submitted for each bill.

Why Your Testimony Matters
 Legislators notice when veterans speak up.
 Even a short statement:

- Shows support
- Helps move bills forward
- Reminds lawmakers this affects real Missouri veterans and families

If veterans do not engage, lawmakers assume the issue is not urgent.

?? Simple Testimony Example (Copy and Paste)
 If you are unsure what to write, you can use this:

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

**I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.
Please share this with other Missouri veterans.**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HANNA MAREE LYON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:25 AM
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I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes affect veterans and their families across our state. The boundary states offer tax benefits and breaks to veterans and MO should consider doing the same, as to prevent border city residents from leaving the state due to more affordable housing/homestead and property tax costs. Please move these bills forward. Thank you



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HAROLD C. BENNE III		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 2:48 PM	
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Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a retired USAF veteran with a VA disability, and I am writing to you today in strong support of legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans.

After serving our country, many of us face the tough decision of where to settle and plant our roots. I chose to make my home in Missouri, drawn to its conservative values and the sense of community I've always appreciated, having grown up just across the river in Illinois. However, I have many friends and fellow veterans with disability ratings who have made the difficult choice to live in Illinois. They would prefer to live in Missouri, but the significant property tax benefits for disabled veterans in Illinois make it a much more financially viable option for them and their families.

This creates a conundrum for those who have sacrificed for our nation. They are forced to choose between the state they love and the tax relief they have rightfully earned. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state, and passing this legislation would provide much-needed relief. It would also encourage more of our nation's heroes to call Missouri home.

I urge you to move these bills forward and give disabled veterans the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACOB KING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 7:57 PM
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Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran writing in support of legislation that would provide property tax relief for disabled veterans. Many veterans and their families are feeling the strain of rising property taxes, and this relief would make a meaningful difference. I respectfully ask that you advance these bills so disabled veterans can receive the support they have earned through their service and sacrifice. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON HOLDERIEATH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 2:45 PM	

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

I served in Iraq in '04-'05 with the 1140th and in Afghanistan in 2008 with the 935th ADT. Some kind of relief from property taxes for disabled veterans is needed. Many of us answered the call in the Missouri National Guard, and even if we were with different units, we answered the call, and for many of us, we have paid a cost with our health. Many of us face employment difficulties that we might not face if we didn't have these problems. The state has a responsibility to care for and provide for veterans, especially disabled veterans. Since many veterans face these challenges, property taxes, especially on our homes, can be a real problem. The great thing about owning your home is that equity builds as the property gains value. This also creates a problem when assessed value growth exceeds income growth.

In short, I support these bills on the whole.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: JAY RUARK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 6:19 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: JAYME BODI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: JEFFREY CAQUELIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: JEREMY NICHOLS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 9:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This keeps Missouri competitive with our neighbors and brings disabled veterans here to Missouri with their dollars to spend in the economy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: JOSEPH G CLARKSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/5/2026 11:07 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I don't like the idea the counties can override this legislation but if it helps one person i am in favor of it if the other disabled veterans legislation does not pass. We defiantly owe those that bore the cost for our freedom. I would like to see the HB combined into one that can pass and ensure the speaker makes us a priority. i feel we are just here for a photo op at election time. We have been working on Disabled legislation for at least 8 years. It away past time to get it done.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: KELLIS RICHARDSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 6:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kellis Richardson, and I am a Missouri veteran writing in support of legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans.

Rising property taxes are placing an increasing burden on veterans and their families across our state. Many disabled veterans live on fixed incomes, and these increases can create real financial hardship. Providing meaningful property tax relief is a practical and well-deserved way to honor their service and sacrifice.

I respectfully urge you to move these bills forward so that disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service to our nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: MAGHEN LARSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:05 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Myself and my veteran husband moved back to Missouri after his time in service. The rising property tax rates in our county continue to push our finances. This relief shows the continued support Our state has for our veterans. Please continue to move it forward.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: MARILYN VILLEGAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 1:30 PM	

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

My family is currently looking at homes in Arkansas, Texas, Florida and Oklahoma where we would be offered property and personal property tax exemption (I am 100% P&T disabled). For property and personal property taxes every year, we pay approximately \$5,000.

