

CHAMBER ENDORSES STADIUM RENOVATION AND ROLLING ROOF PROPOSALS

Charitable Contributions To Be Made From Roof Revenue

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce today announces its endorsement of Questions #1 and #2 on the April 4th Jackson County ballot.

Question #1 calls for the renovation of Arrowhead and Kauffman Stadiums and the Truman Sports Complex, funded through a 3/8ths cent sales tax. Question #2 would impose a county Use Tax, primarily paid by Jackson County businesses, the revenue from which will be used to partially fund construction, maintenance, and operation of a rolling roof at the Truman Sports Complex.

Renovation of Arrowhead and Kauffman Stadiums has been a Chamber priority for some time.

The cost to build The Roof is expected to be in the range of \$200 million, but revenue from the Use Tax for this purpose will be capped at \$170 million. The Chiefs will pay the balance and will also bear the cost of any construction cost overruns. The cost of long term maintenance and operation of The Roof from Use Tax revenue is also capped at 7% of the total cost of the project.

“The Chamber recognizes the importance of keeping the teams in Jackson County for the next 25 years,” says Tom Bowser, Chairman of The Chamber Board of Directors and President/CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City. “As a result of extensive discussions with the ownership of the Chiefs, we are pleased to announce that they have agreed that two-thirds of any net revenues from naming rights from the Rolling Roof will be dedicated to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. Those funds will be dedicated to education, health care, and youth development for Jackson County charities.

“Even though the Use Tax will be paid primarily by the business community,” Bowser continued, “The Chamber is endorsing Question #2 because we see great value both in terms of economic development and the new funding it will create for Jackson County charities.”

“We urge people who live in Jackson County to vote ‘yes’ on Question 1 on April 4th,” Chamber President Pete Levi said. “We want to keep the teams in Kansas City and this is the only way to insure that happens. The Chamber also supports Question 2 and the Use Tax, not only because of the tremendous impact the iconic Rolling Roof will have in attracting large-scale events to our city but also because of the new charitable funding stream.

“It’s not just the future of the sports complex that will be decided April 4th,” Levi continued. “It’s the future of major league sports in Kansas City. This has been a long and arduous process and we feel this is the best solution. There is no other plan.”

On hearing news of The Chamber endorsement, Chiefs Founder Lamar Hunt said, “The Chiefs are very pleased by the endorsement and we share in their belief that approval of Question 1 and Question 2 will bring a continuing major economic boost to Jackson County. We also look forward to partnering with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation to support Jackson County charities and expect to continue our partnership with Kansas City for the next 25 years.”

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