

# MAVO

## Legislative Priorities



2026

Missouri Association of Veterans Organization

*“You get what you FIGHT for ... Not what you HOPE for ...”*

## MAVO Legislative Priorities – 2026

### MAVO Position Statement

*At this time, these are the bills MAVO supports; positions may evolve as legislation progresses.*

- MAVO **always supports** the full, long-term funding of the **Missouri Veterans Commission (MVC)** ; **this is always our top priority until the end of time!**
- Support for **HJR 115** (Griffith) and **SJR 88** (Carter) – 100% Disabled Veterans Property Tax and Homestead Exemption.
- Support for **HB 2672, HB 2588, and HB 2869** (Jones) – Personal Property Tax Credits and Homestead Exemptions.
- Anticipating legislation addressing unaccredited claims consultants (“**Claim Sharks**”).
- Additional veteran-related bills may be added as filed or amended.
- MAVO is supportive of any legislation that strengthens and increases any funding for the Missouri Veterans Commission (MVC).

### Action Needed

*“You get what you **FIGHT** for ... Not what you **HOPE** for ...”*

- Encourage Missouri legislators to co-sponsor MAVO-supported measures.
- Push MAVO social media & email campaigns.
- Invite legislators to veterans’ events to meet local veterans and families.
- Support transparency, accountability, and veteran-centered reforms.

## HJR 115 – Disabled Veterans Homestead Property Tax Exemption

*HJR 115 proposes a constitutional amendment to exempt the primary residence of 100% permanently and totally disabled veterans from property taxes.*

- **Provides meaningful tax relief for Missouri’s most severely disabled veterans.** This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to exempt eligible disabled veterans from property taxes on their primary residence.
- **Targets veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled.** The exemption focuses on veterans with the highest level of service-connected disability, ensuring relief is directed to those most impacted.
- **Protects veterans’ ability to remain in their homes.** Eliminating property taxes helps prevent financial hardship, foreclosure risk, and housing instability for disabled veterans and their families.
- **Recognizes service-connected sacrifice, not income level.** Benefits are based on disability status earned through service, not income thresholds or means testing.
- **Aligns Missouri with neighboring and veteran-friendly states.** Many states already offer full or substantial homestead exemptions for 100% disabled veterans; HJR 115 brings Missouri in line with best practices.
- **Provides constitutional clarity and long-term stability.** Placing the exemption in the Missouri Constitution ensures consistency, durability, and protection from future policy erosion.
- **Honors veterans while maintaining a narrow, targeted scope.** The exemption applies only to a veteran’s primary residence and does not create broad or unlimited tax exemptions.

**MAVO Urges the Missouri General Assembly to:**

**Pass Bill No. HJR 115 Sponsor: Griffith**

**MAVO encourages passage of SJR 115 because it empowers Missouri voters to safeguard long-term support, stability, and accountability for programs that serve veterans and their families.**

- Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- **Co-Sponsors:** Bill Hardwick (Dist 121), Lane Roberts (Dist.161), & Bill Irwin (Dist. 55)

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- Meeting with (Legislator) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Name & Organization : \_\_\_\_\_

# SJR 88 Disabled Veterans Homestead Property Tax Exemption

*The purpose SJR 88 proposes a constitutional amendment to exempt eligible disabled veterans from property taxes on their primary residence.*

- **Targeted Eligibility** - The exemption applies to veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected conditions.
- **Veteran Stability** - Removing property taxes helps severely disabled veterans remain in their homes and reduces financial strain on veterans and their families.
- **Service-Connected Recognition** - Eligibility is based on VA-certified service-connected disability status, not income level or means testing.
- **Statewide Consistency** - Placing the exemption in the Missouri Constitution ensures consistent, uniform application across all counties.
- **Focused & Responsible Relief** - The exemption is limited to a veteran’s primary residence and avoids broad or unintended tax exemptions.

**MAVO Urges the Missouri General Assembly to:**

**Pass Bill No. SJR 88 Sponsor: Carter**

MAVO encourages passage of HB 2869 and SJR 88 because together they reinforce Missouri’s long-term commitment to veterans by protecting stable funding, authority, and voter-supported oversight for essential veteran programs and services.

