

Senior Citizen Advisory Council March 3 2025

in attendance: Berry, Bradshaw, Forrest, Gomez, Kabiser, Wilson, Rice, guest Glenn

Chair Forrest called the meeting to order. Minutes of the February meeting were amended and approved to include Gomez and Wilson as attendees.

Member Kabiser reported on the February meeting of the City Council Finance Department, the budget proposal and a series of community meetings held to ascertain citizen input into the priorities for the General Fund of the \$2.5 billion budget. At the meeting Kabiser attended, among citizen concerns were rental assistance and affordable housing, animal control and KC Pet Project, pathways to high school diplomas, rebuild KC, immigrant and refugee issues, bus funding, expansion of routes, healthy pregnancies, right to counsel in court, and potholes. City expenditures are expected to exceed revenue.

Member Wilson commented that previously, the Senior Advisory Council voted on the City budget. Howard Rice stated that final budget hearings are held for 3 weeks and the vote will be on March 20.

A discussion followed about the limited availability of city parking and the particular implications of limited parking access and cost to senior citizens.

Member Wilson presented a document prepared by the Jackson-Clay-Platte County League of Women Voters in opposition to Missouri Bill #: SB 146 which would eliminate the Missouri individual income tax effective January 1, 2026. Individuals are encouraged to write letters to the editor of hometown newspaper, writing each member of the House or Senate to oppose the bill, Writing e-mails the senators or representatives, or going to Jefferson City to testify in person.

Talking points in opposition to this bill include:

- *Elimination of income tax would require an increase in sales tax which would impose a heavier burden on low-income residents

- *Eliminating the state income tax wipes out more than 60% of the state general revenue budget and will require massive cuts to the services our communities need to thrive, harming Missourians across the state.

Call to action: Contact members of the Senate Economic and workforce Development Committee and tell them you OPPOSE this bill. Missouri Senate SB 146 (I found it on [trackbill.com](https://trackbill.com/bill)>bill) "Summary: Current law imposes an income tax on all Missouri taxable income. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, this act eliminates the Missouri individual income tax."

Also emanating from the League of Women Voters is information about the federal SAVE Act, which has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. This bill would require citizenship documentation to register to vote. It is already illegal for non-citizens to register and vote in federal or state elections.

This bill's requirement of a document such as a passport or birth certificate to prove American citizenship creates one more barrier to the voting process, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents. This bill, if passed, could block millions of eligible Americans from casting ballots.

The League of Women voters urges citizens to contact your members of Congress to oppose the SAVE act.

Howard will request the following speakers to present at upcoming Senior Advisory Council meetings:

Representation from The League of Woman Voters; representation from the City Council to discuss the new Kansas City Budget; representation from the City Council (Council member Reyes?) to discuss City Plan 353, a proposal for lowering taxes in communities.

The meeting ended with a review of Advisory Council committee assignments: Bradshaw: Transportation; Berry: Legal Review; Gomez: Ethics; Forrest: Public Works; Kabiser: Finance; Wilson: Neighborhoods. These committee meetings can be viewed on You Tube, and Howard will send the link so members can join by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Bradshaw