

Social Media

Jason Anderson for Kansas
April 26 · 🌐

Today, Medicaid expansion for Kansas failed in the Senate on an 18 yes / 17 no vote. (5 did not vote; it needed 24 votes to go leave committee for a floor vote.)

We must elect state senators who will do the right thing for our families and economy by expanding Medicaid.


JASON ANDERSON
KANSAS SENATE

👍👍👍 7

2 shares

Jason Anderson for Kansas
April 2 · 🌐

Last night, we celebrated Ramadan with friends, old and new, coming together to learn about differences and, maybe more importantly, similarities across beliefs and cultures. The evening included some education, much fellowship, and an open invitation to celebrate the diversity right here in our community. Many thanks to our wonderful hosts!



👍👍 22

2 comments 1 share

Jason Anderson for Kansas's Post



Jason Anderson for Kansas

February 16 · 🌐

Thanks to online activist and political critic, @wordclown, for exposing politicians with NRA blood money on their hands along with working to provide a state-by-state breakdown of gun laws, just in time for November elections. You can donate to his effort at www.itsthefuckingguns.com.

 Hello - my name is Jason Anderson, I'm a state senate candidate in Kansas. Several of the children shot at the Chiefs rally attend my niece's school; the woman who died is part of their school community.

I just wanted to say THANK YOU for doing what you're doing. It's taken decades of legislative neglect to get us to this point, but I hope to be someone who can help us turn the ship.

-Jason
www.jasonandersonforkansas.com



wordclown



👍❤️ 6

3 comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Jason Anderson for Kansas

February 14 · 🌐

While we live in Johnson County now, I have fond memories of the K growing up. I've also experienced baseball in the urban centers of other cities, and am really excited about the opportunities and fun that this project could offer for the next generation.

It's still a long way away, and there are challenges like parking and the equitable division of costs. But if I allow myself to live for a moment in this fuzzy future, I know that it's one where I'm spending more time in KCMO than I do right now. We can make sure that it's a win for everyone in the metro.





Matthew Calcara @MattCalcara · May 1

Kansans bet ~\$2 billion per year on sports. Again, we currently get just \$5 mil per year in taxes, a rate of 0.25% if I did the math right.

We're gonna need like \$100 mil, tho, which would raise taxes to a rate of 5% of total betting revenues.

This seems...doable?



3



10



789



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · May 2

I believe the issue is not that the tax rate is set too low, but that operators are allowed to deduct promotional expenses.



1



9



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Apr 28

Any person who has been issued a green card, by definition, is no longer illegally in the US. They have met with an immigration official and been granted legal permanent resident status. There's typically a 5 year waiting period for any benefits after first receiving PR status.



1



10



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Apr 28

So, without getting into specific edge cases, yes, I do believe that a person or family that's working in the US on permanent resident status and has been paying taxes, is entitled to the same healthcare benefits of citizens.



1



8



Matthew Leo Birzer P.E. @PowercatEng · Apr 28

Mr Anderson, so you are in favor of giving illegal aliens with green cards health care paid for by taxpayers. Is that correct? Godspeed.



Jason Anderson  @JasonForKansas · Apr 28

An immigrant with a green card, by definition, is not illegally resident. It takes on average 2-3 years for someone to successfully apply for and be granted a green card. It's a primary pathway to citizenship, it's not a loophole. They are also tax-payers. So yes, I am in favor.



12



Matthew Leo Birzer P.E. @PowercatEng · Apr 28

[usa.gov/green-card-per...](https://www.usa.gov/green-card-per...)

Mr Anderson, a "Green Card" is NOT whatever you are defining as "Legal Status". But I agree that if you get a "Green Card" you get health care insurance paid by taxpayers. Godspeed.



usa.gov
Permanent Resident (Green) Card and immigrant visa
Learn about the DV Lottery and other ways to apply for an immigrant visa. Find out how to become a ...

201 posts



Jason Anderson  @JasonForKansas · Apr 28

I used "green card" as a shorthand description; the full definition is "qualified non-citizen" which includes lawfully present immigrants, refugees, asylees, and some specific special case exemption groups. I appreciate the question.



9



Matthew Leo Birzer P.E. @PowercatEng · Apr 27

Mr Anderson, should Kansas provide Medicaid for illegal aliens? Godspeed.



43



Jason Anderson  @JasonForKansas · Apr 28

Medicaid requires applicants to have legal status (eg a green card) in the US. Meanwhile, there are over 150,000 citizens in Kansas that would have benefited from Medicaid expansion. It would have saved the state an estimated \$120M in 2026.



31



Matthew Calcara @MattCalcara · Apr 25

But, to be clear, you do also support the extremely popular position of legalizing cannabis for at least medical, if not recreational, use, right?

You can add some Libertarian-leaning voters to your coalition by highlighting that policy difference a bit.



20



Jason Anderson  @JasonForKansas · Apr 25

I do support medical cannabis legalization, yes. Recreational gets a bit more complicated for me, I'm not as current on the research, but medical use is well-researched and a good starting point.



