



STATE  
SENATOR

# Barbara Anne Washington

## 2025 Legislative Review



Dear Jackson County neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session came to an abrupt close in the Missouri Senate on May 15, two days before the scheduled adjournment. It was a disappointing end that followed the passage of two bills which essentially undo the will of voters who ratified the initiatives in the Nov. 4 General Election.

The governor called two extraordinary sessions, bringing lawmakers back to the Capitol in June and September. The first yielded incentives to keep the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals in Missouri and fund relief efforts to the 37 counties impacted by severe storms this spring.

Following an uneventful veto session Sept. 10, the Senate convened the second extra session to redraw congressional lines mid-decade and overhaul the initiative petition (IP) process. Voters will have a say on IP reform, but the newly drawn map divides Kansas City into three districts, despite a Capitol full of protesters and pleas from legislators. This fight is far from over.

Representing District 9 in the Missouri Senate remains the honor of my lifetime. I want to thank all the constituents who participate in the policymaking process and advocate for Jackson County's progress. I rely on your feedback and appreciate your support as we work toward a brighter future for all.

Senator Barbara Anne Washington  
Proudly Serving District 9 Since 2020



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# Legislation Signed into Law

The 2025 legislative session brought many accomplishments and a few setbacks.

## Missouri CROWN Act: Banning Hair-Based Discrimination

*“Prohibiting hair-based discrimination has been a priority of mine since taking the oath of office.”*

*-Sen. Washington*



I believe young people of the African diaspora deserve to be treated fairly and encouraged to embrace their heritage, regardless of their natural hair or protective hairstyles. The Missouri Creating an Open World for Natural Hair, (Missouri CROWN Act), bans hair-based discrimination in elementary and secondary schools. My bill was added to [Senate Bill 160](#), along with my negotiated language to strengthen protections for student associations.

## Protecting Children

Ensuring vulnerable children have every opportunity to succeed is a commonly shared goal of the Legislature. [House Bill 737](#) bans child marriage, permits foster kids to keep their survivor benefits and raises the age from 17 to 18 for the offense of endangering the welfare of a child. The law also modifies the guardian ad litem guidelines for children, updates child placement policies and establishes a tax credit for youth violence prevention programs.

## Criminal Justice Upgrades



[House Bill 495](#) contains my proposal to permit claims for damages for wrongful convictions and

restitution for those who served time but were later exonerated and proven innocent through non-DNA evidence. I also added a clause requiring basic training for peace officers to teach de-escalation, implicit bias and racial profiling.

## Honoring KC Legends

Three of my proposals were signed into law as statewide designations in [Senate Bill 348](#).

- John Donaldson Day on Feb. 5 salutes a star pitcher from the Negro Baseball Leagues.
- Officer James Muhlbauer K-9 Champ Memorial Bridge over I-70 honors these fallen law enforcement officers.
- Amyloidosis Awareness Day on May 8 promotes early detection and treatment of the disease. I appreciate the advocacy of Kansas City survivors Mike Lane and Art Still, a member of the Chiefs’ Hall of Honor, (below), who testified on behalf of [Senate Bill 304](#).



## Session Setbacks

*It was disappointing to see bills pass this legislative session that go against the will of Missouri voters:*



## Local Control of Police

The lead provision of [House Bill 495](#) returned control of the St. Louis Police Department to a statewide commission, overturning the decision voters made in 2012 to place the department under local control. Kansas City and St. Louis are the only police departments in the nation to be controlled by a commission, not local leaders.

## Earned Sick Leave

Voters passed Proposition A last November, ensuring workers received paid sick leave and incremental minimum wage increases. Unfortunately, [House Bill 567](#) repealed earned paid sick leave and wage increases based on the Consumer Price Index, despite heavy opposition from advocates and the minority caucus.

## Reproductive Freedom

[House Joint Resolution 73](#) will place the abortion rights question back on the ballot, essentially undoing the reproductive freedom Missourians approved as Amendment 3 last November. If passed, all abortions will be prohibited in Missouri, except in cases of medical emergency, rape or incest. The resolution also contains what I believe to be misleading language about transgender care.



