

Chiefs give \$25K to Missouri Republicans as stadium fight drags on

BY KACEN BAYLESS
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The Kansas City Chiefs contributed \$25,000 to a political action committee supporting Republicans in the Missouri Senate in a donation made public this week.

The check, revealed in campaign finance records on Sunday, marks the team’s second major contribution to Missouri Republicans this year. It comes roughly six months after lawmakers passed a sweeping stadium-incentives plan in the hopes of keeping the team inside state lines.

The Chiefs made the \$25,000 contribution to the Missouri Senate Campaign Committee, which raises money to elect Republicans to the Missouri Senate. The team made an identical \$25,000 donation to a PAC supporting Missouri House Republicans in August.

Daniel Seitz, the PAC’s executive director, said in a phone call on Wednesday that he would get back with a reporter with more details about the donation. Seitz did not return two follow up calls and a text



The lights dim at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium as players take the field before an NFL game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Detroit Lions on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025.

message later in the day.

Senate President Pro Tem Cindy O’Laughlin, a Shelbina Republican who serves as treasurer of the PAC, told The Star she was not aware of the contribution until it was reported. A spokesperson for the Chiefs did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

It’s unclear what exactly

the donation was related to, but Republicans firmly control both chambers of the Missouri General Assembly and hold every statewide office. The team’s political contributions are one indicator of its access to power in the state.

A review of campaign finance reports did not show any contributions

from the Chiefs to Missouri Democrats this year, but the team donated \$2,500 to House Democrats last year.

The new contribution comes as officials in Missouri and Kansas fight over the future of the Chiefs and the Kansas City Royals. Lawmakers in both states have passed public funding in the

company that oversees the assets of the Lamar Hunt family, including the Chiefs, paid \$300,000 to a PAC that opposed a statewide abortion rights ballot measure in Missouri.

Voters later approved the measure, called Amendment 3, last November, which overturned the state’s near-total ban on the procedure and legalized access to the procedure.

A Chiefs spokesperson told The Star at the time that the donation to the anti-abortion group came from Lamar Hunt Jr., who wired money from his account with Unity Hunt to the PAC.

Hunt Jr., the son of Chiefs founder Lamar Hunt, has previously been outspoken about his opposition to abortion and in 2020 served as the master of ceremonies at a Kansans for Life banquet.

In the weeks before the 2024 election, Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker also stepped into conservative politics and launched a political action committee designed to promote politicians who fight for conservative Christian values.

But Butker’s PAC appeared to have fallen short of that goal. The Star previously found that none of the money raised by the PAC went to candidates.

The Star’s Matthew Kelly contributed reporting.

Senate deadlocks on health care, leaving subsidies to expire

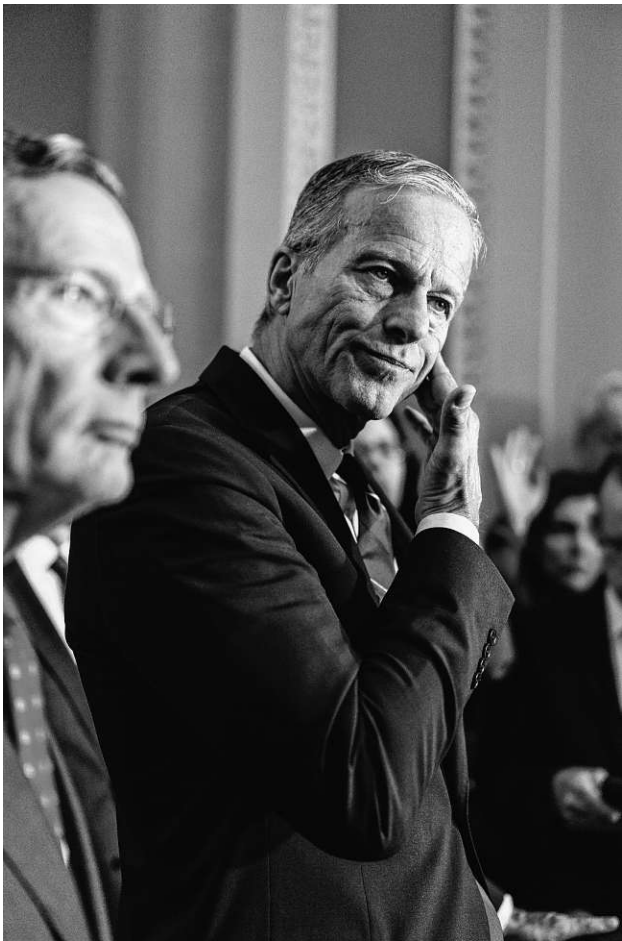
BY CARL HULSE
NYT News Service

WASHINGTON

The Senate on Thursday deadlocked on competing proposals to avert rising health care premiums, blocking Democratic and Republican alternatives in an outcome that made it all but certain that expanded tax subsidies for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act will expire at the end of the month.