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● Co-Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

● Meeting with (Legislator) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

● Name & Organization : \_\_\_\_\_

# Missouri HB 2869 – Disabled Veterans Homestead Tax Credit

*The purpose of HB 2869 creates a local real property tax credit for disabled veterans.*

- **Local Control** - Participation is optional and controlled at the county level, allowing flexibility based on local needs and budgets.
- **Targeted Support** - The credit is designed specifically for veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- **Veteran Stability** - Reducing property taxes helps disabled veterans remain in their homes, manage medical expenses, and maintain independence.
- **Fiscal Responsibility** - Credits are treated as revenue received, protecting local taxing authorities from revenue shortfalls.
- **Fair & Balanced Approach** - The bill delivers targeted relief without broad exemptions or shifting the tax burden to other taxpayers.

**MAVO Urges the Missouri General Assembly to:**

**Pass Bill No. HB 2869 Sponsor: Jones**

MAVO encourages passage of HB 2869 because it strengthens Missouri’s commitment to veterans by protecting and enhancing programs and services that directly support veteran well-being, stability, and long-term care.

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- Co-Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

- Meeting with (Legislator) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Name & Organization : \_\_\_\_\_

# Missouri HB 2588 – Disabled Veterans Homestead Tax Credit (Expanded)

*HB 2588 reduces the property tax burden on disabled veterans' primary residences.*

- **Optional & Localized** - Counties choose whether to adopt the credit, preserving local decision-making authority.
- **Service-Connected Disability Emphasis** - Designed to assist veterans with significant disability ratings.
- **Strengthening Missouri's Commitment** - Builds upon existing programs to better recognize veterans' sacrifices.
- **Housing Stability** - Helps veterans maintain secure housing while managing healthcare and daily living costs.
- **Protection for Taxing Authorities** - Credits are considered revenue received, preventing levy increases.
- **Responsible Policy Design** - A focused, fiscally responsible solution without broad tax shifts.

**MAVO Urges the Missouri General Assembly to:**

**Pass Bill No. HB 2588 Sponsor: Jones**

MAVO encourages passage of HB 2588 because it supports Missouri's veterans by improving access to essential benefits and services while reinforcing the state's commitment to honoring and caring for those who have served.

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- **Co-Sponsors:** Melissa Schmidt (Dist.141), Ron Fowler (Dist.31), & Bennie Cook (Dist.143)  
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- Meeting with (Legislator) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Name & Organization : \_\_\_\_\_

# Missouri HB 2672 – Disabled Veterans Personal Property Tax Credit

*(Missouri Disabled Veteran Personal Property Tax Credit Act)*

*This bill honors Missouri's disabled veterans in a practical, meaningful way. Veterans with significant service-connected disabilities often face reduced earning capacity. HB 2672 provides targeted relief on personal property taxes for their vehicles.*

- **Local Option** - Counties may opt in; no mandate imposed.
- **Disability-Based Structure** - Credit is tied directly to VA disability ratings (e.g., 80% rating = 80% credit).
- **Fiscal Safeguards** - Credits are treated as revenue received, protecting schools and local governments.
- **Limited & Targeted Relief** - Applies to up to two personal vehicles; not refundable or transferable.
- **Administrative Clarity** - Annual VA documentation required; simplified renewal for permanent ratings.
- **Veteran Mobility & Independence** - Recognizes the importance of personal vehicles for medical care, employment, and daily life.

## MAVO Urges the Missouri General Assembly to:

### Pass Bill No. **HB 2672** Sponsor: Jones

MAVO encourages passage of HB 2672 because it strengthens Missouri's ability to responsibly support veterans and their families by preserving stable funding and authority for essential veteran programs, ensuring long-term care, services, and accountability.

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- **Co-Sponsors:** Brandon Phelps (Dist.54), Melissa Schmidt (Dist.141), & Ron Fowler (Dist.31)

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- Meeting with (Legislator) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Name & Organization : \_\_\_\_\_

# LIST OF MISSOURI VETERANS LEGISLATION

## *Combined Master List (37 Items)*

### **Memorials, Museums & Commemorations**

- HB 1828 – Funding for veterans memorial/museum (Perry County)
- HB 2244 – Same purpose as HB 1828
- SB 1466 – Gaming cannabis revenue for memorial + services
- HB 2861 – Designates July 16 as Atomic Veterans Day

### **Education Benefits**

- HB 2074 – Disabled Veterans’ Dependents Tuition Waiver
- SB 1048 – Senate companion bill

