



**COUNTY LEGISLATURE JACKSON
COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Office: 816-881-3076
Fax: 816-881-3340
mabarca@jacksongov.org

**MANUEL ABARCA IV
LEGISLATOR, 1ST DISTRICT**

JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
415 E. 12th Street, 2nd
Floor Kansas City,
Missouri 64106
www.jacksongov.org

**EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY
OFFICE**
201 W. Lexington, Suite 201
Independence, Missouri 64050

Mr. Phil Levota
County Executive
Jackson County, MO

Mr. Shawn Foster
Chairman, Sports Authority
Jackson County, MO

December 31st, 2025

Jackson County Leaders,


I request you both consider prioritizing the necessity of demolition costs and a long-term strategic planning exercise for Jackson County's Truman Sports complex. Our government must now consider the grave potential demolition costs of at least Arrowhead Stadium, with the recent announcement by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly and Clark Hunt's abandonment of Jackson County Sports Complex. I do not request said priority in haste or even in jest, but as the former Chair of the Stadiums Improvements Committee, I suggest that collectively, through legislative and administrative action we create a necessary line to set aside potential costs through the annual Repair, Maintenance, Management, and Operations (R.M.M.O.) fund to be utilized to plan for the potential departure of one or both teams. This new line item could be funded to research, establish potential costs of strategic planning efforts if one or both stadiums are to be vacated, and to set aside the potential costs projections for said expenses. At least a proportioned amount must be set aside from normal expenses FIRST, from the remaining years R.M.M.O. fund receipts through the remainder of the contracted term lease.

Although not personally an attorney, I believe that ensuring that if one or both teams abandon the County owned assets, namely Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums and the totality of the Truman sports complex, taxpayers should not be left exclusively with the burden of blighted stadiums. Blighted stadiums will perpetually be impacting tax values and create a further detrimental economic impact to at least the three municipalities surrounding and the State of Missouri ta large, if both teams choose to leave. My understanding of the R.M.M.O. fund has been that it is to reimburse the Teams and their interested parties' expenses for cost to maintain and operate these stadiums. This fund in essence provides the teams with substantial profitability at the expense of Jackson County taxpayer investments. Now that the Chiefs have abandoned that 60 years plus investment, I believe it is in OUR best interest that we prioritize US and not the profit of those who abandon Jackson Countians. By redirecting these repair, maintenance dollars, for a stadium the Chiefs are abandoning, I believe we could fully fund the redevelopment of the Arrowhead site and/or increase the opportunity to strengthen the position for the Royals to leverage the full Truman Sports Complex site in their absence. With this advanced notice of the Chiefs departure, we can leverage funds that would have otherwise encouraged them to reinvest in Lamar Hunt's Legacy stadium and begin focusing on a Jackson County without the legacy the Hunt's. From my understanding, by setting aside a majority of the Chiefs R.M.M.O fund reimbursements, roughly \$27.5 Million annually through December 1st, 2031, we could create a "replacement/redevelopment fund" that could total up to \$137.5 million dollars to ensure Jackson Countians are left without an abandoned Arrowhead Stadium and practice facility.

It pains me to think of a Jackson County without Arrowhead stadium. However, that wasn't a choice we made, but instead billionaires thinking of their bottom dollar putting their profits over people. Finally, as Jackson County is the owner of the stadium assets, I believe it's time we started truly strategizing the future of the Truman Sports Complex and its land with or without the stadiums present.

Finally, I ask that you all encourage our municipal executive and legislative bodies to equally consider their annual financial contributions for teams that abandon Jackson County, as collectively we ALL lose as the Chiefs chase their best interest across state lines.

Best,


Manuel R. Abarca IV
1st District Legislature
Jackson County, MO

CC:

Mike Kehoe, Governor of Missouri
Cindy O'Laughlin, President Pro Temp Senate, MO
Doug Beck, Minority Floor Leader Senate, MO
Jonathon Patterson, Speaker of the House, MO
Ashley Aune, Minority Floor Leader of the House, MO
Daron McGee, Chairman Jackson County, Mo Legislature
Quinton Lucas, Mayor of Kansas City, MO
Rory Rowland, Mayor of Independence, MO
Mike McDonough, Mayor of Raytown, MO
Bryan Covinsky, Chief Counsel Jackson County, MO
J.J. Rizzo, Executive Director of Jackson County, MO Sports Authority