



JACKSON COUNTY

## Top 5 Facts: Veto of Ordinance 5993

July 17, 2025

### 1. The Election Date is Unlawful

Both the Jackson County and Kansas City Boards of Election have filed a verified lawsuit stating the August 26 recall election violates state and federal election laws, including absentee ballot rules, military and overseas voter protections and public notice requirements.

**Key Fact:** In August 2023, the Boards explicitly warned the Legislature that this timeline was “unacceptable and not sufficient” under the law.

### 2. Petitions Are Deficient

The recall petitions were never deemed sufficient as required by the County Charter. They fail to state any legal cause for removal, contain expired or invalid signatures collected over more than two years, and have circulator affidavits that do not meet state law.

**Key Fact:** In August 2023, the Boards informed the Clerk that they would not determine the sufficiency of the petitions.

### 3. It Wastes Taxpayer Dollars

Holding an illegal August election would cost at least \$1.8 million with no funding allocated to pay for it, plus untold legal costs to defend a law that should never have passed.

**Key Fact:** This would be the fourth unplanned, unbudgeted special election by this current Legislature in two years, with a possible fifth in 2026.

### 4. It Sets a Dangerous Precedent

Ignoring lawful safeguards invites chaos if petitions can be held indefinitely until political winds shift, regardless of whether signatures are valid, residents have moved, or signers are deceased.

**Key Fact:** The Legislature disregarded its own prior ordinance that required any recall to happen on the next lawful election date.

### 5. There's a Lawful Path Forward

The Legislature can still do the right thing by adopting a new ordinance to move the recall to the November 2025 ballot, ensuring compliance with the law, protecting voter rights and avoiding costly litigation.

**Key Fact:** This simple fix would save taxpayers millions and uphold the democratic process.

Source: Office of the Jackson County Executive