

# HOUSTON LAKER

SINCE MARCH 1957 - EDITION #67

## CITY COUNCIL NEWS

City Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 9th at 6:30pm at City Hall

## VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOC

**2024 Annual Membership Meeting**

**Saturday October 19  
2:00pm at City Hall**

**Ballot items included in this issue of the Laker**

## CITY CODE - DID YOU KNOW?

Do you have a question about a city code? Visit [houstonlake.gov](http://houstonlake.gov) to see them online. Including permit applications and contact information.



## NICE CATCH

Chuck Stone, pictured, sent this photo of a large mouth bass he caught on Wednesday, September 18th. Way to go Chuck!

## LAKE LIFE

Houston Lake continues to flourish, and we extend our gratitude to the residents and the Venetian Garden Homes Association for your efforts in preserving and enhancing the health of the lake.

On August 6th, a naturally induced fish kill took place in the lake.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has offered several recommendations to tackle this situation. They suggest ensuring that all aerators in the lake are working properly. According to lake managers, the submerged aeration system is functional, along with the pod system aerators. Additionally, the lake's minimal vegetation contributes to maintaining improved oxygen levels.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

### Watercolor Painting Series

- When: Saturdays, at 11 o'clock
- Where: City Hall
- What to Bring: Brushes, watercolors, and paper, or make use of supplies provided.
- Duration: 8 weeks, from August 31 – October 19



## LETTER FROM THE VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

Hello Members,

As the lake season has wrapped up, if you see a trash container that is full, please let me know. Sue is still working with members trying to get accounts up to date. If you are behind on dues, please contact Sue directly to make arrangements to get caught up. Liens will be filed against any homes where the dues are in arrears.

We are waiting for the forecast to have enough rain to seed the areas disturbed by the dredging. The board is continuing to work on the 2024/2025 budget. If you have any project you'd like to submit for consideration by the board for next year, please reach out to me and I'll have the board discuss it for next year.

The City of Houston Lake and the Venetian Gardens HOA run on volunteers or very low pay. The generations who started the lake and have run the City and HOA since its inception are aging out. The longevity of our community depends on citizens stepping up to keep everything running. If you are interested in serving your community, please reach out to a city council or HOA board member to assist you in navigating the process.

The HOA annual meeting has been set for Saturday 10-19 at 2:00 pm. There are 3 board seats up for election this year, Mary Head and I have filed for reelection.. If you have interest in serving your community on the HOA board, please fill out an application in the Laker and drop it by City Hall to be put on the ballot.

Be well,  
Pam Freese

## STORIES BY GENE CHARLES

Submitted by Gene Charles

### Halloween

This is how Halloween was celebrated in our countryside. We didn't have trick or treat as such. I heard of a few pranks that groups performed on others. One group disassembled a farmer's farm wagon and reassembled it on top of his barn.

Another prank was a group gathered at a preacher's place and knocked on his door. A couple claimed they wanted to be married. When the preacher came to the door, someone threw a pail of water on him.

My mom told a story she heard from the preacher. He said when he tried to build something such as a chicken coop for his wife, he would start driving a nail and she would put a finger on the nail trying to decide if that was how she wanted it built. One day my mom said the woman had a finger bandaged up. She figured the preacher had hit it with a hammer. The preacher told her that if someone was mad at another to tell them to go to hell – instead he would tell them to go build his wife something.

Another prank that I heard of was to flip someone's outhouse over.

Hello Houston Lake!

I am Lisa Shepard, a resident of Houston Lake and the newest in a long line of folk who have served over the years as City Clerk for Houston Lake. As of September 1st, I am feeling like I have an understanding of what the City Clerk's job entails. And, should something come up for which I am not familiar, I feel comfortable with all the resources - both people and entities - with which I can consult to gain more knowledge to offer the best service to our community. There have been a number of people, both inside and outside of our community, that have offered me training and advice as I have learned this position, and to all of them I extend my heartiest thanks. Chief amongst these is Alderman Teena Walker-Robin who, herself, served for several months as both Alderman and Acting City Clerk simultaneously. Thank you!

I work out of the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Originally, I hoped to set some standard hours that I would be occupying that office on a weekly basis. As I have grown into this position since April, and kept track of my hours - I find that I am working significantly more hours a month than was originally explained to me would be required for filling the City Clerk position. I attribute this to three factors: 1.) learning a new computer and operating system, 2.) my personality - when I see something that needs doing, I attempt to get it done, and 3.) the shortage of elected officials serving on the City Council.

So I'd like to try three things to see if I can shorten my monthly hours: 1.) I've learned the new computer now and I am getting faster and faster every day, 2.) getting others involved to help me when I see things that need doing and, lastly, but most importantly, 3.) I ask each of you to consider running for elected office in Houston Lake this coming spring. We need to fill every elected position we have that is currently open. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months. PLEASE consider serving your community!

I am not yet announcing weekly hours I will be occupying the City Clerk's office at City Hall. What I would like to try instead is for you to email me - [cityclerk@houstonlake.gov](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.gov), or leave me a message on the City Hall phone number - 816-741-0644. Then I'll get back to you with an answer to your need or we can set up an appointment to meet should you need me in person. Because I live here, and many of you work during the day, I am willing to meet in the evenings occasionally if that would be a more convenient time.

I have already met many of you, even before I became City Clerk. I look forward to becoming familiar with all of you!

Lisa A. Shepard  
City Clerk  
Available by appointment, please call or email  
5417 NW Adrian  
Houston Lake MO 64151  
City Hall Phone: 816-741-0644  
[cityclerk@houstonlake.gov](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.gov)

**Venetian Gardens Homes Association  
2024 Annual Membership Meeting  
Saturday October 19th, 2024**

**2:00pm – City Hall**

**5417 N. Adrian Ave., Houston Lake, Mo. 64151**

- ☐ Voting on approval of 2024/2025 Budget**
  - ☐ Voting on Lake Assessment dues**
  - ☐ Voting on 3 new Board Members**
- ☐ Voting for President and Vice President**

**The Homes Association fiscal year starts October 1, 2024 and ends September 30, 2025**



**CAST YOUR OFFICIAL BALLOT ON  
NOVEMBER 5TH, 2024**

**ELECTION POLLS  
OPEN 6:00AM AND CLOSE AT 7:00PM.**

**HOUSTON LAKE RESIDENTS VOTE AT  
HEARTLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**6120 NW PRAIRIE VIEW ROAD  
KANSAS CITY, MO. 64151**

**ABSENTEE VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER 5 GENERAL ELECTION BEGINS  
SEPTEMBER 24 AT 8:00AM**

**VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IS OCTOBER 9**

**LAST DAY TO REQUEST A MAILED ABSENTEE BALLOT, 5:00PM IS OCTOBER 23**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PLATTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AT  
PHONE (816) 858-4400 OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT [PLATTE@SOS.MO.GOV](mailto:PLATTE@SOS.MO.GOV)**

**2600 NW PRAIRIE VIEW ROAD, PLATTE CITY, MISSOURI 64079  
OFFICE HOURS 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

**EDITOR - MARY HEAD - [MARYJEWEL40@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MARYJEWEL40@GMAIL.COM) 816-741-5639  
CONTENT & LAYOUT - SARAH SCHOFIELD 816-394-8828  
[EDITOR.HOUSTONLAKER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EDITOR.HOUSTONLAKER@GMAIL.COM)**

## 2024 TRASH & RECYCLING DATES

City trash and recycling services are handled by Republic Services. For assistance with your receptacles, issues with pick-up or questions about large items contact customer service at 816-254-1470 or RepublicServices.com.