### **Veterans’ Graves & Burial Support**

- HB 1869 – Grant program to repair/reset veterans’ grave markers

### **Property Tax Relief & Exemptions**

*(House Bills, House Joint Resolutions, and Senate Joint Resolutions consolidated)*

### **License Plates & Personal Property**

- HB 2619 – Special license plate (Afghanistan & Iraq veterans)
- HB 2672 – Personal property tax credit (up to two vehicles)

### **Health, Wellness & Treatment**

- HB 2673 – Wellness checks for at-risk veterans
- HB 2817 – Ibogaine treatment provisions
- HB 2664 – MO GIVES Program (living donor medical orders)

### **Benefits Assistance & Compensation**

- HB 2758 – Compensation for veterans benefits assistance
- SB 974 – Modifies compensation rules
- SB 1107 – Senate companion

### **Veteran Contracting Preferences**

- HB 1749 – Veteran preference for state contracts
- SB 1245 – Public contract preference

Summary by Category
● Memorials & Commemorations: 4
● Education: 2
● Graves/Burial: 1
● Property Tax Relief: 20
● License Plates: 1
● Health & Wellness: 3
● Benefits Assistance: 3
● Contracting Preferences: 2
● Miscellaneous: 1

## **Missouri Senate Veterans & Military Affairs Committee**

**Senator Mike Moon (R)**

Chair

District 29 Room: RM 220

Phone: **573-751-1480**

**Senator Ben Brown Schnelting (R)**

Vice Chair

District 23 Room: RM 219

Phone: **573-751-1141**

**Senator Rick Brattin (R)**

District 31 Room: RM 221

Phone: **573-751-2108**

**Senator Joe Nicola (R)**

District 11 Room: RM 226

Phone: **573-751-3074**

**Senator Steven Roberts (D)**

District 5 Room: RM 434

Phone: **573-751-4415**

**Senator Stephen Webber (D)**

District 19 Room: RM 329

Phone: **573-751-3931**

# **Missouri House Veterans and Armed Forces Committee**

**Rep. Dave Griffith (R)**

Chair – District 060 RM 414  
Phone: **573-751-2412**

**Rep. James Schulte (R)**

Vice Chair – District 049 RM 405-A  
Phone: **573-751-5226**

**Rep. Stephanie Boykin (D)**

Ranking Minority Member – District 070 RM 105-J  
Phone: **573-751-4163**

**Rep. Donna Barnes (D)**

District 028 RM 130-DB  
Phone: **573-751-9851**

**Rep. Hardy Billington (R)**

District 152 RM 303-B  
Phone: **573-751-4039**

**Rep. Bob Bromley (R)**

District 162 RM 401-A  
Phone: **573-751-7082**

**Rep. Melinda Fountain Henderson (R)**

District 085 RM 105-G  
Phone: **573-751-4468**

**Rep. Tony Harbison (D)**

District 144 RM 411-A  
Phone: **573-751-2112**

**Rep. Bill Hardwick (R)**

District 121 RM 205  
Phone: **573-751-3834**

**Rep. Bill Irwin (R)**

District 055 RM 118-CB  
Phone: **573-751-3783**

**Rep. Ken Jamison (D)**

District 015 RM 101-G  
Phone: **573-751-4787**

**Rep. Will Jobe (D)**

District 021 RM 101-F  
Phone: **573-751-5701**

**Rep. Mike Jones (R)**

District 012 RM 116-4  
Phone: **573-751-9760**

**Rep. Bill Lucas (R)**

District 115 RM 409-A  
Phone: **573-751-7735**

**Rep. Scott Miller (R)**

District 069 RM 115-E  
Phone: **573-751-5365**

**Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)**

District 155 RM 115-H  
Phone: **573-751-2042**

**Rep. Adrian Plank (D)**

District 047 RM 101-B  
Phone: **573-751-1501**

**Rep. Sean Pouche (R)**

District 013 RM 223-B  
Phone: **573-751-6593**

**Rep. Lane Roberts (D)**

District 161 RM 302-B  
Phone: **573-751-3791**

**Rep. Brian Seitz (R)**

District 156 RM 118-CA  
Phone: **573-751-1309**

**Rep. Terry Violet (R)**

District 104 RM 118-CC  
Phone: **573-751-2250**

**Rep. Bridget Walsh Moore (D)**

District 093 RM 105-D  
Phone: **573-751-0211**

**Rep. Bryant Wolfin (R)**

District 145 RM 111  
Phone: **573-751-5912**