# Dollars for the Kansas City Districts



*Serving on the Senate Appropriations Committee and securing vital funding for our community remains my top priority at the Capitol. The five Kansas City area senatorial districts received \$2.2 billion to fund needed services and an additional \$272 million for capital improvements, maintenance and repairs. Several District 9 budget items are highlighted on this page.*

## Community Enrichment

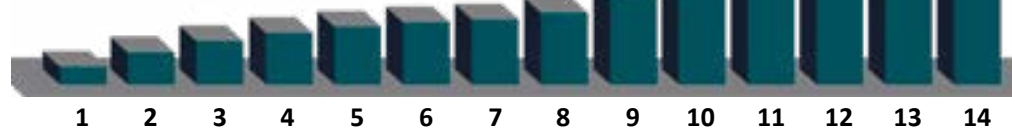
- **\$60.8 million** - FIFA World Cup preparations
- **\$5 million** - Guadalupe Center
- **\$5 million** - Transition Center of Kansas City
- **\$1.25 million**- Negro League Baseball Museum
- **\$500,000** - Mattie Rhodes Center
- **\$500,000** - Urban Farming
- **\$285,000** - Bruce R. Watkins
- **\$100,000** - Kanbe’s Markets
- **\$100,000** - Urban League Kansas City

## Health & Wellness

- **\$48 million** - 200-bed KC mental health hospital ([Senate Bill 1](#)-extraordinary session)
- **\$22.9 million** - Center for Behavioral Medicine
- **\$4 million** - Rediscover Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Center
- **\$1.6 million** - Adolescent mental health beds
- **\$1 million** -Welcome House
- **\$300,000** - Samuel Rodgers
- **\$500,000** - Morningstar

## \$49.8 Billion State Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Judiciary & Public Defender - <b>\$399,918,781</b>  |
| 2  | Office of Administration - <b>\$767,270,370</b>   |
| 3  | Corrections - <b>\$1,043,613,331</b>  |
| 4  | Public Safety - <b>\$1,232,815,948</b>  |
| 5  | Higher Education & Workforce Development - <b>\$1,419,907,258</b>   |
| 6  | All Other Agencies (Includes Revenue, National Guard, Elected Officials, General Assembly and Statewide Real Estate) - <b>\$1,487,487,462</b> |
| 7  | Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources - <b>\$1,544,126,849</b>  |
| 8  | Employee Benefits - <b>\$1,708,572,983</b>  |
| 9  | Health & Senior Services - <b>\$2,337,806,425</b>   |
| 10 | Economic Development, Labor & Insurance - <b>\$2,664,508,332</b>  |
| 11 | Transportation - <b>\$3,564,927,863</b>   |
| 12 | Mental Health - <b>\$4,376,271,419</b>  |
| 13 | Elementary & Secondary Education - <b>\$8,630,865,463</b>   |
| 14 | Social Services - <b>\$16,994,175,469</b>   |



## Education

- **\$1.47 billion** - Foundation Formula for KC area K-12 public schools
- **\$35 million** - Metropolitan Community College
- **\$250,000** - We Code KC
- **\$350,000** - After school gun violence prevention
- **\$100,000** - Blaque Freedom School
- **\$100,000** - BLOC KC

## Jobs & Training

- **\$1.6 million** - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- **\$500,000** - Full Employment Council
- **\$350,000** - Launch KC
- **\$300,000** - Pawsperity
- **\$250,000** - Total Man CDC
- **\$100,000** - Lyrik’s Institution

## Youth Services

- **\$9.6 million** - Family Resource Centers
- **\$2 million** - Out-of-school support programs
- **\$300,000** - Chris Harris Foundation
- **\$200,000** - Boys and Girls Club
- **\$200,000** - Urban Youth Academy
- **\$90,000** - DeBruce Foundation

## Arts & Entertainment

- **\$5 million** - Kansas City Museum
- **\$3 million** - Jackson County Sports Authority
- **\$2 million** - Bartle Hall Convention Center
- **\$300,000** - Black Archives
- **\$250,000** - Juneteenth Kansas City
- **\$100,000** - American Jazz Museum





## Senator Barbara Anne Washington

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### Make Your Voice Heard

Advocacy, which is Latin for “call to one’s aid,” is what led me to my second term as your state senator and the key to my success! I call on you to make your voice heard:

- Bookmark the [Senate website](#) to monitor legislation, view the hearing schedule and find resources.
- Offer your expertise by calling or emailing elected officials, testifying at hearings and sharing your related stories.

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## Welcoming Visitors to the Dome



*I cherish time spent with visitors and advocates at the Capitol!*



*Clockwise from top left: Jon Otto's appointment to the Board of Education; Retired Tuskegee Airmen, Col. Reginald Bassa Sr. and Lt. Commander Reginald Bassa Jr.; advocates for Senate Bill 795; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Day at the Capitol; MCC nursing students; and 20/20 Leadership.*