10



State of Kansas
House of Representatives



REP. CHRIS CROFT
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

REP. DAN HAWKINS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

REP. BLAKE CARPENTER
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2024

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Governor Kelly Vetoes Bill That Would Secure Kansans' Private Data from Foreign Adversaries

Topeka, KS — Kansas House of Representatives Leadership Team responds to Governor Kelly's veto of the bill that would secure Kansans' private data from espionage activities using drone technology operated by United States foreign adversaries.

"National security isn't simply an issue of the federal government—states must take an active role in securing our geographic region. When warnings are presented regarding CCP espionage using drone technology, we're compelled to act," said Kansas House Speaker Dan Hawkins. "While the Governor's veto ignores and minimizes the national security risks posed by our foreign adversaries, the Republican-led House will readily pick up her slack and override her reckless veto."

"This is a simple piece of legislation that will protect critical infrastructure, military installations, and the Kansas people by preventing completely avoidable theft by our foreign adversaries, namely China. Unfortunately, Chinese military companies manufacture many of the drones used by local governments, and the information they collect is easily accessible to our foreign adversaries," Kansas House Majority Leader Chris Croft said. "The FBI and DHS have documented the national security risks posed by allowing these drones to operate. I'm deeply disappointed that the Governor has blatantly refused to acknowledge the risk posed by our foreign adversaries and vetoed this common-sense legislation. I look forward to the Legislature overriding her misguided veto."

"It is incredibly disappointing to learn that Governor Kelly has chosen to veto House Sub for SB-271, a crucial measure aimed at protecting our state's security from growing threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party," House Speaker Pro Tempore Blake Carpenter said. "By ensuring we don't use foreign adversary drone technology, this bill guarantees reliability and confidence in our security infrastructure. I am eager to work with my colleagues to override this veto and ensure our state's safety remains a top priority."

###

14 9 11 1.1K

Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Apr 25

Of all of the parts of the technology value chain that might originate from countries interested in spying on us, drones are low on the priority list. Your laptop is a larger foreign espionage risk, or your antivirus software, or your wifi router.

12



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 29

Things recently sent by #ksleg to to @GovLauraKelly:

- age verification for websites with 25% "prurient" content
- gender-affirming care ban
- ban on rules on sale or use of vehicles based on energy type (i.e. no gas motor bans, but also no electric bans)

~_(ツ)_/~

6 1 11 4.3K



Nathan @Ho8Go8L1N · Mar 29

You shrug at age restrictions for porn?

1 1 55



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 29

Not at the age restrictions themselves, I've been pro-age controls (but also pro-digital privacy / anti-digital data farming) for a long time. The bill as written, though, isn't going to do that. It's just going to let the AG sue companies he chooses to sue.

15



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 29

Let's be precise here, then. You mean HB2284, the first flat tax bill vetoed over two months ago that offered nothing to middle class households but a lot to top-1% households. It didn't actually include "all the things Kelly had been babbling on about."

1 16



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 29

I was referring to SB300, passed unanimously by the house two days ago and then derailed by the Senate President. That bill does include all of the things on Kelly's list, and would likely have been signed into law.

1 1 20



Emily Wellman @ElectaWing · Mar 29

You forgot comprehensive tax cuts, as well as raising deductibles, and killing off the food and social security taxes. But do go on.

1 23



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 29

I believe the new house bill that included the tax relief was pushed into committee by the Senate president, dooming it and sending that whole process back to the beginning. Or are you referring to a different bill, the one that was vetoed because it was bad?

1 26



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 29

Random thought: what is the relative amount of harm to a minor being able to access online sports gambling vs. LGBTQ content..? Pornography vs. Anarchist's Cookbook? Information on abortion vs. instructions on how to apply for student loan forgiveness?



35



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 29

There's a wide range of interpretations, obviously. I personally find it really problematic that the bill includes "social transitioning" in the definition, which would be all of the non-medical / non-surgical psychological therapy support I'd want to have available to families.



126



Katie Moore @katie_reports · Mar 17

NEW - @KCStar requested bodycam footage from fatal police shootings across Kansas from 2019 to 2023. Where recordings existed, officials denied public disclosure 67% of the time. Officers were cleared of criminal wrongdoing in all of the shootings.



From kansascity.com



7.7K



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Mar 18

Body cams without compulsory disclosure is basically a waste of money. Easily abused to wait out the clock on civil liabilities and the ability of victims to seek justice.



16





Politics aside, it's just embarrassing how Biden policy has been so much worse on this issue than even normie dem politicians

Biden aides have clearly absorbed the blowback they got from even friendly Democratic lawmakers for making no mention of Palestinian suffering in official statements they issued marking 100 days since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

Indeed, it's hard to overstate how contemptuous even staunchly pro-Israel Democratic lawmakers have become of Netanyahu.

One House Democrat told me of a dinner last month with about eight other colleagues, a cross-section of the caucus ideologically and generationally. "It was unanimous that this Israel-Gaza war needed to end now and that Biden needed to stand up to Bibi," this lawmaker told me, before offering his own view.

