



November 14, 2023

Press Statement:

This statement is truly delivered with respect, importance, and transparency.

I, Jessica Goodman, as Assessor of Saline County have been asked by several news organizations to respond to the Commission's November 9th statement.

My response is simple. The Commissioner's statement is factually not true. Rather than highlight each untruth or go into a mind-numbing discussion about what happened, attached is the November 1st letter from the Missouri State Tax Commission which spells out in black and white that the Commission withheld the 2023 budgetary funding for the Assessor's Office and by doing so they violated Section 137.720 of the Missouri State Law. The consequence of the Commission's inaction was for the Missouri State Tax Commission to withhold their part of my annual budget.

For context, it is important to know that because Saline County is a small county, our assessed valuations do not generate enough tax revenue to fully fund the Assessor's budget. When this situation happens (as it almost always does for smaller counties), Missouri law exists to fill in that budgetary gap. Prior to receiving the State funding, the County Commissioners are obligated by law to fund their part of my budget. After the 2023 Saline County budget was approved in February, the County Commissioners made a conscious decision to not fund my office.

My last comment on this matter is that after the Commissioners received the State Tax Commission letter, on November 8th they finally chose to fund my budget. I have talked with the Missouri State Tax Commission and expect they will release the matching funds soon.

After nine long months, I am finally operating with a fully funded 2023 budget allowing me to move on and perform my duties on behalf of Saline County. I take these duties very seriously. It should never take a state agency's involvement to fund a budget that was publicly presented to the citizens and approved by the Saline County Commission. As always, if any citizen wants to personally ask me questions or see documentation about this matter, my door is always open.

Very Respectfully,

Jessica Adcock Goodman
Saline County Assessor