Trash is picked up every Wednesday. Receptacles need to be at the curb/edge of street by 6am. Leave room for the arm of the truck to pick up and return the receptacles without causing damage to vehicles, fences, etc.

2024 Recycling Dates (2nd Wednesday):

January 10  
February 14  
March 13  
April 10  
May 8  
June 12  
July 10  
August 14  
September 11  
October 9  
November 13  
December 11

2024 Holidays:

January 1st New Years Day -  
Pick up changed to Thursday  
January 4th

May 27th Memorial Day - Pick  
up changed to Thursday May  
30th

July 4th Independence Day -  
No Change pick up will be on  
Wednesday July 3rd

September 2nd Labor Day -  
Pick up changed to Thursday  
September 5th

November 28th  
Thanksgiving - No Change  
pick up will be on  
Wednesday November 27th

December 25th Christmas -  
Pick up changed to  
Thursday December 26th

## EMERGENCY -

In case of a Police, Fire or Medical Emergency - Dial 911

**Platte County Sheriff Non-Emergency & Animal Control**  
**816-858-3521**

**Riverside Fire Department Non-Emergency**  
**816-372-9024**

**Grinder Pump**  
**Haynes Equipment Service 913-782-5013**

## HOA Officers -

President - Pam Freese (816) 726-4455  
venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com

Vice President - Wendy Thompson (816) 225-1018

Secretary - Frank Wilson (816) 520-3931  
imua62@gmail.com

Treasurer/Lake Tags - Susan Hodges (816) 786-2377  
hodges.susan@outlook.com

Board Member at Large - Mary Head (816) 741-5639  
maryjewel40@gmail.com

## HOUSTON LAKE CITY OFFICIALS

### City Hall - (816) 741-0644

Mayor -  
mayor@houstonlake.gov

City Clerk - Lisa A. Shepard  
cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

City Collector - Kathryn Kreider  
citycollector@houstonlake.gov

City Treasurer - Kay Honeycutt  
khoneycutt@houstonlake.gov

Custodian of Records -  
cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

## Board of Aldermen

Teena Walker-Robin nw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Vacant nw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Ashley Fuglestad (serving as Mayor)  
sw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Sarah Loring sw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

As most of the HOA Officers and City Officials have full-time jobs as well, phone calls may not be answered or returned as quickly as a text or email.

City Hall is open during meetings, Listening Sessions, events and by appointment.

# THE WORKS by MARLENE

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by appointment only

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Over 35 years of experience

Convenient hours

Haircuts Uniquely for You

Specializing in Haircolor

Color Correction

Grey Coverage

Enhancing the Grey

Brow Shaping

Best wishes to you,  
Marlene

# **Venetian Gardens Homes Association**

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# In Brief

News and updates from MDC



## ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN 10TH MISSOURI LAKE

MDC CONFIRMS INVASIVE SPECIES IN JACKSON COUNTY'S LONGVIEW LAKE

→ MDC fisheries staff in the Kansas City area recently found invasive zebra mussels for the first time in Longview Lake in Jackson County — the most recent discovery of the invasive species in the state.

Zebra mussels are an invasive species that came to North America in international shipping ballast water and were first discovered in Lake St. Clair near Detroit in 1988. Zebra mussels were first reported in Missouri in 1991 in the Mississippi River near St. Louis. They have spread to the Missouri, Osage, and Meramec rivers and streams downstream of infested lakes. In addition to Longview Lake, they have also been found in nine other Missouri lakes, including Blue Springs Lake, Bull Shoals Lake, Carrollton Recreation Lake, Lake Jacomo, Lake

Zebra mussels only grow to ¼–1 inch. For such a small size, this invasive species has a tremendous negative impact on aquatic ecosystems.

Lotawana, Lake Taneycomo, Lake of the Ozarks, Prairie Lee Lake, and Smithville Lake.

Invasive zebra mussels hurt native fish numbers and disrupt aquatic ecosystems. They decimate populations of native freshwater mussels and other aquatic animals.

One of the greatest risks for spreading the invasive mussels to other lakes and rivers is overland transport on boats, motors, trailers, docks, aquatic plants, pumps, and other equipment. MDC urges boaters to keep their crafts and equipment free from hitchhiking zebra mussels — especially when moving between waterbodies — by completing the following steps:

- **CLEAN** — Remove all plants, animals, and mud and thoroughly wash all equipment, especially in crevices and other hidden areas. If the boat or equipment was used in infested waters or if it has attached adult mussels, use a hot water spray of at least 104 degrees.
- **DRAIN** — Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including livewells and transom wells.
- **DRY** — Allow enough time for the boat to completely dry before launching in other waters.
- **DISPOSE** — Do not dump unused bait into lakes, ponds, rivers, or streams. Put unused bait in a trash can.

Learn more about zebra mussels at [short.mdc.mo.gov/4o8](http://short.mdc.mo.gov/4o8). For more information on Longview Lake, visit MDC online at [short.mdc.mo.gov/4bk](http://short.mdc.mo.gov/4bk).

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

August 19, 2024, MEETING 6:30 pm

Houston Lake City Hall

Board Members Present: Pam Freese, Mary Head, Wendy Thompson, and Frank Wilson. Susan Hodges was excused.

Pam Freese calls the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

The Board approved the minutes of the 7.15.24 meeting.

Financials-Although the Treasurer was not present to answer questions, the Balance sheet, and the Profit and Loss Statement was handed out. It was noted that there were no unusual or extraordinary expenses for the past month.

Pam reported that she walked the peninsula to find a spot for new dock and will have suggestions in the future. She also reported on the large number of fish found floating the water in the middle of July. Most were under 6 inches but several in the 2 to 3 foot length also died. Missouri Dept of Fisheries informed her that the sudden drop in temperature and lack of sunlight due to consistent overcast skies caused oxygen deprivation in the lake, which causes the fish to die. Natural occurrence. No way to prevent.

The Board members present all voted in favor of hiring a new attorney. His rate is 300 per hour. Susan will find out how much he would charge to file suit against the homeowners owing substantial dollar amounts for past due assessments.

Frank displayed the No Trespassing signs he acquired, at not cost to the VGHA, and will begin posting them around the lake.

Information about the new signs will be published in the newspaper.

Pam will do more research on Life Preserver Toss Rings, including ropes, and report back.

Pam welcomed new Houston Lake homeowners. They sought permission to extend their fence along the right-of-way down to the lake and lined up with the adjacent fences along the lake. The Board voted that a official survey was not necessary, with the proviso that the homeowner stake out the property, allow a board member to inspect that placement, and comply with the city permitting process.

Chain link fence without survey voted yes. Will stake out before building fence.

The Houston Lake City clerk was present at the meeting and announced that the Annual tax levy meeting at city hall is scheduled for August 28, 2024, 6:30 pm.

Frank reported that the Oversight Committee was close to having a final draft of the new bylaws and will be presenting them in the near future.

Pam reported that she will do additional water testing.

The VGHA Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2024.

Applications for board positions need to be filed no later than September 30, 2024.

Meeting adjourned 7:12 pm.

# Goodbye Interns: Hello Communication Committee



Photo by OVAN on Pexels.com

Over the past few years, our small community has expanded its digital presence significantly. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated web volunteers, we've established a number of websites that serve various aspects of our community:

- City of Houston Lake Website
- Venetian Gardens Homes Association
- The Houston Laker Newspaper

It's important to remember that none of this is a paid effort—everything is managed and maintained by volunteers. Because we are volunteers, we focus on streamlining processes, minimizing inefficiencies, and making sure our volunteers gain valuable hands-on experience in return for their contributions. Our fantastic web interns have moved on to new opportunities, and we wish them every success in what are sure to be bright careers.