 **John Hudson**  @John_Hudson · Feb 4

A House Democrat, who rarely criticizes Israel, tells @jmart that Biden's refusal to stand up to Bibi and end the war is a "disaster politically."

"Bibi is toxic among many Democratic voters and Biden must distance himself from him — yesterday." politico.com/news/magazine/...

🗨️ 69 🔄 277 ❤️ 1.8K 📄 234K 📌 📤



Matthew Calcara @MattCalcara · Feb 4

I really don't understand WTF he is doing. Like 90% of his base, including both the Muslim & Jewish parts, want a ceasefire. Younger voters, especially, are effing pissed. He is literally risking his re-election & for what? To delay Bibi's getting turfed out of office? FFS.

🗨️ 2 🔄 ❤️ 1 📄 102 📌 📤



Jason Anderson  @JasonForKansas · Feb 5

My theory: older pols and voters that lived through 9/11 have a hard-line reaction to catastrophic terror attacks. It galvanized the world in a way not seen since perhaps WW2. Acknowledging Palestinian suffering is similar to empathizing with anti-Christian Mideast sentiments.

← Post



Jason Anderson  @JasonForKansas

There once was a tax that was flat
That promised to make us all fat
But the math was a lie
It did not "grow the pie"
So we ain't going to have none of that

[#ksleg](#)

8:50 PM · Jan 17, 2024 · 1,870 Views

🗨️ 2 🔄 24 ❤️ 85 📌 1 📤



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Jan 18 ...

50% of Kansas households are married couples. Only 30% of households have children. How do these numbers play out for people that aren't filing as married with two dependent children?

22



Nathan @natedrives · Jul 10, 2023 ...

Solution to California NIMBYs: Charge property tax based on current assessed value, rather than purchase price value. I can't believe this isn't already how it's done!

2 1 123



Matthew Calcara @MattCalcara · Jan 18 ...

There is a constitutional amendment in place that forces this (and gives longtime homeowners giant tax breaks, too). One of the big reasons housing is so screwed up there.

1 1 27



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Jan 18 ...

It's also one of the ideas I've heard floated (not seriously yet) about how to contain property tax inflation in KS (JoCo in particular). It's a pretty bad idea from a long term perspective.

1 17



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Jan 18 ...

The #ksleg flat tax bill will cost \$1.6B in reduced revenue over the next 3 years. The state rainy day surplus is...look at that, \$1.6B.

The math is not great on this one. Tell your representative to oppose the bill.

102



Matthew Calcara @MattCalcara · Jan 17 ...

They're really not, though?

An Amtrak subsidy for that would amount to like 2% of Gov. Kelly's massive budget surplus.

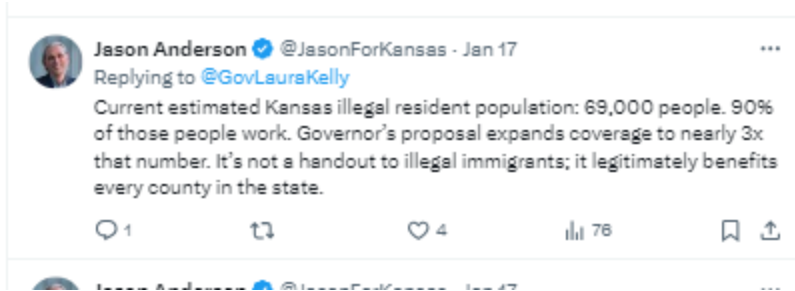
2 8 395



Jason Anderson @JasonForKansas · Jan 17 ...

I'd love it to prove out as feasible. I've not deeply researched it; there's obviously a ton of auto and flight travel between KC and DEN, would be interesting to see what passenger volume it would take. It's one of the more rational high speed rail routes we could build.

3 1 3 185



News Articles

Kansas City Star Article: Anderson is “urging a return to universal masking”

With cases rising, many parents are sounding the alarm, worried about sending their children to maskless classrooms.

Blue Valley father Jason Anderson and other concerned parents, for example, penned a letter to the district late last month urging a return to universal masking.

"Blue Valley's COVID case rates are higher than at any point since the beginning of the pandemic. The conditions that supported the decision to suspend mask requirements in high school buildings are no longer true," the letter states.

Removing masks, health officials said, means one COVID-19 case in a classroom leads to far more exposures.

(Source: The Kansas City Star, December 8, 2021)

Anderson was of the one of the “few who spoke in favor of stricter COVID-19 protocols before the district decided that it would not mandate masks.”

Masks a flashpoint

Jason Anderson has an 11-year-old son, just under the cutoff for COVID-19 vaccine eligibility.

The single father worries about sending his son into a Blue Valley school where masks won't be required and where social distancing is often too difficult to enforce -- especially now that his son's grandfather is hospitalized and preparing for chemotherapy.

"My father was admitted to the ICU 10 days ago. When he discharges, it's more likely than not that he won't be able to live independently," