



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2934</b>		DATE: <b>1/29/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRAD DEAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-992-0604</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ST. LOUIS CONVENTION &amp; VISITORS COMMISSION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>701 CONVENTION PLAZA</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID RICHARDSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-616-6921</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>HUSCH BLACKWELL</b>		TITLE: <b>ATTORNEY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>8001 FORSYTH SUITE 1500</b>			
CITY: <b>CLAYTON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63105</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEFFERY BROOKS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-941-9235</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>GREATER ST. LOUIS, INC.</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>213 E. CAPITOL</b>			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOSEPH BLANNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-248-4527</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ST. LOUIS REGIONAL CONVENTION AND SPORTS COMPLEX AUTHORITY</b>		TITLE: <b>TREASURER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>825 MARYVILLE CENTER DRIVE, STE. 300</b>			
CITY: <b>TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63017</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL R. GIBBONS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-650-5783</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ST. CHARLES COUNTY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>115 EAST HIGH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEVE O'LOUGHLIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-434-9500</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LHM</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>111 WESTPORT PLAZA DRIVE, STE., 500</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/29/2026 10:25 PM</b>	

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**This is a terrible Bill, giving additional Powers, Creating more Government and More Taxes. Defeat this awful Bill!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/27/2026 9:14 PM</b>	
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I submit testimony in opposition to HB 2934 because it expands the power to tax, assess, and encumber property while diluting local accountability and insulating decision-makers behind appointed boards and automatic revenue streams.

HB 2934 is not a “governance update.” It is a mechanism: consolidate authority, expand taxing tools, broaden spending categories, and secure enforcement through perpetual liens—all while moving decisions farther away from the voters who will pay for them.

**1) This bill grows government power while shrinking public control**

HB 2934 increases membership and expands gubernatorial appointments, shifting control toward state-level political selection rather than transparent local accountability. When the state centralizes appointment power over regional revenue structures, the public loses meaningful control over who is making spending and taxing decisions.

That conflicts with the spirit of Missouri’s Bill of Rights, which rests political power in the people, not in appointment pipelines. (Missouri Constitution, Article I.)

**2) “Special assessments” + “perpetual lien” = coercive funding with a foreclosure backstop**

The bill authorizes special assessments that become a perpetual lien and may be collected like real estate taxes, enforceable through delinquent tax mechanisms and potential land sale.

That is an extraordinary hammer to attach to a tourism/entertainment governance structure.

If the state wants revenue, it should make its case directly to voters—cleanly, transparently, and with clear limits—not build a system where property owners can be functionally strong-armed through lien enforcement.

This raises serious due process and takings concerns. (U.S. Const. Amend. XIV; Missouri Const. Art. I — due process; Art. I — eminent domain/takings.)

**3) It broadens spending into a catch-all that invites mission creep**

The definition of “convention district” and “tourism infrastructure facilities” balloons into a wide

**category of venues, systems, and “other building systems,” with appropriations and agreements potentially extending for decades.**

**When statutory language is this broad, it becomes a blank check for future “interpretations,” not a tight public mandate.**

**4) It manufactures consent through procedural design**

**Mail-in ballot authorization and “qualified voters” constructs may be legal on paper, but the structure reads like a system engineered to reduce friction rather than increase public legitimacy—especially where registered voters may not even reside within the district and ownership-based voting structures are used.**

**If a proposal is truly in the public interest, it should withstand the sunlight of a standard, broadly participatory electoral process.**

**Government by board appointment and foreclosure threat is not consent.  
-Rev. Berry**