This transition presents both a challenge and an exciting opportunity: the formation of a *Communications Committee*. Effective communication is crucial to the success and unity of our city, and this new committee will help ensure that our community stays informed, connected, and engaged.

## Why a Communications Committee?

In today's fast-paced world, timely and effective communication is essential. The Communications Committee will refine and manage the tools we use to engage with residents, including websites, social media, newsletters, and public announcements. As part of the committee, you will help ensure all residents have access to relevant, up-to-date information about city news, events, and important decisions.

## Skills and Techniques You'll Gain

By joining the Communications Committee, you won't just be helping your community—you'll also have the opportunity to hone valuable skills in areas such as:

- **Content Strategy & Web Management:** Learn how to develop and maintain a comprehensive digital content strategy. You'll gain insight into website management, content updates, and SEO strategies that can improve the reach and engagement of our platforms.
- **Social Media Management:** Explore the best practices for managing social media channels, creating engaging posts, and using analytics tools to track engagement and improve outreach efforts.
- **Public Relations & Writing:** Refine your writing skills by contributing to press releases, community newsletters, and announcements. You'll learn how to craft messages that resonate with diverse audiences and ensure clear, effective communication.
- **Graphic Design & Multimedia:** Discover the basics of graphic design tools, photography, and video production to create visually appealing content that enhances our communication efforts.
- **Project Management:** Develop organizational and leadership skills by helping to coordinate projects, set goals, and ensure timely delivery of content across multiple platforms.

## We Need Your Voice and Vision

We are seeking passionate individuals who want to make a difference in our city's communication efforts. Whether you have experience in public relations, media, marketing, or simply a keen interest in community engagement, your skills and creativity can make a meaningful impact.

Continued

Source: <https://houstonlake.gov>

## Ideal Candidates

- **Community Engagement:** A strong commitment to keeping residents informed and involved is crucial.
- **Communications Skills:** Experience in writing, public relations, or marketing is a plus. Your expertise will help shape how we communicate with the community.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** We're looking for creative thinkers who can introduce fresh ideas to engage residents and drive participation in city initiatives.

## How to Get Involve

If you're interested in joining the Communications Committee or learning more, please reach out to the City Council. We will also host an informational meeting where you can hear more about the committee's goals and how your participation can make a difference.

## Be the Voice of Our City

This is your chance to influence how our city communicates and interacts with its residents. By joining the Communications Committee, you'll not only play a critical role in ensuring the city remains connected, informed, and engaged—you'll also gain valuable skills and experience in communications that can benefit you personally and professionally.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you to make our city an even better place to live, work, and connect!



End

# Notice of Election and Candidate Filing



The City of Houston Lake, Missouri will be holding its next election on **Tuesday, April 8th, 2025**, offering residents the opportunity to elect individuals for the following positions:

- **Mayor** – 2-year term
- **Two Aldermen at Large** – 2-year terms

These positions are crucial to the effective governance of our city.

The Mayor oversees city administration, represents the city in official matters, and works closely with the Board of Aldermen to guide the community's growth and future. Aldermen serve as the voice of residents, making important decisions regarding city policies, finances, and development. Specific details on the duties and qualifications of these roles can be found in **Houston Lake City Code, Chapter 110** under "Mayor and Board of Aldermen."

If you are passionate about Houston Lake and want to help shape its future, consider running for one of these positions. **Candidate filing** will begin on **Tuesday, December 10th, 2024**, and will close at **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31st, 2024**. Those interested in becoming a candidate must file with the City Clerk within this period. Filing forms can be requested by emailing [cityclerk@houstonlake.gov](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.gov).

This is an excellent opportunity for residents to take an active role in their community and contribute to the decision-making process that impacts daily life in Houston Lake. We encourage all qualified residents to consider stepping up and running for office!

# Independence vs Dissolution for Houston Lake



Sunset on Houston Lake

Houston Lake is a fourth-class city incorporated in 1960. The city's governing body consists of the Mayor and a four-member Board of Aldermen elected at large.

Currently, there are open seats for two aldermen and a mayor. Other decision-making bodies should include a Planning and Zoning Commission, a Board of Zoning Adjustment, committees for Administration, Finances, Public Works, and Public Safety. Qualified volunteers are being sought among Houston Lake residents to serve in these roles.

This series arose from Houston Lake City Council discussions on what happens if community participation continues to decline and there aren't enough filled council seats to reach a quorum. It explores the advantages of remaining an independent city versus becoming part of a larger city or an unincorporated Platte County community. Why did cities like Houston Lake, Riverside, Gladstone, Northmoor, and Platte Woods resist annexation by Kansas City through incorporation around 1955-1960, and are those reasons still valid? What are the pros and cons of independence vs. dissolution for Houston Lake?

## More in this series

Independence vs Dissolution: Pros and Cons	September 19, 2024
Why is Houston Lake a city instead of a subdivision?	September 6, 2024
Who Runs the City of Houston Lake?	August 30, 2024
Embracing the Role of Council Member: Making a Big Impact in a Small Community	June 19, 2024



## Fall Brush Pickup

October 21-22, 2024



# Embracing the Role of Council Member: Making a Big Impact in a Small Community

Serving as a council member in a tiny city in Missouri might seem like a modest position, but it offers a remarkable opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of your neighbors.

The role is rich with potential for community improvement, personal growth, and fulfilling public service.

Here's why being a council member in a small town is an immensely rewarding experience and how you can embrace this role with enthusiasm and effectiveness.



## Understanding the Importance of Local Government

In small towns, local government is the backbone of the community. As a council member, you are not just a politician but a neighbor and friend to those you serve. Your decisions directly impact the quality of life in your town, from infrastructure improvements to community events. The close-knit nature of a small city means your efforts are immediately visible, allowing you to see the tangible results of your work.

## Building Strong Community Connections

One of the most rewarding aspects of serving as a council member in a tiny city is the opportunity to build strong, personal connections with residents. You have the chance to engage with your community on a personal level, understanding their needs, concerns, and aspirations. These interactions enable you to tailor your efforts to truly benefit the people around you.

## Driving Visible Change

In a small city, even modest projects can lead to significant improvements. Whether it's enhancing local parks, improving road safety, or organizing community events, your initiatives can transform the town. The ability to drive visible change quickly can be incredibly satisfying and motivates you to continue working towards bettering your community.

## Fostering Civic Engagement

As a council member, you have a platform to encourage civic engagement. You can inspire residents to take an active interest in local government, attend meetings, and participate in community projects. By fostering a sense of shared responsibility, you help create a more vibrant, engaged, and united community.

## Learning and Growth

Serving as a council member is a tremendous learning opportunity. You'll gain insights into local governance, budgeting, project management, and community organizing. These skills are invaluable and can be applied to other areas of your life, enhancing both your personal and professional development.

Continued

Source: <https://houstonlake.gov>

## Overcoming Challenges

Every role comes with its challenges, and serving as a council member is no different. However, these challenges are opportunities in disguise. They test your problem-solving skills, resilience, and determination. Overcoming obstacles, whether it's budget constraints or differing opinions, strengthens your leadership abilities and makes your successes even more gratifying.

## Leaving a Legacy

Your contributions as a council member can leave a lasting legacy. Projects you initiate, policies you implement, and the spirit of community you foster will endure, benefiting future generations. Knowing that you've played a part in shaping the future of your city is an incredible source of pride.