Republicans squelched a bid by Democrats, who had demanded action on the issue during the 43-day government shutdown, to extend the insurance subsidies for three years.

Democrats turned back a Republican alternative that would replace the subsidies with an expansion of tax-advantaged health savings accounts and direct payments of up to \$1,500 to people who buy the most basic health insurance plans.



Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., takes part in a news conference Tuesday on Capitol Hill.

Neither proposal could muster the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster and move ahead, a long-expected result that teed up a brutal battle over health care that is likely to shape the fight for control of Congress next year.

Both plans were thwarted on separate votes of 51-48. Four Republicans – Sens. Josh Hawley of Missouri, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both of Alaska – joined Democrats in support of taking up the extension, while all Democrats and a single Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, opposed the GOP alternative.

With Congress set to leave for the holidays after next week and the two sides still far apart on their

approach to rising health insurance costs, time was nearly out to renew the premium subsidies that millions of Americans depend on to afford coverage on the federal health care exchange.

Democrats have promised to spotlight the issue in midterm election campaigns, seeing an opening to pound Republicans for failing to head off sharp premium increases and threatening health care access at a time when many Americans are toiling to afford basic necessities.

Republicans said Democrats’ bid to preserve the subsidies would simply maintain a “bloated” federal program that was meant to be temporary

care, noting that it would go only to those who purchased high-deductible insurance plans that require people to pay thousands of dollars for medical care before receiving coverage. They argued it would do nothing to head off the immediate threat of rising premiums.

“The whole conversation about these Affordable Care Act tax credits in this town, in this building, has been focused on the politics of this issue,” said Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga. “This is life or death. People will die.”

Republicans said the root cause of the escalation in health insurance premiums was the Affordable Care Act.

“Democrats know that Obamacare has failed,” said Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, one of the authors of the Republican plan. “Their only offer is more spending.”

Republicans had committed to allowing Democrats a vote on their proposal to extend the health care subsidies as a condition of a deal to end the government shutdown.

The GOP, which has struggled for years to coalesce around a health care plan, had considered not offering an alternative to the Democratic proposal. But party leaders faced pressure to put a plan forward so Republicans could say they had tried something to address the expiring tax subsidies.

House Republicans have said they will next week begin considering some piecemeal measures that represent their approach to addressing rising health care costs, but an extension of the subsidies is so far not part of the mix. As a result, a group of House Republicans worried about the political backlash from allowing the breaks to expire started a petition Wednesday to try to force a floor vote on a plan to extend the subsidies on a narrowed basis for two years.

Talking Heads lead singer brings tour to KC in 2026. Tickets on sale soon

BY JOSEPH HERNANDEZ
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While critically acclaimed rock band Talking Heads haven’t released any new material since 1988, their spirit has lived on through the solo work of their frontman, David Byrne.

The Grammy and Academy-award winning singer’s 2018 release, “American Utopia,” turned into a tour, then transition into a Broadway show which was filmed by director Spike Lee. Byrne’s follow-up album, “Who Is The Sky?” came out in September, and now he’s embarking on a new tour in support of it.

The tour named after the album travels all over the world starting Jan. 14, 2026, including a stop in Kansas City. Byrne headlines Starlight Theatre on May 5, 2026.

“Best known as the visionary frontman of

Talking Heads, Byrne blends inventive soundscapes with striking visual storytelling to create experiences that are as thought-provoking as they are unforgettable,” Starlight said in a Facebook post.

Fans can hear songs from Byrne’s solo work and time with Talking Heads, including “Psycho Killer,” “Once in a Lifetime,” “This Must Be the Place” and “Road to Nowhere.”

A Live Nation presale begins Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m., and fans can sign up online now. Starlight presale tickets go on sale at 10 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 11, and the rest of the public can purchase tickets starting at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at kcstarlight.com.

He previously played at The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in 2018 as a part of his American Utopia tour.

BIRTHDAYS: DECEMBER 12



Britannica

Biographical information from December 12 is from Encyclopædia Britannica. Explore more at [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com).

Portia Simpson Miller, prime minister of Jamaica (b. 1945).

Bob Barker, American game show host (b. 1923).

Frank Sinatra, American singer and actor (b. 1915).

Edward G. Robinson, American actor (b. 1893).

Edvard Munch, Norwegian artist (b. 1863).

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

290-240 (ISSN 0745-1067)	
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Wednesday/Sunday	\$34.99/week*
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The Kansas City Star is published daily, except Saturday. 5151 Merriam Drive, Merriam, Kansas 66203 (by appointment only.) Periodicals Postage Paid at Kansas City, MO. (USPS 290-240.)

Postmaster: Send all UAA to CFS : NON-POSTAL & MILITARY FACILITIES: send address corrections to McClatchy 1601 Alhambra Blvd Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816.

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