



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2925		DATE: 1/29/2026
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform		
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: ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 10:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. Great Bill. Get this over the "Finish-Line!"		



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA BAKER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-4217	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: GASCONADE COUNTY ASSESSOR OFFICE		TITLE: GASCONADE COUNTY ASSESSOR	
ADDRESS: 119 E 1ST STREET ROOM 23			
CITY: HERMANN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65041
EMAIL: juliabaker@gasconadecountymo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 2:00 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE FOGARTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2026 9:32 AM	

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MO Constitution Section X, Section 10a says: **EXCUSION OF STATE FROM LOCAL TAXATION FOR LOCAL PURPOSES** - Except as provided in this constitution, the general assembly SHALL NOT impose taxes upon counties or other political subdivisions or upon the inhabitants or property thereof for municipal, county, or other corporate purposes.

I have asked my county assessor and legislators to provide the bill that the Missouri legislature passed to tax private men and women's private property and none could be provided. If the state can't tax it, then the counties can't tax it. Article 1, Section 2 is clear and needs to be followed. Private property has no nexus with the state while companies and property thereof do and are the only "subjects" of taxation.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 6:34 PM	
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Hello Committee: Me AGAIN,

HB 2925 is 114 pages long, and that alone should set off alarm bells.

This bill does not simplify government — it buries accountability.

Across dozens of statutes, HB 2925 systematically strips out clear, voter-facing ballot language and replaces it with vague references to §115.706.

That means less information for voters and more discretion for boards, districts, and political subdivisions after the vote.

When government asks Missourians to approve taxes, bonds, assessments, easements, or long-term obligations, voters are entitled to know exactly what they are authorizing — the purpose, the cost, the duration, and the cumulative impact.

HB 2925 weakens that transparency at the moment consent is given.

This bill quietly expands the ability to:
 Stack taxes “in addition to existing taxes”
 Authorize long-term debt
 Create or expand special districts
 Lock voters into ongoing financial obligations
 —all while giving them less clarity on the ballot.

That is not modernization.

That is consent laundering.

Missouri’s Constitution — including the Hancock Amendment (Art. X, §§16–24) — exists to restrain government growth and protect taxpayers from exactly this kind of procedural sleight-of-hand.

HB 2925 undermines that protection by turning informed consent into a checkbox.

If these taxes and powers can withstand scrutiny, they should be stated plainly on the ballot. If they

cannot, they should not be passed at all.

Vote NO on HB 2925.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 6:09 PM

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I rise in opposition to HB 2709, not because transparency in taxation is unimportant, but because this bill creates the appearance of taxpayer protection while quietly expanding government maneuvering room in ways that **WILL ABSOLUTELY** be abused later.

Missourians have learned—repeatedly—that when tax language becomes more complex, not less, the burden always shifts to the public, not the political subdivision.

1. “Ballot clarity” without enforcement is a trap

HB 2709 requires tax ballot language to express changes in “real dollars per \$100,000 of market value.”

On its face, that sounds reasonable. In practice, it creates a single, narrow framing that can obscure:
 reassessment timing,
 shifting valuations,
 subclass rebalancing,
 and post-election levy adjustments.

Voters are shown one clean number, while the actual tax impact remains dependent on administrative decisions made later, outside the ballot box and outside public visibility.

That is not transparency. That is selective disclosure.

2. Hancock compliance is not optional—and this bill weakens it

The Missouri Constitution already provides strict limits on tax growth through the Hancock Amendment:
 Article X, Section 22 requires revenue limits and voter approval for increases beyond inflation.

HB 2709 does not strengthen Hancock enforcement.

Instead, it adds new statutory pathways to “recalculate,” “adjust,” and “blend” rates, increasing the risk that political subdivisions will technically comply while functionally exceeding voter intent.

Missourians did not vote for clever math.

They voted for restraint.

3. Uniformity clauses are being stretched, not protected

The Missouri Constitution requires:

Uniform taxation within the same class or subclass (Article X, Section 3),

and strict treatment of real-property subclasses (Article X, Section 4(b)).

HB 2709 repeatedly layers adjustments, exclusions, and blended calculations that invite unequal outcomes across subclasses, even when the statute claims uniformity.

When tax law becomes this dense, enforcement shifts from voters to insiders—and history shows insiders always win.

4. This bill expands administrative discretion, not voter power

HB 2709 significantly increases:

discretionary rate-setting authority,

post-election adjustment mechanisms,

and reliance on technical calculations the public

cannot independently verify.

At the same time, it does not require:

plain-language taxpayer notices after reassessment,

mandatory publication of levy worksheets before rates are set,

or automatic audits when levy math changes year-to-year.

That imbalance matters.

5. Missouri has seen this movie before

Time and again, “good government” tax reforms pass with promises of clarity, only to become tools for:

quiet revenue growth,

blame-shifting to assessors,

and public confusion after the fact.

Once enacted, these systems never contract.

They only expand.

If the General Assembly truly wants to protect Missouri taxpayers, the solution is not more statutory complexity layered on top of Hancock.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE HOBBS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-473-4601	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1648 EAST ELM STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: shobbs@mocounties.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 8:50 AM	
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		ZIP: 65101
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 7:41 PM

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I don't appreciate this movement to politicize ballot issues. Municipal elections are the proper place for voters to consider measures which will affect us locally.