In conclusion, serving as a council member in a tiny city in Missouri is a unique and fulfilling role. It offers the chance to make a real difference, build meaningful relationships, and grow as an individual. Embrace this opportunity with passion and dedication, and you'll not only enhance your community but also enrich your own life. Remember, in the world of small-town governance, even the smallest actions can have the biggest impacts.

More information? Reach out to the city council.



End



## Halloween at City Hall



The Ministry of Merriment (MoM) will man City Hall for Trick or Treat. If weather permits, MoM plans to pass out candy on the porch. If the weather turns spooky, we'll be inside with cookies, hot chocolate, and the ever popular chocolate bars for the young and the young at heart of any age. *Keep an eye on this space for changes and stop in for a cool treat and a warm drink!*

**Thurs., October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 6-8 p.m.**



# County Completes Resurfacing on Adrian

On Thursday morning, September 5th, 2024, *Superior Bowan* milled Adrian Avenue from 56th Street to the bridge in fulfillment of a Platte County project.

The city council was not aware this was in the works and was at the time in negotiations with Spire for the repair of a failing restoration from their infrastructure improvements from in 2022.

Turns out that Platte County had arranged for the resurfacing of Adrian.



- The Project was 100% funded by Federal COVID 19 Relief funds. Therefore, this is considered a federal aid project falling under MoDOT/Federal Highway Administration rules/regulation.
- This Project was based on formula distribution of allocated funding to counties and cities based on population with a “minimum-allocation” approach for cities with populations between 5,000 and 10,000. The Program provided a minimum of \$50,000 to each community between 5-10k population with remaining funds distributed based on population. Counties were encouraged to contact Cities with populations smaller than 5,000 and pick a roadway section that required minimum rehabilitation, ADA improvements or any issue that would require additional Federal review/approval.
- Once the County was aware of the availability of funds through MARC’s Regional Preventive Maintenance Program (RPM). Bob Heim (Platte County Public Works Director) reached out to the various municipalities in Platte County, asking them to submit projects that they would like to include in the funding application to MARC.

The city asked Superior Bowan to hold off a week on laying the asphalt and asked Spire to step up their work on the failing restoration, so the city would end up with a seamless road.

Superior Bowan returned on the 18th to patch some crumbling substructure on either side of the road, thanks to consultation with our exMayor / Roads SME / current VGHA President, Pam Freese.

The completion of construction took only a few hours and the school bus routes were not inconvenienced.

There is no additional road work planned for the City of Houston Lake in conjunction with this project.



*Un*Classifieds



Looking to declutter? To post your ad *Free for Houston Lake Residents* on [houstonlake.gov](https://houstonlake.gov) visit us online.

# Caring for Your Grinder Pump

## What is a Grinder Pump and why do I have one?



Grinder pump systems are essential on the south side of our city, where traditional gravity sewer systems are impractical due to building elevations and ground slopes. These systems function similarly to household garbage disposals but on a larger scale, processing wastewater from toilets, showers, washing machines, and more.

To keep your grinder pump system running smoothly, it's important to follow specific usage guidelines. Doing so can significantly reduce the need for repairs and maintenance, though occasional malfunctions may still occur. If there's an issue, a red light and audible alarm on the control panel will notify you that service may be required.

## System Components

Grinder pumps are typically installed underground, with key components such as the collection tank lid, cleanout pipe access area, and control panel located above ground. It's crucial to keep these service access areas unobstructed for maintenance. While the control panel box can be painted and maintained by the homeowner, it should always remain easily accessible.

## What to Expect

- **Normal Operation:** Grinder pumps make some noise during operation, but it should not be disruptive. They emit minimal, if any, odor. You may notice a slight increase in your electric bill, as the pump runs a few times daily.
- **Power Outages:** The grinder pump system's control panel is powered by electricity, so during power outages, it's important to limit water usage to prevent system overload.
- **Repair Alerts:** If the system requires maintenance, an audible and/or lighted alarm will activate on the control panel. If the alarm doesn't turn off within five minutes after water use has stopped, service may be necessary.

## During Extended Leave

Before leaving your property for an extended period (more than three months), run water down a drain to activate the pump and flush the system. This will help prevent odors and ensure the pump functions properly. Do not turn off the pump, as it needs to operate at least once every three months to remain in good working order.

## Routine Maintenance

Homeowners can help maintain the system by dumping a small bottle of liquid Ajax down the drain 1-2 times a year. This natural degreaser won't harm the pump and helps break down debris in the tank. There's no need to flush with water afterward—normal water usage will suffice.



Continued

Source: <https://houstonlake.gov>

Proper grinder pump maintenance largely depends on what you flush or dispose of. To prevent issues, be mindful of the following:

## Items to Avoid

Most grinder pump maintenance issues stem from improper disposal of certain materials. To avoid problems, refrain from flushing or disposing of the following items:

- Feminine hygiene products, contraceptive devices, and diapers
- Wet wipes (even those labeled “flushable”)
- Dental floss, Q-tips, cotton balls, paper towels, and facial tissues
- Cooking or lubricating oils/grease and greasy foods
- Cat litter, eggshells, coffee grounds, and other abrasive items
- Pills and medications



## Proper Disposal Checklist

- **Toilet:** Only flush the 3 Ps—pee, poo, and toilet paper.
- **Drains:** Keep FOG (fats, oils, and grease) out of wastewater drains.
- **Trash:** Dispose of non-dissolvable or abrasive items in the trash.
- **Medications:** Use community-based “Take-Back Initiative” programs for proper disposal.
- **Hazardous Waste:** Drop off at designated disposal locations.

## Problems or Questions?

Houston Lake residents with grinder pumps pay a maintenance fee with their property taxes. If your system alarms, please contact our service provider, Haynes Equipment Services, at 913-782-5013 for assistance.



End

# Riverside Fire Department’s annual Open House

Save the date for the Riverside Fire Department’s annual Open House on Saturday, October 5th, from 10am to 2pm at the Riverside Fire Department, 2990 NW Vivion Road.

Food by Riverside Red X, a chance to win a bike donated by ARCO Construction.





## City Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, the 14th day of August, 2024

**Location:** Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Fuglestad at 6:36 PM.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Ashley Fuglestad (Acting Mayor), Alderman Sarah Loring, and Alderman Teena Walker-Robin. Absent: Alderman Keith Carey

**Resignation of Alderman Keith Carey** - Alderman Keith Carey submitted a Letter of Resignation to the City Council. Walker-Robin moved to accept Carey's resignation. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

**Presentation by Mark Manville of IBTS** - an international nonprofit offering Codes Enforcement/Building Inspection Services

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR 08/14/2024

Loring moved to approve the agenda by adding a Building Permit for 5424 NW Venetian Circle. Walker-Robin 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Walker-Robin moved to approve the 07/10/24 City Council Meeting minutes. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval. Minutes were presented for the 07/24/24 Working Meeting. For lack of a quorum, the meeting was not called to order so no approval was needed.

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**Fire Department Report** - Assistant Chief Keith Payne was not in attendance at the meeting, and no report was offered.

**Sheriff's Report** - Captain Woodrow Painter reported the department worked a little over 34 hours in July. It was determined the recent death in the community was likely the result of natural causes. There was a fairly significant assault in the community which is still under investigation. On August 28, the Platte Co Sheriff's Office will hold a meeting regarding Flock Cameras. These are surveillance cameras that local communities are considering for added security. These cameras are leased from Flock and lease for about \$2,800 a year per camera. Captain Painter indicated the Sheriff's Office cannot serve as Codes Enforcement.

## **VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT**

Mary Head reported there was a recent fish kill in Houston Lake, mostly due to the heat. This happened at several shallow lakes in our area. It is OK to fish and swim at Houston Lake. The next VGHA meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19, at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Chuck Burgess** mentioned two pot holes on Adrian. These are added to the Project Tracker to address. He also mentioned the City of Houston Lake sign at 56th and Adrian, and asked when it might be replaced. This sign is already on the Project Tracker. He noted, when the sign was up at 56th Street and Adrian, it blocked the view when accessing 56th street from Adrian. **Lisa Shepard, City Clerk**, relayed concerns from residents. A dumpster at a home on Adrian - no one is aware of a permit - further review is needed. What can be done if a resident has more recycling than what can be held in one receptacle. A second receptacle is suggested. Resident, Cristine Fithen, indicated she had recently contacted Republic to ask for a replacement receptacle. Walker-Robin noted residents should contact the City and the City will reach out to Republic's municipal sales representative on behalf of Houston Lake residents for replacement, and 2nd, receptacles.

## **PERMITS**

Building - 5424 NW Venetian Circle. Discussion regarding fees for permit and bond, perhaps some have been paid in the past. Fuglestad indicated a \$100 performance bond would be needed. Homeowner indicated she believes she has previously paid for the permit. Loring moved to accept the permit. Walker-Robin 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Walker-Robin moved to approve the Treasurer's Report dated 07/31/24 as submitted. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

## **PAY BILLS RESOLUTION**

City Clerk, Lisa Shepard, reported that, as part of her ongoing training as City Clerk, she has been discussing several financial matters with the Missouri Municipal League (MML) (a nonprofit that is dedicated to improving municipal government and administration in the state of Missouri). With Keith Carey leaving the Council, the signatures need to be changed on all of the bank accounts held by Houston Lake and there is not a new alderman to replace Carey at this time. MML indicated a City Clerk can be a signer on the city's accounts. In addition, MML explained that a monthly Resolution to Pay Bills was not needed since the annual budget has already been approved. So long as all expenses paid fall under the budget, only a listing of the monthly expenses paid and added to the Treasurer's report, is needed. Should an expense fall outside of the budget, the budget has to be revised.

Loring moved to approve the Pay Bills Resolution for 08/14/24 as submitted. Walker-Robin 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval. There is no further need for a Pay Bills Resolution and a listing of expenses paid can now be included in the monthly Financial Report - and the report reviewed and approved by the City Council. Walker-Robin moved to add City

Clerk, Lisa Shepard, as a signatory on all Houston Lake accounts and to remove Keith Carey. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Update regarding utilities raising the utility lines:** Loring called Spectrum and AT&T regarding the status of them raising the lines so the fire pumper truck can safely get through our neighborhood without causing power outages. Council agreed to send letters or emails, from the Council to these utilities, to make sure there is a record of these needs in our community. Fuglestad indicated she would facilitate these communications with these utilities.

**Public Hearing Meeting for Property Tax Rates:** City Clerk reported communicating with the Platte County Clerk and the Missouri State Auditor's Office regarding all the steps needed to accomplish the Tax Levy Rates Public Hearing. A sample notice for the meeting was presented for review. Aldermen discussed determining if any expenses, such as tree trimming, brush pickup, and fire retardant carpet installed at City Hall, can be paid for from the Fire Protection funds. Legal advice will be sought from MML and/or our city's attorney. Public Hearing regarding the Tax Levy will be Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 PM at City Hall. A seven day notice is required for this meeting.

**City Council Review of 2023-2024 Accounts:** City Clerk shared a draft suggested to be used for the Council's review of all of the accounts for 2023-2024. The Council asked that a column be added for the corresponding budget. This review will take place at the September meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Failing Spire restorations:** Walker-Robin reported Spire's response to the city's communication on failing restorations from 2022 at the north end of Venetian and Adrian. Spire acknowledged and will address. The discussion went on to the specifics of scope and next steps.

**Project Tracker:** Walker-Robin offered highlights from the Project Tracker and specifically focused on potential funding avenues for Houston Lake: Block Grants, for which she is continuing to do research. Use Tax, for which she has shared her research with the Council. She offered a brief overview/example about Use Taxes: Houston Lake could collect tax when residents purchase items from Amazon and the truck comes to Houston Lake to deliver. This use tax serves to fund road repairs as well as other essential services. She continued there are currently 53 items on the Project Tracker, some of which have been prioritized ahead of the entire Council's review. The bridge is acknowledged to be a high priority project which will require additional work, including multiple bids, etc.

## REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Walker-Robin** reported attending Sunshine Law training with the City Clerk and provided a recap for the council. New edition Sunshine Law booklets were distributed to council members. It was reiterated that the City Clerk, as Custodian of Records, should be copied on all council communications with the public and with more than two council members for open records purposes. The need to draft and adhere to a documents management policy was emphasized as essential. Retention schedules are available for city officials working on the documents management policy.

Loring thanked Alderman Carey for his service on the Council and appreciated everything he did. She hopes he will continue to work with our community and the Council. There was a discussion as to management of the brush on the dam at the water line, which resulted in a determination that the lake and its shoreline are VGHA's responsibility. Brush pick up will, hopefully, be scheduled for November. Loring asked Mary Head for an update regarding a raise for the Houston Laker delivery person. Mary indicated the VGHA is funding the raise. Fuglestad reported talking with a resident with a parking on roads issue and expects that situation to go better. The discussion included clearly defining the area of the road, as well as the possibility of paving this last gravel road in Houston Lake. Fuglestad informed the Council her father would be willing to offer a bid for tree removal.

### REPORT FROM CITY CLERK

Shepard reported the outside of City Hall had been power washed, the windows cleaned, the HVAC filter changed, removal of bugs in kitchen addressed (new trash can with lid in kitchen has helped), and the electric garage door opener fixed. Downstairs window needs replacing due to hole in glass. South side of City Hall needs to be caulked around windows and doors. New and free chairs were obtained by Walker-Robin for the City Hall porch. The new cushions were cheaply obtained. Shepard will attend the MO City Clerks & Finance Officers Assoc meeting next week - the topic of the meeting is Records Retention.

### NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The Tax Levy meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 PM at City Hall and the Working Meeting will follow immediately after the Tax Levy meeting. The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Loring moved to adjourn the meeting. Walker-Robin 2nd. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 09/11/2024

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## Tax Levy Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, the 28th day of August, 2024

**Location:** Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The 2024 Tax Levy meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Fuglestad at 6:34 PM.

The following members were present: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Ashley Fuglestad (Acting Mayor) (remotely via Google Meet), Alderman Sarah Loring, and Alderman Teena Walker-Robin.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA/NOTICE FOR 08/28/24 TAX LEVY MEETING

Walker-Robin moved to approve the agenda/notice for the 2024 Tax Levy Meeting. Loring 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Loring - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye.

The Alderman received a review report compiled by City Clerk, Lisa Shepard, Treasurer, Kay Honeycutt, and Tax Collector, Kathryn Kreider regarding the General Fund Revenue and Fire Protection Fund Revenue history, review, and recommendations.

### GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY

The Pro Forma based on data submitted to the State Auditor set the current year tax rate ceiling at 0.4794 per \$100. Discussion. Walker-Robin moved to set the 2024 General Fund Tax Levy to 0.4794 per \$100 valuation which will result in \$25,324 revenue received for the General Fund. Loring 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Loring - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye.

