

STATE  
SENATOR

# Barbara Anne Washington

## 2023 Legislative Review



Dear neighbor,

The First Regular Session of the 102nd General Assembly concluded on May 12, producing 66 pieces of legislation and a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024. The Legislature took no action to override the governor's final decisions during the annual veto session on Sept. 13.

While I am disappointed the governor vetoed some of the funding for our community and my criminal justice reform legislation included in the passed Senate Bill 189, I am pleased with many of the impactful policies we put forth for our community and state.

From small legislative wins, like the provision in [Senate Bill 127](#) that designates a portion of Interstate 70 in St. Louis as the Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Memorial Highway to honor Alpha Kappa Alpha's trailblazing founder, to major victories like extending MO HealthNet coverage for postpartum women to one full year following childbirth, 2023 was a productive session.

As a proud member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I enjoyed crafting the budget and securing funding for important infrastructure, workforce and economic development initiatives in our community.

Serving you in the Missouri Senate is one of the most rewarding and challenging jobs I've had the privilege of holding. Thanks for your unwavering support and advocacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara A. Washington".

Contact Senator  
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# 2023 Legislative Highlights

## **Banning Distracted Driving** *\*Signed by the governor*

[Senate Bill 398](#) prohibits the use of electronic communication devices while driving with some exceptions and authorizes motor vehicle dealers to collect and remit the sales tax on vehicles sold.

## **Helping Senior Citizens** *\*Signed by the governor*

[Senate Bill 190](#) exempts Social Security retirement benefits from state income tax and authorizes counties to grant a property tax credit to freeze assessment rates on seniors' primary residence. This law will provide much needed financial relief for our retirees living on fixed incomes.

## **Extending MO HealthNet Coverage** *\*Signed by the governor*

[Senate Bills 45 & 90](#) extend postpartum MO HealthNet coverage to one full year following childbirth and establish a transitional benefits program for TANF and SNAP recipients. I'm hopeful this law will reduce our state's high maternal mortality rates, give new moms a healthy jumpstart and help move people from dependency on assistance programs toward self-sufficiency.

## **Preparing Students for Parenthood** *\*Signed by the governor*

[House Bill 447](#) changes the required one-half unit of credit in health to "Health and Family Education" and authorizes the development of a new curriculum to better prepare students for parenthood.



## **Looking Ahead**

I was disappointed the governor vetoed [Senate Bill 189](#), which included my priority legislation to raise the age to certify juveniles for trial as adults from 12 to 14 and to authorize restitution payments to the wrongfully convicted. Adversely, I'm grateful the Senate blocked what I consider unwarranted proposals, such as increasing the threshold to pass an initiative petition to 60% of votes cast and withholding funding from public libraries and agencies with diversity, equity and inclusion policies. I will continue to push for legislation that moves our state forward and helps protect the most vulnerable among us.

# Building Community Through Advocacy

The most effective advocacy happens at the local level. Building community and connecting residents to the resources they need to succeed requires education, collaboration and perseverance. I've enjoyed hosting several community-wide events to uplift the 9th Senatorial District and provide an opportunity to advocate on its behalf.

From hosting a public health and safety fair, job expo, town hall and voter registration drive, to coordinating discussions on literacy and facilitating the annual minority mental health awareness conference, I've cherished meeting you and listening to your concerns and ideas.

Thanks for advocating to make our southeastern Kansas City community a better place to call home and raise a family!



# Capital for the Kansas City Community

Below are a few highlights of the items funded in the Fiscal Year 2024 state operating budget. The five senatorial districts that comprise the Kansas City region received \$2,079,771,702 in funding.

## Health and Wellness

New Mental Health Hospital - **\$300 Million**  
Center for Behavioral Medicine - **\$22 Million**  
Amethyst Place - **\$1.8 Million**  
Federally Qualified Health Centers - **\$600,000**  
Domestic Violence Shelters - **\$200,000**

## Youth Empowerment

Summer Jobs for Youth - **\$1.5 Million**  
Emmanuel Youth Center - **\$1 Million**  
Morningstar Youth and Family Life Center - **\$500,000**  
Mattie Rhodes Center - **\$500,000**  
After School Violence Prevention Program - **\$500,000**  
Buck O'Neil Education/Research Center - **\$350,000**  
Youth Build Works Program - **\$250,000**  
Homeless Student Program - **\$250,000**  
Turn the Page KC Literacy Program - **\$250,000**  
Urban Youth Academy - **\$200,000**  
Boys and Girls Club of KC - **\$200,000**  
High Aspirations - **\$100,000**  
Alphabet Academy Learning Center - **\$62,000**  
I am King Foundation - **\$50,000**

## Community Investments

South Loop Park Project - **\$28.6 Million**  
Transition Center of Kansas City - **\$5.1 Million**  
KC Reentry Center - **\$178,000**  
Porter House KC - **\$150,000**  
Total Man - **\$150,000**  
Chris Harris Foundation - **\$100,000**  
Giving Hope and Help - **\$50,000**



## Urban Agriculture

Urban Ag Initiatives - **\$500,000**  
Green Acres Urban Farm and Research - **\$250,000**  
Boys Grow Youth Ag Entrepreneurship - **\$250,000**  
Kanbe's Markets - **\$100,000**

## Education

University of Missouri System - **\$491 Million**  
Metro Community College (MCC) - **\$35 Million**  
MCC Comprehensive Upgrades - **\$15 Million**  
W.E.B. Du Bois Learning Center - **\$250,000**  
BLAQUE KC Freedom School - **\$100,000**



## Arts and Entertainment

2026 FIFA World Cup Grounds & Parking - **\$52 Million**  
Jackson CO Sports Authority - **\$3 Million**  
Starlight Theater - **\$2 Million**  
Statewide Juneteenth Awareness Events - **\$1 Million**  
Negro League Baseball Museum - **\$1 Million**  
Black Archives of Mid-America - **\$325,000**  
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center - **\$319,000**  
American Jazz Museum - **\$300,000**

## Workforce Development

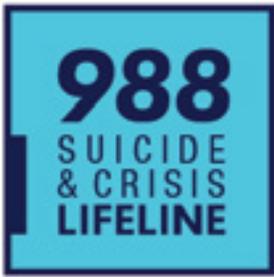
MO Excels Workforce Development - MCC - **\$6.4 Million**  
Pre-Apprenticeship Program - **\$700,000**  
LaunchKC - **\$350,000**  
WeCodeKC - **\$50,000**

# Senator Barbara Anne Washington

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If you or someone you love is experiencing an emotional or behavioral health crisis, simply dial or text **988**.

The 24/7 Lifeline connects people to free counseling and support services.

## Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget



The FY '24 operating budget totals \$48.579 billion, the largest in state history. The line items include \$2.8 billion to widen sections of I-70 from Blue Springs to Wentzville, \$4.5 million for public libraries and \$78.5 million to subsidize state-contracted childcare providers.

\* Includes: Revenue, National Guard, Elected Officials, General Assembly and Statewide Real Estate