Some might think pay for being 100% P&T alone is sufficient to raise a family. But \$4,500 for an entire month for a family of 5 doesn't go as far as you'd think. Keep in mind, most 100% disabled veterans can't work. There is no option for a temporary second job or overtime when unexpected expenses arise. With inflated property values rising 4 times what they were in 2019, and Lafayette County raising valuations 15% (let's not play coy to the fact that they will continue to rise by 15% every two years until valuations reach the ridiculously inflated current market value), and every tax receiving entity begging for tax increases almost every year...how can you expect Missouri's most badly injured and vulnerable veterans to be able to remain residents here? That last sentence says so much...our nation's most badly injured veterans. Some states actually show they care about these veterans sacrifice. Some states waive property and personal property taxes. Oklahoma waives up to \$25,000 worth of sales tax every single year for disabled veterans IN ADDITION to no personal property or property tax. What does Missouri offer? A free fishing license and license plate. Thank you, Missouri...for the \$50 savings. It is time for Missouri law makers to put up or shut up. Stop kicking the can down the road and pretending you care about our states most badly injured veterans and take action.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: MARK NEWTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:49 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**I am a 100% disabled veteran and support any tax relief whether for all Missouri citizens or Veterans.
Get rid of our personal property taxes and lower our real property taxes.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: MARK S HALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2026 2:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support any legislation that provides property tax relief for our Veterans. Rising property taxes across our State greatly impact our Veterans and their families. Please move these bills forward so we may continue to honor the sacrifices made by our disabled Veterans and provide them much needed relief.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: MICHAEL DOUGLAS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 7:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I fully support tax benefits for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. Not only have they honorably fought for our country, but a tiered exemption would be in line with neighboring states and other states around the country. Providing an exemption to property and personal property taxes would keep Missouri veterans in the homes they've defended and the communities they love.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: MICHAEL WOOTEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a combat veteran and about to medically retired from the MOARNG (nearly 27 years with 22 of that active duty), we should be able to feel secure that no matter our future, our homes will forever be our homes. Our vehicles, once paid off, will forever be our vehicles. Property tax is a means that the gov can steal our vehicle and/or property if we end up in a position where we cannot pay these insane taxes year after year after year for decades. This is not what we fought for and not what our founding fathers desired for our nation. Get rid of these burdensome taxes now!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: RAYMOND CLIFTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2026 5:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

35 Liberty Ln



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: RONALD JOSEPH JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:43 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: RYAN CHARLES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes affect veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: SARA BENNE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 3:11 PM	

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

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a 16-year Air Force Veteran with a VA disability, and I am writing to you today in strong support of legislation providing property tax relief for disabled veterans.

After serving our country for nearly two decades, I faced the pivotal decision of where to plant my roots. I chose to make my home in Missouri, drawn by its values and the sense of community I've always appreciated, like what I grew up with in Arizona. However, many of my fellow veterans with disability ratings have made the difficult choice to remain in Illinois. While they would prefer to live here in Missouri, the significant property tax benefits offered by Illinois make it the only financially viable option for their families.

This creates a painful conundrum for those who have sacrificed for our nation. They are forced to choose between the state they love and the tax relief they have rightfully earned. Rising property taxes are squeezing veteran families across our state; passing this legislation would provide much-needed stability and ensure that Missouri is not just a place veterans want to live, but a place they can afford to live.

