



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 107		DATE: 3/25/2026	
COMMITTEE: Local Government			
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: SEAN SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2026 11:59 PM	
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I am opposed to this Bill at this time.



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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: 3/25/2026 7:57 AM	

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HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the separation of Kansas City from Jackson County through a process defined largely by a transition committee rather than by the amendment itself.

The resolution raises significant structural concerns. It delegates core governmental functions—including taxation, courts, law enforcement, and infrastructure—to a future plan developed by a limited committee, without establishing clear constitutional standards governing those determinations. As a result, voters are asked to approve a constitutional framework without defined terms, which may limit meaningful evaluation of the amendment’s practical effects.

Additionally, the amendment excludes certain elected officials, including members of the county governing body representing the city and the county executive, from participation in the development of the separation plan. This exclusion raises concerns regarding representative governance and the role of elected officials in major structural decisions.

The proposal also applies exclusively to a single city and county, embedding a location-specific restructuring mechanism within the constitution rather than establishing a general framework applicable to similarly situated jurisdictions.

Finally, the requirement that the amendment be resubmitted to voters every ten years until approval is unusual and raises concerns regarding the integrity of the ballot process and legislative discretion.

For these reasons, the resolution presents substantial structural concerns and would benefit from greater specificity, broader applicability, and clearer governance standards before submission to voters.

The General Assembly is hereby placed on notice that HJR 107, as currently drafted, delegates substantial constitutional restructuring authority to a transition committee without defined standards governing the exercise of that authority, and submits to voters a framework lacking material terms necessary for informed approval. The exclusion of certain elected officials from participation in the development of the proposed plan further raises concerns regarding representative governance.

Additionally, the resolution’s application to a single city and county, and its requirement of repeated mandatory resubmission to voters, present structural concerns regarding constitutional uniformity and the integrity of the legislative and electoral process.

Enactment may give rise to challenges seeking declaratory or injunctive relief concerning the sufficiency of the amendment's structure and the adequacy of voter-informed consent. This testimony is submitted to document that these concerns were identified prior to submission and that the resulting risks were reasonably foreseeable.

Authorities:

Mo. Const. art. I, § 2 (political power derived from the people).

Mo. Const. art. III, § 40 (prohibition on special laws).

State ex rel. St. Louis County v. Jones, 498 S.W.2d 294 (Mo. banc 1973) (local government structure and constitutional limitations).



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF KANSAS CITY; GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2026 12:00 AM	
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