### FIRE PROTECTION FUND TAX LEVY

The Pro Forma based on data submitted to the State Auditor set the current year tax rate ceiling at 0.6727 per \$100. Discussion centered around what fire protection expenses can be paid from this fund (currently seeking legal advice on this point), taking a voluntary reduction in 2024, and acknowledging this Fire Protection Tax Levy is due to appear on next April's ballot. Walker-Robin moved to voluntarily reduce the 2024 Fire Protection Tax Levy to 0.5257 per \$100 valuation which will result in \$27,770 revenue received for the Fire Protection Fund. Loring 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Loring - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye.

### ORDINANCE

The City Clerk read out the Ordinance setting out the 2024 tax levy rate for the General Fund to be set at 0.4794 per \$100 valuation, and the 2024 tax levy rate for the Fire Protection Fund to be voluntarily reduced to 0.5257 per \$100 valuation. A resident had submitted an email in support of a voluntary reduction in the tax rate for the Fire Protection Fund which the Aldermen



acknowledged they received prior to voting. The City Clerk read out the Ordinance a second time. No further public comment. Walker-Robin moved to approve the Ordinance as read. Loring 2nd. Walker-Robin - Aye, Loring - Aye, Fuglestad - Aye.

## ADJOURNMENT

Loring moved to adjourn the meeting. Walker-Robin 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Loring - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 09/11/2024

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## Working Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, the 28th day of August, 2024

**Location:** Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The Working Meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Fuglestad at 7:09 PM.

On roll call, the following members were present: Alderman Teena Walker-Robin, Alderman Sarah Loring, and Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Ashley Fuglestad (Acting Mayor) (remotely via Google Meet).

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR 08/28/24 WORKING MEETING

Walker-Robin moved to approve the agenda. Loring 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Loring - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye.

The Alderman received a review report compiled by City Clerk, Lisa Shepard, Treasurer, Kay Honeycutt, and Tax Collector, Kathryn Kreider regarding the Grinder Pump, Trash Service, and Sewer Service history, review, and recommendations.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Grinder Pump Annual Assessment for those with Grinder Pumps.** The 2023 assessment for 40 homes in Houston Lake that have grinder pumps was \$240 per household. Discussion. Loring moved to keep the 2024 Grinder Pump Assessment for those with grinder pumps at \$240 per household. Walker-Robin 2nd. Loring - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye, Fuglestad - Aye.

**Trash Service Assessment.** The 2023 assessment for trash services for all residents was \$328.65 per household. Republic, our current trash service provider, has slightly raised its rates. Discussion. Walker-Robin moved to increase the 2024 Trash Service Assessment to \$345.13 per household. Loring 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye, Loring - Aye. This is an increase over last year of \$16.48 per household.

**Sewer Service Assessment.** The 2023 assessment for sewer services for all residents was \$698.04 per household. Kansas City Water, our current sewer service provider, has slightly raised its rates. Discussion. Loring moved to increase the 2024 Sewer Service Assessment to \$739.96 per household. Walker-Robin 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Loring - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye. This is an increase over last year of \$41.92 per household.

### CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF PROJECT TRACKER

Fuglestad confirmed both Spectrum and AT&T have come out and both companies say their lines are at 16 feet. Regarding the bridge, she has two companies who are willing to bid and



asked Loring to obtain bids as well. Walker-Robin suggested obtaining bids for a drivable bridge, as well as a walking bridge, to be able to help develop pros and cons of each type of proposal. Walker-Robin mentioned the need to seal the document room in the City Hall basement against leaking. She is researching a Houston Lake use tax. She is working on obtaining the needed road work repairs. There are 60 items on the Project Tracker currently which Walker-Robin would like to see the Council prioritize in order to address. She sees the Documents Management project has a high priority. There is an end of the year deadline to account for Covid funds received. Codes Enforcement remains an issue. There is a need to review all the permits.

Fuglestad will look into when to schedule the neighborhood fall brush pickup. Shepard mentioned a review is underway regarding any discrepancies in trash and sewer services. Walker-Robin indicated more people are needed in order to address all the needs of our community. She recommended setting up committees.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Loring moved to adjourn the meeting. Walker-Robin 2nd. Fuglestad - Aye, Walker-Robin - Aye, Loring - Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 09/11/2024

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## **Tax Freeze Credit**

Beginning September 1, senior citizens who are homeowners in Platte County can apply for the Senior Citizens' Real Property Tax Freeze Credit.

The tax freeze program, which offers tax relief to senior citizens, locks the tax amount of a taxpayer's home.

The tax changes were launched last year when the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation enabling counties to freeze property tax bills for senior citizens. On March 18, 2024, the Platte County Commission enacted the tax credit program in Platte County.

The tax credit is available to qualifying Platte Countians age 62 or over who are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, and responsible for the payment of their home's property taxes.

Qualifying taxpayers must submit an application to the Clerk's Office and reapply each year for the Senior Tax Credit program. Printable applications will be available in September at [www.co.platte.mo.us](http://www.co.platte.mo.us) and paper copies of the application will be available at 415 Third Street, Platte City, MO 64079. Applications are due by May 15 of each year beginning in 2025.

Submitted by Author Valerie Verkamp



Platte County Senior Real Estate Property Tax Relief Program

2024 Base Year Application

Completed application and required documents are due by May 15, 2025.

Parcel Number \_\_\_\_\_ Can be found on real estate tax bill and/or receipt.
Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

Owner of Record \_\_\_\_\_ As recorded in the Recorder of Deeds' office.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicants Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

- Ownership Type: Individual/Joint, Other Entity
Yes/No Was applicant 62 or older before January 1, 2024?
Yes/No Does the applicant occupy the property as their primary residence?

If other Entity selected, attach trust agreement, operating agreement, etc.

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY INFORMATION

- Does the parcel include more than one structure that serves as a dwelling unit?
Is the current homestead assessment under appeal?
Have any improvements or additions been made to the property in the past year?

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please attach copies of the required documents to this application.

Proof of Identity and Age

Include one of the following: Government-issued identification, such as, Driver's License, Birth Certificate, Passport, etc.

Proof of Missouri Residency

Include one of the following: Driver's License, Voter Registrations Card, state issued non driver identification, Utility Bill, Mortgage Statement etc.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Approved by:
Assessor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Commission \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# CERTIFICATION

1. I have read the statements and questions included in this application and understand them and certify that all responses are true and accurate.
2. I have the authority to act on behalf of the owners and occupants of the Property, and I have not claimed more than one primary residence as a homestead for the purpose of a property tax credit in Missouri or elsewhere.
3. I understand the County will rely on the information provided by the Applicant in this Application and this Certification is a material representation in evaluating this application for property tax credit.

I specifically certify the following:

- a. I am a resident of the State of Missouri.
- b. Applicant is 62 or older.
- c. I am the owner of record of the homestead for which I am seeking a property tax credit or have legal or equitable interest in such property by written instrument.
- d. I am liable for the payment of real property taxes on such homestead.
- e. I occupy the homestead as my primary residence for which I am seeking the Platte County Senior Real Estate Tax Relief Credit.

I understand I may be charged with a Class A misdemeanor as stated in Section 575.050 and/or 575.060 RSMo, if any information submitted in this application is found to be a false declaration and I am not aware of any information that would prohibit or disqualify me from receiving the tax credit for the homestead identified in this Application.

