



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 | |
| 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. AC "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 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: BYRON KEELIN | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE | | TITLE: PRESIDENT |
| ADDRESS: PO BOX 2 | | |
| CITY: BALLWIN | STATE: MO | ZIP: 63011 |
| EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:07 AM |

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

The Freedom Principle supports HJR 148 because it represents a crucial step toward returning real fiscal control to Missouri taxpayers by closing longstanding loopholes in the Hancock Amendment. For too long, local taxing entities—including some school districts—have been able to circumvent the will of the voters and the spirit of the Hancock Amendment by allowing property tax revenues to rise automatically with increased assessments, even when tax rates did not officially change. This backdoor taxation undermines transparency and burdens homeowners and businesses with higher taxes without their explicit consent.

By mandating that property tax rates must be rolled back when assessments outpace inflation, and by requiring that any increase above authorized rates be approved by voters, this bill restores accountability and checks runaway local government spending. Closing these loopholes not only aligns with the original intent of the Hancock Amendment, but it also ensures predictability and fairness in our property tax system so Missouri taxpayers are no longer subject to hidden tax hikes.

This reform is long overdue and essential to protect families, retirees, and small business owners across our state from unchecked local tax increases.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DAN HUTTON | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-1712 |
| REPRESENTING: STATE OMBUDSMAN - STATE TAX COMMISSION | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 3701 MISSOURI BOULEVARD, SUITE 100 | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MELISSA THOMAS | | PHONE NUMBER: 816-824-6014 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 1400 SW FAIRFAX ROAD | | |
| CITY: LEES SUMMIT | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 64083 |
| EMAIL: melissaforliberty@pm.me | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 8:30 PM |

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I support this bill and thank Representative Taylor for his help in limiting the egregious unconstitutional taxing of our property!!



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ADRIANNE LONG | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:27 PM |

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This is removing money from our KCPS, which is not helping shape KCMO's future. Additionally as citizens we have the right to vote on this matter because this affects our schools, neighborhoods and how we collectively live as people. Taking away our right to vote, capping our property taxes indefinitely while directly impacting our schools' infrastructure is inhumane and backwards.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ALEXANDRA WOODS | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:29 AM |

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

Statewide voters should NOT make this decision for KCPS. We should. And the district plans to vote on our local levy in April 2027. We value our public schools. They are more than a place where kids attend class – they give our kids opportunities to grow and live and they are the cornerstones of strong communities. They deserve to be fully funded and supported. Last spring, Kansas Citians voted overwhelmingly to pass the GO Bond and invest in our public schools. Politicians in Jefferson City have no place to undercut that investment. Right now, about 80% of KCPS funding comes from local funding - in part because Missouri provides the LOWEST state funding of anywhere in the country. Cutting local funding could devastate the district, leading to teacher cuts, less resources for our kids and even school closures. Kansas City kids deserve better. Providing a great education for Kansas City's kids is one of the most important things we can do. But without proper funding, schools are forced to make tough choices that ultimately cost our kids and our future as a city.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: AMANDA LYONS | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 7:25 AM |

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

I oppose taking away the right for KCPS to set its own levy rate. This would be disastrous for our city and our children. I am a teacher and familiar with our the needs of our schools. This would make it impossible to provide normal increases in teacher salaries forcing teachers who are already extremely underpaid compared to others in jobs with the same levels of education and experience. This would make it impossible for the district to afford its deferred maintenance and bond payments. Buildings will close and staff will be reduced, leading to a devastating impact on our children and community. We just saw the Kansas City voters show overwhelming support for public education investment with the passing of the bond last year. For me personally, I will get to see the children in the neighborhood where I work move out of a crumbling crumbling old building in need of constant repairs and into one that functions as it should. All children deserve adequate facilities for schooling and the only local officials can say properly what type of funding is needed to support this. I oppose the propped taxation changes you are discussing today.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: AMY REHAK | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 7:45 PM |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
A tax levy should be voted on by the local community affected not state wide.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ANGELIA MCGEE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:30 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

HJR148 negatively and directly impacts Kansas City Public Schools. This bill takes away the constitutional right for KCPS to increase its levy through voter approval. It will devastate the entire district, most likely default on bonds, force school closures, eliminating staff jobs and ultimately lose students and dissolving KCPS as a whole within the next 5-10 years. This vote should be controlled at the local level and by the surrounding community, giving KCMO residents the ability to vote on how schools should be funded; not governed by Jefferson City.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ANN THERESA BISCHOFF | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:04 PM | |

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

I am a home owner and property tax paying resident of downtown KCMO, an employee of KCPS's Special Education department, and a soon to be parent of a KCPS student. Proceeding with this plan will devastate the district and it's ability to continue to serve our community, my community. KCPS is full of hardworking staff, and students who strive to excel, despite the attempts of Jeff City to gut our funding. WE should be able to decide how we fund our schools. My job gets harder each year due to budget shortfalls, we constantly have to do more with less, but we do it. I've been with KCPS for 13 years and I fully intend to stick around for another 13 or more because I believe in this district's ability and resilience. KCMO residents showed a HUGE turnout of support in last year's GO Bond vote, the people want this district to continue to build on the growth we've made over recent years. We regained accreditation and our success is being built upon. My job is to serve some of the most vulnerable students our district proudly supports. Your job is to ensure we have the resources to continue to do this. Staff leave when salaries and other supports stagnate, others have to pick up the slack, students suffer as a result, and turnover continues. Please don't do this to us. Don't do this to MY community.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CARLEY ELLEN COPTO | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 2:46 PM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

Good afternoon. I want to submit a statement in opposition to these bills. I am a teacher in the Kansas City Public Schools and have proudly been there for 25 years. One of the unfortunate consistencies in the school system is the lack of money. Every year I spend a ton of my own money to fund such as things as classroom supplies because many of our families cannot afford to bring such basic things as pencils. I do it without anger or regret because I love my students and the job I do. Also, my district has always been able to give us some money to help make up the lack of supplies that we have. These bills will remove that but will also affect the money that we receive as teachers. It is widely known that teachers are not well paid. If this money is taken out of our budget, we will not receive any type of pay raise in the foreseeable future and with the rising cost of everything, it makes it very difficult for my family to not only sustain but it will make it almost impossible for me to be able to help my students in the way I have. I beg you, as a dedicated educator, to look at these bills and the affect they have not only on the people you service, but on the students in the schools. We desperately need to continue to receive that funding and I beg you to see it from our side. Kansas City should be able to decide how we fund the public schools, not people in Jefferson City. I know you have a heart for children and are not out to hurt them, but taking money away from the schools hurts their education, and the people who provide it. Please rethink this. Thank you.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CARTER TAYLOR | | PHONE NUMBER: 804-517-7382 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AFT LOCAL 691 | | TITLE: LEGISLATIVE CHAIR |
| ADDRESS: 2415 AGNES AVE | | |
| CITY: KANSAS CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 64127 |
| EMAIL: legislation@aft691.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:05 AM |

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

The bills discussed today stand to fundamentally destroy the foundation of our state's greatest resource: the communities that exist within it. Schools are the cornerstone of any community, and the students who attend them each day deserve better than disingenuous attempts to benefit taxpayers that only stand to rob the futures of children who do not have access to the resources that would allow them to pay a private school tuition. This comes years after KCPS was granted the ability to levy taxation in an effort to rectify the grave injustices that segregation imposed upon our city, and to walk it back now only shows that there are too many in our state who will not reckon with those injustices and work with us to create new paths forward. Autonomy and local control has been the ideology of Missouri Law in all ways that matter until now, but if allowing Kansas City Public Schools to fund themselves through taxation is the line being drawn, then it stands that we can expect this gross overreach in all other realms of daily life here in the state. We stand in opposition to these bills, and I would extend a personal invitation to anyone who supports it to come to my classroom, to see how we are able to do everything with next to nothing, and to tell my students why they do not deserve the education that their teachers and the voting public of Kansas City have strived to give them up until now.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CASIE HEATON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 12:47 PM |

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These bills will negatively impact my classroom, students, school, and the community.

It is difficult to teach without adequate resources. I buy supplies for students from my own paycheck. If wages stagnate while the cost of living continues to skyrocket, and resources are cut even further, students will suffer because teachers won't be able to afford to bring in additional supplies. Some staff will leave the district, moving to better paying areas.

Kansas City should continue to decide how we fund our public schools, not politicians. This is our community, our home, and how our tax dollars are spent should be determined by OUR votes.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: COLE GRIFFIN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:00 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

Hello. My name is Cole Griffin and I am a social worker for KCPS. I am writing in opposition to HJR 148 which would decimate the funding we use to educate our KC kids in the public and charter schools and give our decision-making power as a community to voters throughout the state who do not live, work, or educate their children in KC. Right now, 80% of our funding comes from local sources and Missouri provides the **LOWEST STATE FUNDING** of anywhere in the country. Federal funds and grants are disappearing and the students in our district deserve the resources they need to learn how to read, write, and become the next generation of Kansas Citians. W/out it we lose teachers, mental health staff, more schools close, and children take the brunt of decisions they couldn't even vote for. Last spring, Kansas Citians voted overwhelmingly to pass the GO Bond and invest in our public schools. KC constituents are consistently adamant about funding education. Please reject HJR 148 and allow Kansas Citians to do what is best for our children.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CORTNEY PARK | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 6:49 PM |

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I am writing as a Kansas City constituent to express my strong opposition to HJR 148.

For nearly 25 years, Article X, Section 11(g) of the Missouri Constitution has allowed the KCPS Board to responsibly set its levy under the rate established by a federal court order (4.96). Since 1999, the Board has almost consistently set the levy at 4.9599. This has provided stability, predictability, and, most importantly, local accountability for funding our public schools.

Without Section 11(g), the levy would drop to 2.2440. Based on the 2024 assessed valuation, this would result in an estimated annual revenue loss of more than \$138 million, approximately 50% of KCPS's operating funds. Charter schools within the KCPS district would experience a similar proportional loss.

This is not a theoretical concern. It is a direct threat to classrooms, educators, student services, facilities, and long-term planning. A funding cut of this magnitude would undo years of progress and stability for KCPS students and families.

Kansas City is deeply invested in KCPS. Just last April, 85% of voters supported the KCPS bond, an unmistakable sign that our community values and is willing to fund strong public schools. That support reflects trust in local governance and in the KCPS Board to make responsible decisions based on the needs of Kansas City students.

Decisions about KCPS funding should be made by the locally elected KCPS Board and Kansas City voters, NOT by legislators in Jefferson City or by voters statewide who are not directly impacted by the consequences of this decision. HJR 148 undermines local control and disregards the demonstrated will of the Kansas City community.

I urge you to oppose HJR 148 and to stand for local decision-making, fiscal responsibility, and the long-term success of Kansas City Public Schools.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DANIEL WIKIERA | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 9:29 PM |

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My name is Daniel Wikiera, I'm a lifelong Kansas City, Missouri resident and I have one child attending KC Public Schools with my second child set to attend next school year. I strongly oppose HJR 111. Our public schools need all the funding they can get, and the result of this bill would be a devastating decrease in funding. It's absurd that voters across the state would decide funding/taxation for KCPS. This should be decided by the people who it will impact most- Kansas City residents. Kansas Citizens spoke loudly and clearly when we overwhelmingly voted to approve GO Bonds supporting our public schools. Please let us decide what's best for our community.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DARBY SKILLERN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:55 PM |
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Teaching is already one of the most underfunded and underappreciated careers. These bills will make access to funding that much harder. Kansas Citians have just voted to pass a bond to improve our schools. Losing over 130 million dollars will mean that our Bond will no longer go to updating our schools but rather resources for the classroom. This is not what our voters asked for. Students are able to go on field trips each semester, but with loss of funding this will no longer happen. Teachers will be asked to spend more of their own money on classrooms, and with loss of funding there won't be a pay raise in anyone's future.

Saying yes to this bill is taking money away from our students future. That ain't right! KCPS relies on these funds to set our students up for a successful life.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DAVID PRICE | | PHONE NUMBER: 816-797-0737 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: KANSAS CITY FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL RELATED PERSONNEL LOCAL 691 | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 12610 HOLMES ROAD | | |
| CITY: KANSAS CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 64145 |
| EMAIL: david@aft691.org | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 8:23 PM |
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Kansas City Public Schools meets the needs of a diverse group of learners. Teachers in Kansas City do amazing things with their students. In Kansas City Public Schools, we serve every student who walks through our doors, no matter what they need. The wide range of services that our students require costs a lot of money, but it is evident that with Kansas City Public Schools receiving full accreditation that it works. Despite having to meet the needs of all students KCPS teachers rise to the occasion and ensure that all students are learning. This legislation will hurt teachers and the students they serve in KCPS. Limiting the levy for Kansas City Public Schools will not allow the district to keep up with the needs of students. Staff will not be able to receive needed raises and retaining and recruiting staff will become impossible. Schools will have to close, and students will have to be sent to surrounding district due to lack of funds. Kansas City Public Schools will most likely default on the General Obligation Bonds that were passed with 85% of the vote. The same result will affect the Charter Schools that rely on these funds as well. This legislation will hurt Kansas City and its schools. The Kansas City Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel Local 691 opposes this legislation.



