

7 REASONS TO VOTE NO ON APRIL 2ND

The Chiefs and Royals are under lease until 2031

Both the Chiefs and Royals have leases with the Truman Sports Complex which extend into 2031. Voting no will allow more time for the teams to explore more suitable terms of extending their leases with the County.

The threat to leave is a commonly used campaign tactic to receive public funding. The threats of leaving Kansas City have come from campaign leaders and not the owners.

Many important details have yet to be disclosed

As of March 15th, the Royals still have not provided details on what exactly they are willing to pay for, in regards to stadium construction, surrounding infrastructure upgrades, and cost overruns. They also have not disclosed lease terms.

Although they have committed \$1 billion to a “private investment” that is separate from the new stadium for other items such as real estate, more details are needed for voters to make an informed decision.

It IS a new tax

If you review the wording on the ballot, voting “Yes” repeals the existing **Capital improvement sales tax** and replaces it with a new 40-year **Park Improvements tax**. Voting “Yes” authorizes a replacement tax and new borrowing to pay off the remaining debt, while starting new building projects for the Chiefs and Royals. Payments on those bonds would begin in 2025, with the new 3/8-cent tax extending by 40 additional years. It’s essentially a 40-year new sales tax generating \$2 billion or more in new debt for Jackson County.

Jackson County still owes \$171 million on the renovation bonds

If the vote passes, the bonds that were issued to complete the renovations 15 years ago will have to be repaid immediately and reissued. All the renovations to Kauffman Stadium that the County has been paying towards, will be demolished.

The stadiums are still in excellent condition

Engineering firm Burns & McDonnell conducted an assessment of both Kauffman Stadium and Arrowhead Stadium in 2022 and found that both stadiums are in “satisfactory condition.” Only minor physical deficiencies were observed, such as concrete cracking.

It is important to note that both Stadiums were built at the same time and both went through successful renovations 15 years ago.

Source: <https://www.scribd.com/document/701251925/Burns-and-Mac>

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Moving the Royals downtown will negatively impact both Eastern Jackson County commerce and small businesses downtown.

A recent study conducted by the Independence Chamber of Commerce estimates that the sharp reduction of games at the Truman Sports Complex would result in \$7.34 million per year in lost revenue to hotels, restaurant, and shopping centers in Independence if the Royals move their stadium.

The Royals want to place their new stadium where a thriving business district currently exists. Many of these small business owners are tenants and have dedicated years of their time and money committing to building their legacy businesses. If the vote passes, the small businesses would be displaced in favor of the new stadium. Businesses surrounding the stadium will also experience disruption in traffic and lease expenses which puts them at risk of closing their business.

The stadiums should be voted on separately to give voters a true voice

While it would make sense for Jackson County residents to vote for these issues separately, the Royals see the benefit of piggybacking off the Chiefs increasing popularity and success. By tying a new Royals ballpark as a condition to funding a future Arrowhead Stadium renovation, proponents of the bill are sending a message to local Chiefs fans that they cannot vote for an Arrowhead renovation unless they also agree to build a new downtown stadium for the Royals.

Considering the significant difference in the two projects and their overall costs, the stadium issues should be voted on separately by Jackson County residents on a later ballot.

How can I learn more?

The Save Kauffman Facebook group is a great resource. You can scan the QR Code on the right to access the link to the group.

The Committee against New Royals Stadium Taxes also has created a website discussing facts about the ballot initiative. To learn more please visit alltaxedout.com.