**SIGN BELOW**

Applicant Signature <input style="width: 250px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	Applicant name (Printed) <input style="width: 250px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Applicant Signature <input style="width: 250px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	Applicant name (Printed) <input style="width: 250px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>

**SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO:**

**Platte County Clerk**  
Attn: Tax Relief Program  
415 Third Street Room 116  
Platte City, MO 64079

*Please allow a minimum of 90 days for processing.  
Applications are being accepted from September  
1, 2024 – May 15, 2025 for Tax Base Year 2024.*

# MISSOURI VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

## Use this application to:

1. Register to vote in any election in Missouri.
2. Register to vote when you move from one jurisdiction (St. Louis City, Kansas City, or any county) to another jurisdiction (St. Louis City, Kansas City, or any county) within Missouri.
3. Change the address on a current voter registration when you move within a jurisdiction.
4. Change the name on a current voter registration.

## Other information:

1. You must be 18 years of age by the day of a particular election to be eligible to vote in that election.
2. If mailed, this form must be postmarked by the 4th Wednesday preceding an election to be eligible to vote in that election. If delivered in person, it must be received in the office of the election authority by the 4th Wednesday preceding an election. (See reverse for election calendar.)
3. Submitting this application to an individual other than the election authority does not insure timely voter registration.
4. After the election authority receives your voter registration application, you will be sent confirmation within 7 business days. If you do not receive confirmation, contact the election authority.
5. If you wish to serve as an election judge on election day please contact your local election authority and mark the box at the bottom of this form.
6. Optional—If registering by mail for the first time, please submit a copy of one of the following forms of identification: current or valid photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address, birth certificate, Native American tribal document or other proof of United States citizenship. (You will be required to present identification when you vote.)

## Completing this form (All information is required unless indicated as optional):

### Boxes 1 and 2 – Citizen and Age Requirements

Federal Law requires voter registration applicants to answer these two questions.

### Box 3 – Type of Application

Check appropriate box if this is a new registration or if you are changing a name or address on your current voter registration.

### Box 4 – Name

Put in this box your full name (Last, First, Middle). DO NOT use nicknames or initials. For name changes, Box 12 should contain your old name.

### Box 5 – Home Address

List your home address. DO NOT put your mailing address if it differs from your home address.

### Box 6 – Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address other than your home address in Box 5, put that address here in this box.

### Box 7 – Driver's License Number

Required for registration unless you do not have a Driver's License. (§115.158, RSMo.) If you do not have a Driver's License, leave blank.

### Box 8 – Last Four Digits of Social Security Number

Required for registration unless you do not have a Social Security Number. (§115.155, RSMo, §115.158, RSMo.) If you do not have a Social Security Number, leave blank.

### Box 9 – Date of Birth

Place your date of birth in this box (Month, Day, Year). DO NOT USE TODAY'S DATE!

### Box 10 – Place of Birth (Optional)

List your place of birth (city/county/state).

### Box 11 – Daytime Phone Number (Optional)

Please list a number at which the election authority may contact you for clarification of information.

### Box 12 – Last Voter Registration Information

If you are currently registered, please list the name and address of your last registration including county and state.

### Box 13 – Signature

Review the information. If you meet the requirements and all is correct, sign your full name or make your mark and print today's date.

### Box 14 – Rural Voters

If you live in a rural area without a street address, please supply information which may help in placing you in the proper voting district.

**YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONFIRMED BY MAIL WITHIN SEVEN (7) BUSINESS DAYS OF ITS RECEIPT BY THE ELECTION AUTHORITY. PLEASE CONTACT THE ELECTION AUTHORITY IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE NOTIFICATION.**

(DETACH HERE - KEEP TOP PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS) This card is not proof of registration.



# MISSOURI VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

USE PEN - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1 ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		2 WILL YOU BE 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<b>If you checked no in response to either of the above questions, do not complete this form.</b>			
3 <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGISTRATION <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE <input type="checkbox"/> NAME CHANGE		FOR OFFICE USE ONLY REGISTRATION NO.	
4 LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	SUFFIX (JR, II, ETC.) <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
5 ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (HOUSE NO., STREET, APT. NO. OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX - NO PO BOXES)		CITY	COUNTY
6 ADDRESS WHERE YOU GET YOUR MAIL (REQUIRED IF DIFFERENT FROM #5 ABOVE)		CITY	STATE MO
7 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, PLEASE LEAVE BLANK.		8 LAST 4 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER* IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PLEASE LEAVE BLANK.	
9 DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)	10 PLACE OF BIRTH (OPTIONAL)	11 DAYTIME PHONE NO. (OPTIONAL)	
12 NAME AND ADDRESS ON LAST VOTER REGISTRATION NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ If currently registered in another state or county please complete this box.		13 I hereby certify that I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state of Missouri. I am at least seventeen and one half years of age. I have not been adjudged incapacitated by any court of law. If I have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage, I have had the voting disabilities resulting from such conviction removed pursuant to law. I swear under penalty of perjury that all statements made on this card are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if I register to vote knowing that I am not legally entitled to register, I am committing a class one election offense and may be punished by imprisonment of not more than five years or by a fine of between two thousand five hundred dollars and ten thousand dollars or by both such imprisonment and fine.  Date _____ Signature _____	
14 RURAL VOTERS: COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF ANY CITY. I live _____ miles _____ (N S E or W) of _____ (landmark or junction). Section, Township and range _____ My neighbors are _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you are interested in working as an Election Judge <span style="float: right;">Warning: Conviction for making a false statement may result in imprisonment for up to five years and/or a fine up to \$10,000.</span>			

Place  
Postage  
Here

MO

Platte County Election Board  
2600 NW Prairie View Rd.  
PO Box 560  
Platte City, MO 64079

FOLD HERE

**Mailing Instructions**

1. Sign the form.
2. Fold this sheet with address showing.
3. Fold and insert completed voter application.
4. Tape edges.
5. Apply postage.
6. Mail.

T  
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Have you signed the form?

T  
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To apply for absentee ballot: print this application form, complete and mail to Platte County Board of Elections, PO Box 560, Platte City, MO 64079 or FAX to 816-858-3387 or e-mail to platte@sos.mo.gov

### REQUEST FOR PLATTE COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby request an absentee ballot for the \_\_\_\_\_ (date) Election.

For identification purposes, the last four digits of my social security number are \_\_\_\_\_.  
If the election is a primary election, please print the name of the political party ballot you wish to receive \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE:** If you registered by mail or online, and this is your first time voting you must provide a copy of one of the following: nonexpired Missouri driver's license; Nonexpired or nonexpiring Missouri nondriver's license; a document issued by the United States or State of Missouri which contains the name matching the most recent signature on voter record **and** shows a photograph of the voter, **and** includes an expiration date and is not expired, or, if expired, the document expired after the date of the most recent general election; or any id with a photograph issued by MO National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Space Force, or the US Dept of Veteran Affairs to a member or former member of the MO National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Space Force, and that this does not have an expiration date.

Reason for requesting an absentee ballot:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which registered to vote;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability **on election day**, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability **and resides at the same address**;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Religious belief or practice;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Employment as:
  - (a) An election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than your polling place; or
  - (b) A first responder; or
  - (c) A health care worker; or
  - (d) A member of law enforcement;
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6) Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns.

Current Residential Address:

Address where ballot is to be mailed, if different than Residential address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I do solemnly swear that all statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Voter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

All requests **must be received** by the Board of Election's office **no later than 5:00 p.m., the second Wednesday prior to election day.**

OFFICIAL BALLOT  
General Election  
Platte County, Missouri  
November 5, 2024

SAMPLE

ADDITIONAL BALLOTS  
1

Instructions

Completely fill in the target next to the candidate or question response of your choice like this:

If you do not see the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote, darken the target opposite the write-in line and print the name of the candidate on the write-in line provided.

A VOTE FOR CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT IS A VOTE FOR THEIR ELECTORS.