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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: DEBORAH MARSELLE BREDEMEYER | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 2:46 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

The children of Kansas City deserve safe, effective schools, and the teachers and guides at those schools deserve more compensation that they will ever receive. Our schools get by, but HJR 148 would put an end to that. I want to be able to vote on property tax proposals, rather than have Jefferson City politicians take away that right. My daughter attends a public school in the city that we adore. It's no frills, but she comes home excited about her days and proud to share what she's learned. The school's one extracurricular, a string instrument program, was cut last May because of district-wide budget trimming. I can provide enrichment for her outside of school, but not all parents are that lucky. By freezing property taxes indefinitely and preventing KCPS to ask for a higher levy, you are ensuring our schools stay broke, and you are bludgeoning the future of this state as a whole. Please do not advance this proposed bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: DEENA E SMITH | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:27 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

As a resident of Kansas City for almost 44 years, I have been an active supporter of the public schools where my children and now my grandchildren attend. I have lived through many years of challenges and believe strongly that the local citizens need to make decisions regarding financial support of the schools. Especially considering that an urban district has unique needs that may not be understood by the rest of the state.

My daughter, as a proud graduate of Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, is sending her sons there to receive the same quality education and sense of community. Just as I was an active parent during her years there, she is a leader in the oversight of the new bond initiative that will improve the facilities.

If HJR148 passes then funds for our district operating would be devastated. This would lead to severe underfunding of the district and vitally important programming for special needs, appropriate classroom size, updated technology implementation, and more will be eliminated.

The future of our city depends on the strength of our education system. Since 80% of the funds to operate our district are from local funding, local decision makers should be allowed to set rates that provide what is needed, not legislators or voters state wide.

I strongly oppose any legislation that prevents our local school board from setting appropriate levies to meet the needs of our district.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: DIONTE NEAL | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:31 AM |

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

**Written Testimony in Opposition to HJR 111 and HJR 148
 House Special Committee on Property Tax Reform**

My name is Tay Neal, and I am an educator with Kansas City Public Schools. I am submitting written testimony in strong opposition to HJR 111 and HJR 148.

I teach in KCPS because I believe in public education as a stabilizing force for kids, families, and neighborhoods. My students come to school carrying far more than backpacks. Many are navigating poverty, instability, trauma, and unmet basic needs. School is not just where they learn reading and writing. It is where they find consistency, safety, meals, trusted adults, and hope.

These bills would take away KCPS's ability to set its own levy rate, a right tied directly to our desegregation case and the specific historical harm this district has endured. That context matters. KCPS does not operate on equal footing with surrounding districts, and pretending otherwise does real damage.

In my classroom, resources are already tight. I work with students who need smaller class sizes, additional academic support, counseling access, and stable staff relationships. When funding is restricted, those supports disappear first. That means fewer adults in the building, fewer intervention options, and more pressure placed on classroom teachers to fill every gap.

Capping personal property values at 2026 levels means wages will stagnate while the cost of living continues to rise. It means asking educators to keep sacrificing financially while being told to do more, cover more roles, and manage more crises. That reality pushes good educators out of the profession and destabilizes schools that already struggle with retention.

The threat of defaulting on bonds is not theoretical. Building closures and consolidations would uproot students from their communities and force them into unfamiliar environments. Schools are anchors in Kansas City neighborhoods. When schools close, communities lose far more than buildings.

Kansas City voters made their voices clear by passing the bond. The community chose to invest in public schools and in the future of our children. These bills override that decision and shift power away from the people who live and work here to politicians in Jefferson City who do not see the day to day realities of KCPS classrooms.

Despite the challenges, there is meaningful work happening in KCPS. Educators are committed to their students and deeply invested in their success. These bills would undermine that progress and make an already difficult job harder.

Kansas City should decide how Kansas City funds its public schools. I strongly urge the committee to oppose HJR 111 and HJR 148.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: DR. JENNIFER COLLIER | | PHONE NUMBER: 816-418-7616 | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | | TITLE: SUPERINTENDANT | |
| ADDRESS: 2901 TROOST AVENUE | | | |
| CITY: KANSAS CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 64109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH WARWICK | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 1:32 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

I am against HJR 111 and HJR 148. I am public school teacher from the Kansas City public schools. I spent ten years as a classroom teacher and now I serve as an instructional coach helping support teachers. If these bills pass it will be devastating to my students. In a time when we are seeing unprecedented cuts to public funding we need to hang on to every available funding source so our students get the education they deserve. Recently we passed a GO Bond with overwhelming community support showing that Kansas City cares about public ed. If these bills pass we will have to close schools, teachers will lose their jobs, and students will lose out on funding. My students are amazing people. They are smart, funny, kind, and resilient. Many of the kids in my district are in underserved communities and having well funded schools is essential to helping them succeed. We should not be playing politics with kids. Every single child in Missouri deserves to attend a well funded public school. Please **DO NOT** support these bills. Show my students and the students of Kansas City that you care about them and do not support these bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ELLEN FRIERSON RUCKMAN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 4:01 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

Kansas City residents are the only relevant stakeholders for how we fund--or do not fund--our local schools via local tax levy. It does not make logical sense for others who do not live in the Kansas City Public School District, and whose children are or would attend this district, to have a say in how taxpayers in this district spend our own money.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: EMILY JO AKINS | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:28 AM |

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

I am a parent of two teens who have grown up in the KCPS system. We intentionally chose the Missouri side of state line and have trusted in KCPS with our kids. We have trusted KC and Missouri at large to make the right decisions.

There is no doubt that the rest of Kansas City is invested in KCPS - the city showed up for the bond last April with 85% support. KCPS should be responsible for these choices -- NOT legislators in Jefferson City or voters statewide.

Leave it to the people in KC!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: EMILY THORN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:14 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

As a parent of two current KCPS students and a KCPS employee for the past 7 years, I was very heartened by the bond passing which showed that we have huge support from Kansas City voters. This bill would undermine that support in such a cruel way! If KCPS loses the projected \$138 million from our operating budget it would be catastrophic for KCPS students and families. Our building, at Lincoln College Prep, like many KCPS buildings, is already overcrowded and falling apart due to deferred maintenance, the bond was meant to make the repairs and updates needed to keep our district and our student scholars competitive! Losing this amount of money from our budget would also be catastrophic for the hiring and retention of staff. If my salary stagnated, I personally would have to start looking to neighboring school districts to find more competitive pay. Please ensure that the voices of Kansas City voters are heard and that KCPS is supported!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: FELICIA ALLEN-CASH | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 1:55 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

I believe voters in KC should get to decide how are taxes are used and how our schools are funded. I work in a school in KCPS. Last year we passed a spending bond to upgrade our schools that was historic. The people voted in support of our schools. I don't believe Jefferson City should have any right to take that away from us or damage our schools any further. We already have to work with less resources than the students need. Our children should NOT be short-changed further.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: HAVEN HERNDON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 7:43 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

My name is Haven Herndon, and I am the Lead Occupational Therapist in the Special Education Department at Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS). I am writing to express my strong opposition to HJR 148. These proposed bills would remove Kansas City Public Schools’ ability to set its own levy rate, taking away local control over how we fund our schools and placing critical decisions in the hands of politicians rather than the Kansas City community.

In my role as Lead Occupational Therapist, I work directly with students with disabilities across the district and support occupational therapy services system-wide. These bills would have a direct and harmful impact on the students I serve. Many KCPS schools already lack accessible and inclusive spaces. I regularly work with students who struggle to navigate buildings that are not designed to meet their physical, sensory, or developmental needs. Inaccessible bathrooms, classrooms, playgrounds, and therapy spaces limit students’ independence, safety, and ability to fully participate in their education. These barriers directly interfere with students’ learning, dignity, and overall well-being.

Our students deserve schools that are accessible, inclusive, and compliant with modern standards—not facilities that create additional obstacles for children with disabilities. Without local control over funding, KCPS will have fewer options to address long-standing accessibility issues, update facilities, and invest in environments that support all learners. This loss of flexibility will disproportionately harm students receiving special education services, who rely on specialized spaces, adaptive equipment, and appropriate learning environments to make meaningful progress.

I recently earned my post-professional doctoral degree in occupational therapy. I chose to work in Kansas City Public Schools because there is a significant need for qualified, passionate professionals who are committed to serving students with complex needs. As a leader within the Special Education Department, I am deeply invested in the success of our students and staff. However, if KCPS wages stagnate due to reduced local funding authority, I—and many other highly trained professionals—will be forced to make difficult decisions about our futures. Other districts in the region are able to offer more competitive compensation, and without the ability to adjust funding locally, KCPS will continue to fall behind.

The Special Education Department already faces significant challenges in recruiting and retaining staff, including occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, special education teachers, and paraprofessionals. Without the prospect of salary growth or improved working conditions, potential employees will be less likely to apply to KCPS. This will increase vacancies, expand caseloads, and reduce the amount and quality of services students receive. These staffing

challenges directly and negatively impact students with disabilities, delaying services and limiting individualized support.

When staffing shortages occur, students lose consistency and trusted providers, which can significantly disrupt progress. As the Lead Occupational Therapist, I see firsthand how high turnover and understaffing strain our departments and ultimately harm students. These bills would make it harder—not easier—to meet students' needs and fulfill our legal and ethical obligations.

Kansas City families, educators, and community members understand the needs of our students better than state politicians. Local control allows KCPS to respond to specific challenges such as aging infrastructure, accessibility gaps, and workforce shortages. Removing that control undermines our ability to support students—especially those with disabilities—who already face systemic barriers.

I strongly urge you to oppose HJR 148. Kansas City should retain the right to decide how to fund its public schools. Our students deserve accessible buildings, and well-supported educators. Their education, independence, and futures depend on it.

**Thank you for your time and consideration.
Dr. Haven Herndon, OTD, OTR/L**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JACQUELINE PORTER | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:37 AM |

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

I am against this bill and what it has the potential to do to our schools, students, and teachers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JASON HARPER | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:30 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

As a parent of two KCPS students, Pre-K and 2nd, I am devastated to hear that our lawmakers are considering HJR 111 and 148. These bills would decimate the KCPS operating budget in direct opposition to the recent passage of the KCPS school bond, which was approved by 85% of the voters. My kids, and all of our kids, deserve to go to a fully funded school - a school rich with opportunities, support staff, extracurriculars, and consistency; a school free from extreme temperature, rodents and roaches, spoiled milk (all of which has been reported in just the last month). In the few years we have been a part of KCPS we have watched extreme staff turnover (losing exceptional teachers to higher paying districts), the departures, or reduced accessibility of art, music, iSpark, etc (because the funding for encore staff fluctuates so wildly year to year with funding cuts), and the last minute unknowing of whether or not there will be before and after care programming due to funding withholding and budget cuts. Our children deserve better than this. They deserve stability. They deserve high quality education. They deserve boundless opportunity. They deserve to know that our government - local, state, federal - believes in investing in their future. Where are we, truly, without education? And is it a world you want to live in? Because I can think of nothing more tragic than this continued attack on education funding. Please vote against these two bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER BOYD | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 9:01 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

I am a Speech Language Pathologist in the KCPS School District in Kansas City Mo and I am opposed to this bill. We rely on the property tax dollars to fund our school programs and without it many families will be left without vital support services that their students require to make progress in the educational environment. Many families want quality education and services and our district will be able to continue to provide those if they have the funding they need.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JESSICA WALLACE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 5:57 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JORDYN MONTAGUE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:47 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

These bills should not be decided by politicians. Kansas City should establish how we fund our schools. If these bills pass, our classrooms (which are already severely under resourced) will hurt even further. Salary budgets will also be cut and that reduced teachers and schools being opened. This not only hurts the students but the teachers as well having to find jobs. KCPS just passed their first bond in 50 years and if we lose those resources our district will crumble.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JULIA MCFARLAND | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 6:57 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |



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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JULIA STOCKELL | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 9:03 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

They impact KC public schools directly & if they pass it would be bad for our schools. Basically: if they pass Missouri will open up our tax levy to be voted on statewide rather than our local community (how it should be). They could decrease our current rate in HALF.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KAREN SPADER | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 3:55 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE ANDERSON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:17 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

I oppose this proposed bill strongly, as this would negatively impact Kansas City Public Schools and Kansas City citizens. The passing of this bill would be detrimental to the people of Kansas City, Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: KILEY LARSON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 4:21 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

I oppose HJR 148.

I am a parent of a Kansas City Public Schools student. My son attends Lincoln Middle School, and my daughter will attend Lincoln next year. For my family, the stakes are straightforward: stable teachers, consistent programs, and a school my children can rely on year after year.

Strong public schools contribute to strong neighborhoods and a stable tax base. I serve on the Southmoreland Neighborhood Association; we want to attract and retain families in our Midtown Kansas City neighborhood. Families choose where to live based on school quality and stability. Well-funded schools support home values, neighborhood growth, and predictable local revenues - outcomes that benefit cities and the state alike.

Undermining KCPS funding makes that harder and weakens the long-term health of the community.

Kansas City Public Schools has already experienced the consequences of inadequate and unstable funding. Years ago, the district lost accreditation, and families felt that disruption directly. Since then, KCPS has done the hard work of rebuilding—regaining accreditation, restoring trust, and improving outcomes for students. That progress has required discipline, accountability, and sustained local investment.

HJR 148 puts that progress at risk. By removing KCPS’s exemption from levy limits and ultimately returning the district to funding levels similar to those used in the 1990s - levels the courts determined were insufficient - this bill would sharply limit the district’s operating capacity. The likely result is fewer teachers, reduced student supports, and fewer opportunities for students across both KCPS and charter schools.

This bill also removes local decision-making authority. It allows statewide voters to determine a levy that only Kansas City residents pay and rely on. Nearly every other school district in Missouri retains the ability to make local funding decisions by going directly to its own voters. Singling out Kansas City sets a concerning precedent and undermines local accountability.

Kansas City voters have demonstrated their willingness to invest responsibly in public education. Last spring, they approved the KCPS GO Bond with nearly 85% support. KCPS also plans to place its levy before local voters in April 2027. That local process reflects fiscal responsibility and voter accountability and should be respected.

HJR 148 also introduces long-term financial risk. By applying levy limits to bonds, contracts, and other obligations, it creates the possibility that the district could be required to meet financial commitments while being restricted from raising the revenue needed to do so. This kind of structural rigidity makes responsible planning difficult and increases the likelihood of future financial intervention.

I understand negotiations may be underway. Regardless of the details, any proposal that removes local control or compromises stable, predictable funding for KCPS puts students and taxpayers at risk.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject HJR 148.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: KIMBERLY WILLIAMS | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 9:25 PM |

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

Beyond the school, tax reform affects neighborhoods. Public schools are the heart of a community. That is where most students feel safe. That's where they get a meal, they can be warm in the winter or cool in the summer. That's where students feel safe. They can learn and be challenged. When schools are underfunded, you are hurting families. We will return to the days when Kansas City Schools received the leftover books and supplies. We have overcrowded classes. We have buildings without proper maintenance. You have teachers who are overworked and underpaid.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: KRISTY PLATTNER | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:13 PM |

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

My child has been served as a Multiple Disabilities IEP student. The district wonderfully covered and worked with Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired where she was educated in an exemplary environment tailored to students with her needs. One of seven of these schools exist in the country and KCPS support kept CCVI open so my child could thrive. We sadly did not opt for KCPS for Kindergarten simply because of support resources needed and the lack of options for my daughter. I am very excited to see the newest elementary school and enroll her there for a campus more inclusive to her. The diversity of the district is a strength!! Changes to our tax structure will likely impact students and most directly my child the most as she needs so much support and invested staff for her to attend school. The sped dept in kcps is already struggling and you will reduce its potential by further eroding pay to teachers, student services and facilities! The diversity of students from disabled to country of origin and economic classes makes kcps great. We can utilize these differences to cultivate such a strong community and reducing any forward projection sends a clear message to families **DEPENDENT** on public school. And its they don’t matter. Those who can afford million dollar homes owe the community similar taxes to help east kc students.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LANEE BRIDEWELL | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 7:54 AM |

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

My name is LaNee Bridewell. I am a lifelong Missouri resident and a parent of a student in Kansas City Public Schools. I am writing to strongly oppose HJR 148.

This bill is not abstract for Kansas City families—it is very specific and very harmful.

Let's be honest about what this bill really means:

- Teachers will continue to be underpaid
- Schools will struggle to stay open
- Staff cuts will become inevitable
- Students and families will leave the district
- Bonds could be jeopardized

Kansas City residents have already shown we are willing to invest in our schools. Just this year, 85% of voters approved a General Obligation Bond, choosing to raise our own taxes to improve school buildings and learning conditions. That vote was a clear statement of trust, responsibility, and local control. HJR 148 undermines that decision entirely.

As a parent, I am deeply concerned about this bill that threatens Kansas Citian's ability to decided what is best for our own children. History shows that removing local control from KCPS has caused harm, not progress.

This bill does not protect taxpayers. It destabilizes schools. It does not strengthen education. It weakens it. And it does not reflect the will or values of Kansas City families.

I urge you to reject HJR 148 and preserve the right of Kansas City residents to vote on and fund our public schools. Our children deserve stability, investment, and a future—not uncertainty imposed from outside our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
 LaNee Bridewell
 Kansas City, Missouri
 KCPS Parent



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LAURA ZINK | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:41 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

I oppose HJR 148 because this proposal would trigger catastrophic underfunding, threatening Kansas City Public School District's ability to operate as it does today. It shifts control of the KCPS levy rate from Kansas City voters to voters statewide, even though nearly every other Missouri district can set its own rate through a local vote. Kansas City should have the same right. If enacted, the levy rate would be cut in half—reverting to 1990s levels that courts have already deemed inadequate. This would reduce the operating budget by more than 50 percent, devastating KCPS and reversing hard-won progress. Both KCPS schools and charter schools within the district would be affected.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LEAH ANDERSON | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 1:10 PM |

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

I am a teacher in the Kansas City Public School district. Our school district has been underfunded for decades. By taking away the districts rights to set the levy, you will be taking away even more resources from those who already have so little. The elementary school where I teach has so many amazing things happening. Students are showing academic growth by leaps and bounds. Students are excited about our brand new building, made possible through the passage of a bond by our community. We show up every day to ensure academic success for all of our kids. Do not tie our hands even more in this effort.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: LYNNE YARNEVICH | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 7:31 PM |

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

KCPS should make local funding decisions for KCPS; the Missouri legislature should stay out of our levy and not compromise funding for our schools. These proposals would put our schools at risk of catastrophic underfunding to levels our district could not survive in its current form. Right now, about 80% of KCPS funding comes from local funding - in part because Missouri provides the LOWEST state funding of anywhere in the country. Cutting local funding could devastate the district, leading to teacher cuts, less resources for our kids and even school closures. Kansas City kids deserve better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MALORIE DEEKEN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 7:54 PM |

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

I am a teacher in Kansas City, Missouri. I am writing to express my strong opposition to this bill and the harmful impact it would have on Kansas City students, families, and schools.

This bill would allow our local tax levy to be cut in half and, even more concerning, would remove local control by opening Kansas City’s tax levy to a statewide vote. Decisions about Kansas City schools should be made by the people who live, work, and raise children here. Not voters from across the state who are not directly affected by the outcomes.

As a teacher, I see firsthand how critical local funding is for our students. Our tax levy supports essential services, classroom resources, staff positions, and programs that directly impact student learning and well-being. Reducing this funding would disproportionately harm Kansas City children, many of whom already face systemic challenges.

Kansas City students deserve stability, investment, and a voice in decisions that shape their education. Stripping our community of the ability to determine our own funding undermines both local democracy and the educational opportunities of our students.

I urge lawmakers to listen to educators, families. Our children, our schools, and our community deserve better.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MARCI BROWN-TURLIN, ED. S. | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:34 PM |

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

As a School Psychologist with Kansas City Public Schools and a resident of Kansas City, MO I oppose any measure that limits educational funding and ultimately harms our children. I have already worked with 75 of our most vulnerable early learners (ages two to five years) this 2025-26 school year and it's only February. Teachers need resources to meet the growing needs of our children, who will be our future leaders! Stagnation of salaries limits spending and reducing the ability to attract new employees and families to our area. Kansas Citians clearly stated their support of education in Kansas City with their overwhelming support of the recent bond issue. Do not punish Kansas Citians by taking away our right to decide how we fund our public schools.

Most sincerely,



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCCLURE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 2:21 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

Dear Honorable Representative,
I support MoTaxReliefNow.org approach; Ben Keathley HB 2668. Please see the September 19 email I sent to you in September.
Thank you.
Marilyn McClure
Strasburg
kcspecial@ yahoo.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: MARY WHITE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 5:43 PM |

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

My name is Mary White. I live in Kansas City and I also work in the educational system in Kansas City for Kansas City Public Schools. I have been a teacher in this district for 13 years now. If this bill were to pass, my district, my school, my classroom, my students, and my neighborhood would be affected negatively. This would force schools to close, forcing more students in schools that are already busting at the seams, making classrooms sizes unbearable for teachers and learners. We think the educational gap is bad now, if this bill were to pass, we will NEVER be able to close that gap. We will see more students failing further and further behind, students dropping out therefore graduation rates tanking. This bill would take away even more funding for education making it that much harder on teachers. Teachers are already pretty much funding their own classrooms, this would cause that to be even more higher. This bill will force more and more teachers out of the educational system and the shortage would be so much worse than it is now. Schools are already struggling with resources, this would create an even bigger issues, making it so much harder for teachers to do their everyday job. Please consider what you are trying to do and how u affective it will be and detrimental to all.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MELANNIE LEVINE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:30 AM |

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

**Written Testimony in Opposition to HJR 111 and HJR 148
 House Special Interim Committee on Property Tax Reform
 February 3, 2026**

My name is Melannie Levine, and I am a parent in the Kansas City Public Schools district. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HJR 111 and HJR 148.

I moved my family from Olathe to Kansas City, Missouri, specifically so my children could attend Académie Lafayette, a public charter school within KCPS. I made this choice intentionally. I wanted my children to learn French, to engage with global perspectives, and to have the world brought to them through a high-quality public education. KCPS — including its charter schools — made that possible.

These proposals threaten the very foundation of that choice.

HJR 111 and HJR 148 would cut KCPS’s operating budget by more than half and shift decision-making power away from Kansas City voters to statewide voters who do not live here, do not send their children to our schools, and do not bear the direct consequences of these decisions. That is fundamentally anti-democratic.

Kansas City voters deserve the same right as nearly every other district in Missouri: the right to determine our own school levy. KCPS already plans to bring the levy to voters locally in April 2027. The Missouri legislature should not override that process or strip local authority.

Last spring, Kansas Citians voted overwhelmingly to pass the GO Bond and invest in our public schools. That investment reflected our shared belief that strong public schools — including charter schools serving KCPS families — are essential to the health and future of our city. Legislators in Jefferson City should not undercut that commitment.

Approximately 80% of KCPS funding comes from local sources, in part because Missouri provides the lowest level of state education funding in the country. Cutting local funding would have devastating consequences: teacher layoffs, fewer resources for students, and potentially school closures. These impacts would be felt across both KCPS-run schools and charter schools within the district.

Public schools are more than buildings. They are community anchors. For families like mine, KCPS represents opportunity, inclusion, and preparation for a global future.

I chose Kansas City because I believe in this district. I invest in it. My children invest in it every day. Decisions about KCPS funding should be made by Kansas Citizens — not by legislators in Jefferson City or voters statewide.

I respectfully urge this committee to not advance HJR 111 or HJR 148 and to protect local control, stable funding, and the future of Kansas City's public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VELAZQUEZ | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 10:21 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

My name is Melissa Velazquez and I am a parent of two teenagers in the Kansas City Public School district. The public schools in Kansas City are the foundation of our city’s future and our state’s growth. KCPS has successfully fought many uphill battles to overcome decades of disinvestment and lapsed accreditation through the power of excellent faculty and staff, engaged parents ,and a resilient student body. The Kansas City community cares deeply about our schools and has built momentum for funding public education, as proven by our recent collective action to pass a GO Bond with public vote in 2025. My husband and I moved across the state line from Kansas when I was pregnant with my first child, excited by the community, neighborhoods and, yes, even the unique education opportunities in KCPS schools in Missouri. Both of our children have spent their entire education in KCPS, growing into bilingual, high achieving, and diversely talented leaders. While we heard the encouragement to move back to the “Kansas side” for “better schools”, we have never regretted our decision and actively recruit young families to KCPS’ vibrant community. This is the type of community that is essential to attract and keep families in Missouri. This is the kind of community that should not be stifled by state decisions that restrict local funding. Kansas Citians like me have said loud and clear at the ballot box and in their active participation in school well-being that we want to fund our schools. We cannot afford to lose the quality IB programs, diverse teaching staff, gifted programs, STEM, music education that has just recently been scaled to more grades and schools, ELL supports, and foreign language skills our kids benefit from to lead our city’s future. We need your support to ensure that legislation protects and supports our local efforts, not undercuts our revenue. I am asking you to protect local decisions on tax levies to fund education and ensure that our community’s future is not sent back in time to undo, though state decisions and bills such as HJR 111 and 148, the local momentum for quality education in Kansas City that equals thriving community where businesses and families want to grow.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MICAH MARTIN | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 4:12 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

Students at KCPS are able to receive free meals. We have before and after school programs students can be part of to make sure they are safe while their parents/guardians are working. Nobody wants to see schools closed. Most families will not be able to move to another district or provide transportation to and from another school district. The constitutional amendment exempting KCPS from the rollbacks was approved for a reason. Sports and activities are coming back to many schools because of funding. To take away funds from KCPS is to take away a community that can be built in sports, activities, and clubs.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MICHAELA WILLMORE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 7:32 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

The district already doesn't have enough resources for our students or our salaries. Please don't change anything that would financially hurt the district.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: MIKE LODEWEGEN | | PHONE NUMBER: (573) 638-2692 |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 3550 AMAZONAS DRIVE | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: MOLLY FLEMING | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:13 AM |

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

My name is Molly Fleming. I'm a 5th generation Missourian and proud public school parent. I write in opposition to HJR 148 and any legislation that seeks to put the KCPS levy to a statewide vote. This policy is disconnected from the actual needs of Kansas City voters and taxpayers, an insult to how local school funding decisions should be made -- locally -- and could devastate our school district's finances.

I have two awesome kids. They're in first grade at a Kansas City public school that we love with phenomenal teachers, a beautiful community, and hundreds of tough little souls working their hardest to learn to read and sum and THINK every day. The budget for our district is already tight, and a sudden shift in our levy could be catastrophic to our finances -- potentially halving available resources for teachers, books, and supplies. KCPS has made so much progress -- we are seeing growing enrollment, increased test scores, and historic community support (marked most notably by 85% support for our GO bond in April 2024, our first since 1967). Any move by the legislature that could undermine that progress with uncertainty or a cut to public school funds could be catastrophic. Let Kansas Citians make the decisions for KCPS. Please table HJR 148 and let us proceed with our local levy vote in April 2027 as planned.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: NATALIE N MILLARD | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 8:51 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

As a parent of two KCPS students, Pre-K and 2nd, I am devastated to hear that our lawmakers are considering HJR 111 and 148. These bills would decimate the KCPS operating budget in direct opposition to the recent passage of the KCPS school bond, which was approved by 85% of the voters. My kids, and all of our kids, deserve to go to a fully funded school - a school rich with opportunities, support staff, extracurriculars, and consistency; a school free from extreme temperature, rodents and roaches, spoiled milk (all of which has been reported in just the last month). In the few years we have been a part of KCPS we have watched extreme staff turnover (losing exceptional teachers to higher paying districts), the departures, or reduced accessibility of art, music, iSpark, etc (because the funding for encore staff fluctuates so wildly year to year with funding cuts), and the last minute unknowing of whether or not there will be before and after care programming due to funding withholding and budget cuts. Our children deserve better than this. They deserve stability. They deserve high quality education. They deserve boundless opportunity. They deserve to know that our government - local, state, federal - believes in investing in their future. Where are we, truly, without education? And is it a world you want to live in? Because I can think of nothing more tragic than this continued attack on education funding. Please vote against these two bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: NINA GELLER | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 8:27 PM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

To whom it may concern,

I am a middle school public school teacher at Foreign Language Academy (FLA) in Kansas City Public Schools, and have been for the last three and a half years. I am also a proud member of AFT 691. It has come to my attention that this bill has the potential to eliminate my job, and devastate the bond that Kansas City voters worked so hard to ensure better facilities for teaching in. The bond for FLA would update infrastructure such as the HVAC heating/cooling system. Since I started teaching here in 2022, FLA has had several days where my classroom exceeded 80 degrees Fahrenheit, because of issues with the cooling system. Students last year walked around with blankets because our school then cooled to 60 degrees, and my classroom has been heated to under 68 degrees, what is normally considered room temperature. Improvements to this will not only improve the energy efficiency of FLA, but will also become a safer learning environment that keeps students as active participants in our educational system, rather than disrupted because of hazardous learning environment. Furthermore, I moved here from another state to take this job. I do not wish my school closing to be the reason why I am looking for another job, which should be considered a failure of the state of Missouri. These bills harm not only us as educators, but the students and communities we serve. If FLA or other Kansas City Public Schools are no longer an option (because this bill slashes funding), then where will these students go? Furthermore, where does the staff go? A mass exodus of staff and students, because of tax reform done in this way, is shameful.

Respectfully,
 a concerned educator



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHEETS | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134 |
| REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE | | TITLE: ADVOCACY ADVISOR |
| ADDRESS: 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DRIVE | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65109 |
| EMAIL: rsheets@mocities.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 3:36 PM |

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

MML opposes exempting bond payments, Missouri exempts taxes used to pay bonds and other voter-approved debt from operating-levy limits because the state constitution requires that these debts be repaid in full, even if doing so pushes the tax rate above normal levy caps. This protects the creditworthiness of local governments and ensures that once voters authorize a bond, the government must levy whatever tax is necessary to repay it.

MML opposes excluding new construction, Missouri excludes new construction and improvements from the assessed-valuation calculation used for levy-limit purposes under the Hancock Amendments because the entire structure of Hancock is designed to prevent hidden tax increases on existing property, not to block revenue growth that comes from actual physical expansion of the tax base.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | | |
| 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: SARA JACKAWAY | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 1:53 PM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a parent of a Kansas City Public Schools student, and I am writing with concerns about HJR 148 based on its tax policy consequences and the disruption it would cause to a long-standing, voter-approved constitutional framework.

Key points:

Major levy rollback: Removing Article X, Section 11(g) would trigger a projected reduction in KCPS operating revenue of more than 50%. This would occur due to a structural change in tax policy, not changes in enrollment or spending.

Impact on services: Reduced revenue would directly affect staffing, transportation, special education, and basic operations. This is not a question of efficiency; it is a question of funding legally required services.

Funding stability matters: Districts — urban or rural — cannot responsibly budget when revenue swings based on assessed value changes rather than actual service obligations. KCPS already operates below metro averages; a rollback would place it over \$1 per \$100 lower than surrounding districts, creating an unsustainable gap.

Purpose of the constitutional provision:

In 1995, the Missouri Supreme Court removed local voter control over the KCPS levy after repeated failures to approve a sufficient rate.

The court set the levy at \$4.9599, which was ratified statewide by voters in 1998 and enshrined in the Missouri Constitution (Article X, Section 11(g)).

KCPS has structured contracts, staffing, and long-term obligations around this predictable funding ever since.

Why this matters for tax policy:

Removing a voter-approved constitutional provision retroactively changes the rules on a district that

has planned for decades under this framework.

It would create a funding cliff, destabilize operations, and undermine responsible fiscal planning.