I urge you to move these bills forward and honor the service of Missouri's disabled veterans. Thank you for your time and consideration



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: SAVA-MARIE SHELTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Support them. Veterans support this country now let's support them. Tax exemptions will help that they stay in their homes longer, and not have to decide between groceries, medication, and utilities.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: SHANNON LEAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 10:49 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My husband is a disabled veteran and I his spouse. I have dutifully stayed by his side for the last 20years. Since becoming disabled due to his active duty service.. life has been a depressing struggle for him. In the recent years he has become more than 100% disabled and unable to supplement his disability income. I do not mind working my tail off but he's left feeling depressed and worse at times. Since buying our home in 2021 the property taxes have increased to the point we are paying nearly \$900 more a month than we originally were. We could go back to our home state which supports veterans already with no property taxes but we choose to stay here in the beautiful state of Missouri. Please help honor not only my disabled husband but all the other veterans across the great state of Missouri as well. I promise these sweet people are more than worth the kindness



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
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: SONYA ZIMMERLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:35 PM	

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

As a disabled veteran with a 100% disability rating and unable to work this bill would provide a great relief to myself on a fixed income.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: STEVEN BOTTOM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 2:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans. Rising property taxes impact veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward so disabled veterans can receive the relief they have earned through their service. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: TANASTACIA WATSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tanastacia Watson. I am 27 years old, a Clay County resident, and a 100% Permanent & Total disabled veteran.

I live with advanced heart failure and have undergone multiple heart transplant evaluations due to my service-connected condition. I was medically retired and am permanently unable to work.

I am raising two young children on fixed VA disability compensation. My earning capacity is permanently gone, but property taxes continue to rise.

For permanently disabled veterans, stable housing is not a luxury it is essential. I respectfully ask that you move forward meaningful property tax relief for Missouri's disabled veterans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Tanastacia Watson
Clay County, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
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: THOMAS ASCIONE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2026 9:18 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and Members of the Committee,
I am a Missouri veteran and I support legislation that provides property tax relief for disabled veterans.
Rising property taxes affect veterans and their families across our state. Please move these bills forward. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY SHEPHERD		PHONE NUMBER: 636-240-5009	
REPRESENTING: ABATE FOR MISSOURI		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 500 HIGHWAY P			
CITY: O FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: abatemo@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2026 7:05 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM BLAYLOCK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-799-1137	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD ASSOC.		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2302 MILITIA AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2588		DATE: 3/3/2026
COMMITTEE: Veterans and Armed Forces		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:44 AM

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

HB 2588 authorizes counties, at local option, to grant a 100% real property tax credit for veterans rated 100% permanent and total by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The credit applies to all local ad valorem levies (except the blind pension levy) and does not reduce assessed valuation.

While narrower than proportional rating models, the bill presents specific constitutional pressure points.

1. "Revenue Deemed Received" Provision
 Mo. Const. Art. X, §§ 3 & 22

Section 11 provides that the full amount of credited taxes shall be treated as "tax revenue actually received" for levy calculations and distribution purposes.

This creates a legal fiction: taxes forgiven are treated as taxes collected.

Potential exposure includes:
 Hancock Amendment rollback calculations,
 Levy-setting formulas under § 137.073,
 School district funding allocations,
 Bond coverage representations.

Courts may scrutinize whether unrealized tax collections may constitutionally be counted as realized revenue for Article X purposes.

2. Uniformity & Geographic Disparity
 Mo. Const. Art. X, § 3

Because participation is optional by county:
 A 100% disabled veteran in one county may pay zero,
 The same veteran in another county may pay full tax.
 Local option tax structures are permissible;

however, geographic disparity combined with a complete 100% offset increases equal protection and uniformity scrutiny if inconsistently adopted or rescinded.

3. Impairment of Contract

**U.S. Const. Art. I, § 10
Mo. Const. Art. I, § 13**

Although Section 13 attempts to protect bonded indebtedness, the practical effect of removing actual cash flow while maintaining assessed valuation may invite contract-impairment challenges if revenue shortfalls affect pledged repayment streams.

Statutory disclaimers do not eliminate constitutional inquiry into real-world fiscal impact.

4. Interaction with Other Tax Relief

Section 7 bars stacking with other relief programs.

While administratively rational, this creates classification distinctions among similarly situated disabled homeowners that may be challenged under rational basis review.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is placed on notice that HB 2588's treatment of forgiven tax liability as "tax revenue actually received," its interaction with Article X levy limitations and bonded indebtedness, and its county-by-county optional structure create foreseeable constitutional exposure under Missouri's uniformity clause, Hancock Amendment provisions, and impairment-of-contract doctrine if enacted.