NOTE: The ballot reading device in use is designed to only record votes cast as a filled in target. If you make an error marking the ballot, see an Election Judge to receive a replacement ballot.

Federal

For US President and Vice President

(Vote for ONE)

Donald J. Trump  Republican  
JD Vance

Kamala D. Harris  Democratic  
Tim Walz

Chase Oliver  Libertarian  
Mike Ter Maat

Jill Stein  Green  
Rudolph Ware

Write-in

For United States Senator

(Vote for ONE)

Josh Hawley  Republican

Lucas Kunce  Democratic

W.C. Young  Libertarian

Jared Young  Reform Party

Nathan Kline  Green

Write-in

State

For Governor

(Vote for ONE)

Mike Kehoe  Republican

Crystal Quade  Democratic

Bill Siantz  Libertarian

Paul Lehmann  Green

Write-in

For Lieutenant Governor

(Vote for ONE)

Dave Wassinger  Republican

Richard Brown  Democratic

Ken Iverson  Libertarian

Danielle (Dani) Elliott  Green

Write-in

For Secretary of State

(Vote for ONE)

Denny Hoskins  Republican

Barbara Phifer  Democratic

Carl Herman Freese  Libertarian

Jerome Bauer  Green

Write-in

For State Treasurer

(Vote for ONE)

Vivek Malek  Republican

Mark Osmack  Democratic

John A. Hartwig, Jr.  Libertarian

Reagan Haase  Green

Write-in

For Attorney General

(Vote for ONE)

Andrew Bailey  Republican

Eliad Jonathan Gross  Democratic

Ryan L. Munro  Libertarian

Write-in

Congressional

For United States Representative 6th District

(Vote for ONE)

Sam Graves  Republican

Pam May  Democratic

Andy Maidment  Libertarian

Mike Diei  Green

Write-in

State Representative

For State Representative District 12

(Vote for ONE)

Mike Jones  Republican

Jane J. Johnson  Democratic

Write-in

Official Judicial Ballot

Submitting to the voters whether the Judges named below, whose terms expire December 31, 2024, shall be retained in office for new terms.

VOTE ON EACH JUDGE

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT JUDGE

Shall Judge KELLY C. BRONIEC of the Missouri Supreme Court be retained in office?

YES

NO

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT JUDGE

Shall Judge GINGER K. GOOCH of the Missouri Supreme Court be retained in office?

YES

NO

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE, WESTERN DISTRICT

Shall Judge CYNTHIA LYNETTE MARTIN of the Western District Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE, WESTERN DISTRICT

Shall Judge JANET L. SUTTON of the Western District Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE, WESTERN DISTRICT

Shall Judge GARY D. WITT of the Western District Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

CIRCUIT JUDGES 6th Judicial Circuit

Division No. 6

Shall Judge MEGAN BLAIR BENTON, Circuit Judge of Judicial Circuit No. 6, be retained in office?

YES

NO

ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGES 6th Judicial Circuit

Division No. 3

Shall Judge ABE (QUINT) SHAFER, Associate Circuit Judge of Judicial Circuit No. 6, be retained in office?

YES

NO

Division No. 5

Shall Judge AMY R. ASHELFORD, Associate Circuit Judge of Judicial Circuit No. 6, be retained in office?

YES

NO

County

For Sheriff

(Vote for ONE)

Erik Holland  Republican

Write-in

For Assessor

(Vote for ONE)

Marcus Farr  Republican

Write-in

For County Treasurer

(Vote for ONE)

Rob Willard  Republican

Write-in

For Public Administrator

(Vote for ONE)

Shenna L. Burns  Republican

Write-in

For County Commissioner District 1

(Vote for ONE)

Alyson Berberich  Republican

Charles McDonald  Democratic

Write-in

Turn ballot over

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND STATUTORY MEASURE**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2**

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- allow the Missouri Gaming Commission to regulate licensed sports wagering including online sports betting, gambling boats, professional sports betting districts and mobile licenses to sports betting operators;
- restrict sports betting to individuals physically located in the state and over the age of 21;
- allow license fees prescribed by the Commission and a 10% wagering tax on revenues received to be appropriated for education after expenses incurred by the Commission and required funding of the Compulsive Gambling Prevention Fund; and
- allow for the general assembly to enact laws consistent with this amendment?

State governmental entities estimate onetime costs of \$950,000, ongoing annual costs of at least \$5.2 million, and initial license fee revenue \$11.75 million. Because the proposal allows for deductions against sports gaming revenues, they estimate unknown tax revenue ranging from \$0 to \$28.9 million annually. Local governments estimate unknown revenues.

YES   
NO

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 3**

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- establish a right to make decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptives, with any governmental interference of that right presumed invalid;
- remove Missouri's ban on abortion;
- allow regulation of reproductive health care to improve or maintain the health of the patient;
- require the government not to discriminate, in government programs, funding, and other activities, against persons providing or obtaining reproductive health care; and
- allow abortion to be restricted or banned after Fetal Viability except to protect the life or health of the woman?

State governmental entities estimate no costs or savings, but unknown impact. Local governmental entities estimate costs of at least \$51,000 annually in reduced tax revenues. Opponents estimate a potentially significant loss to state revenue.

YES   
NO

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5**

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- allow the Missouri Gaming Commission to issue one additional gambling boat license to operate on the portion of the Osage River from the Missouri River to the Bagnell Dam;
- require the prescribed location shall include artificial spaces that contain water and are within 500 feet of the 100-year base flood elevation as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and
- require all state revenues derived from the issuance of the gambling boat license shall be appropriated to early-childhood literacy programs in public institutions of elementary education?

State governmental entities estimate onetime costs of \$763,000, ongoing costs of \$2.2 million annually, initial fee revenue of \$271,000, ongoing admission and other fee revenue of \$2.1 million annually, and annual gaming tax revenue of \$14.3 million. Local

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5**

governments estimate unknown revenue.

YES   
NO

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 6**

Proposed by 102nd General Assembly (Second Regular Session) SS SCS SJR 71

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to provide that the administration of justice shall include the levying of costs and fees to support salaries and benefits for certain current and former law enforcement personnel?

State and local governmental entities estimate an unknown fiscal impact.

YES   
NO

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 7**

Proposed by 102nd General Assembly (Second Regular Session) SS SCS SJR 78

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Make the Constitution consistent with state law by only allowing citizens of the United States to vote;
- Prohibit the ranking of candidates by limiting voters to a single vote per candidate or issue; and
- Require the plurality winner of a political party primary to be the single candidate at a general election?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

YES   
NO

**PROPOSITION A**

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you want to amend Missouri law to:

- increase minimum wage January 1, 2025 to \$13.75 per hour, increasing \$1.25 per hour each year until 2028, when the minimum wage would be \$15.00 per hour;
- adjust minimum wage based on changes in the Consumer Price Index each January beginning in 2027;
- require all employers to provide one hour of paid sick leave for every thirty hours worked;
- allow the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide oversight and enforcement; and
- exempt governmental entities, political subdivisions, school districts and education institutions?

State governmental entities estimate onetime costs ranging from \$0 to \$53,000, and ongoing costs ranging from \$0 to at least \$256,000 per year by 2027. State and local government tax revenue could change by an unknown annual amount depending on business decisions.

YES   
NO

**County Question**

Shall Platte County, solely for the purpose of establishing a community children's services fund for the purpose of providing services to protect the well-being and safety of children and youth nineteen years of age or less and to strengthen families, be authorized to levy a sales tax of one-quarter of one cent in Platte County?

YES   
NO