This is not about growth or expansion; it is about maintaining the minimum revenue necessary for core operations in a high-need, low-income district.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HJR 111 and HJR 148 and prevent them from advancing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Sara Jackaway
Parent, Kansas City Public Schools**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: 2/1/2026 8:08 PM |

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

House Joint Resolution 148 is not a neutral “tax modernization” measure; it is a constitutional rewrite that materially weakens voter control over local taxation while insulating levy decisions from democratic accountability through technical recalibration formulas that voters will never meaningfully approve or understand.

By repealing and replacing Sections 11(g) and 22 of Article X, HJR 148 alters the core mechanics of the Hancock Amendment—specifically the relationship between assessed valuation growth, levy rollbacks, and voter consent. While framed as revenue neutrality, the resolution embeds automatic levy resets tied to CPI and assessed valuation changes that functionally permit revenue growth without a direct, contemporaneous vote of the people.

The resolution further shifts taxing authority away from voters and toward governing bodies by allowing levy recalculations to occur by operation of constitutional formula rather than affirmative electoral approval. This is not a minor adjustment; it is a substantive transfer of power. The Hancock Amendment was adopted precisely to prevent this type of indirect expansion of taxing authority through valuation increases and technical adjustments rather than transparent voter consent.

HJR 148 also introduces constitutional complexity where statutory mechanisms already exist. Hard-coding CPI-based revenue adjustments into the Constitution reduces legislative flexibility, complicates judicial review, and increases the likelihood of litigation over valuation methodology, subclass treatment, and revenue neutrality calculations. Constitutional provisions should set guardrails, not operational tax formulas.

Finally, submitting this restructuring to voters as a single ballot question obscures its real effect. Voters are asked to approve a repeal and replacement without a clear, plain-language explanation that the proposal materially alters how levy limits are enforced and how future tax increases may occur absent a direct vote. That alone should give this body pause.

For these reasons, HJR 148 should be rejected.

You are not simplifying the Constitution—you’re hollowing out its voter-protection core.

Footnotes:

Missourians for Tax Justice Educ. Project v. Holden, 959 S.W.2d 100, 103–05 (Mo. banc 1997).
 (Hancock Amendment construed to require strict voter control over tax increases and levy authority.)

Keller v. Marion County Ambulance Dist., 820 S.W.2d 301, 304–06 (Mo. banc 1991).
(Revenue “neutrality” mechanisms cannot be used to circumvent voter approval requirements.)
State ex rel. City of St. Louis v. State Tax Comm’n, 524 S.W.3d 882, 889–90 (Mo. banc 2017).
(Assessed valuation adjustments and levy calculations are subject to close constitutional scrutiny.)



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SARAH ISRAEL | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 9:12 PM |

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

We already struggle for resources and time in schools. Our community is failing into devastating homelessness, drug addiction and crime. We need to prioritize funding our schools to bring up the city.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SHANA LONG | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | | TITLE: CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER |
| ADDRESS: 2901 TROOST AVENUE | | |
| CITY: KANSAS CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 64109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 12:00 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SHAWN REID | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 1:44 PM |

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

As a Kansas Citian and native Missourian, I am strongly in opposition to the idea of removing local control of tax rates and levies from Kansas City residents.

One of the reasons we have stayed residents of Kansas City is because of the schools, and stripping away the local school board's ability to set its own tax levy would be devastating; if returned to the rate established under Article X, section 22 of the MO Constitution, the schools our children and friends love and are thriving inside of would suffer.

The Kansas City public school system has made tremendous progress in the past few decades. Stripping away our voice and giving it to the entire state is unnecessary and could strip away our progress and opportunities.

I urge our Congress to let Kansas City maintain local control of our tax rates.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN HIMES | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 11:22 AM | |

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

I am a charter school parent, and deeply involved in charter school and school-choice governance. This bill would not only gut the finances of KCPS, but would devastate Kehoe's school-choice agenda. Nine charter schools, partnered with KCPS, won with an 85% approval for bonds to rebuild our schools --including money for charter schools that have little access to capital. By limiting Kansas City's ability to control its own levy, the main impact would be on the schools of choice with the KCEPS. At this point in our history, this has absolutely nothing to do with a desegregation or some sort of "woke" agenda. As someone who was a chief of staff for a ranking state legislator, I will tell you: This bill will punish those of us who have fought for our charter schools, and who see KCPS as our partner in school reform and school choice because our community voted for a bond. I also worked for a private school in Kansas City for 12 years, in no universe will private education replace what this bill will do to public schools of choice. Your bill will devastate the Missouri Public Charter School Commission's portfolios of schools.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 | |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SUMMER BECKER | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/2/2026 10:57 PM | |

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

I oppose this bill and ask that you do not pass it out of committee. This proposal would defund Kansas City Public Schools—while leaving every other district in Jackson County and across the state fully funded. I can see no legitimate public benefit to singling out one community’s children, families, and educators for harm while protecting all others. Such unequal treatment is vindictive in effect and unjust in practice.

The predictable result of this bill is not savings, but instability. Severely reducing funding to Kansas City’s public and charter schools will almost certainly invite legal challenges. Missouri taxpayers will then be forced to pay court costs, legal fees, and administrative expenses—money that would be far better spent in classrooms educating children. This bill risks repeating a cycle we have seen before: disinvestment followed by litigation, followed by higher long-term costs to the public.

Beyond the legal consequences, the educational and economic impacts are profound. An undereducated workforce and unreliable schools impose long-term costs on communities that far exceed any short-term budgetary reduction. Businesses will struggle to hire, social services are strained, and the entire metro will suffer.

This bill harms teachers, students, and parents in Kansas City alone, while neighboring districts remain whole. That disparity makes no sense from an economic, moral, or educational standpoint. As a Missouri voter and Kansas Citian, I believe our state should be investing more in public education, not less.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: SUSAN L MARTINEZ | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 6:45 AM |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | |

I have been a part of public schools in KCPS since the 1970's. I have been a student, a parent, and now in my 11th year of teaching in the district. I have been on District Advisory's and School Advisement Committee's and PTO's. I enjoy coaching my students toward success every day. There is a constant struggle for resources. While we work hard to do what we can, we are constantly in need of more resources, especially additional staff to handle the work load. Our city just passed a bond to show support in our schools, but that is geared toward infrastructure, not teachers and on the ground support in our buildings. Levy's provide crucial funding. Please do not allow these bills to pass.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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| BILL NUMBER: HJR 148 | | DATE: 2/3/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Property Tax Reform | | |
| 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: TIM MCFARLAND | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2026 3:44 PM |

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We don't want this! We want public schools to be funded and we want it to be up to us!!**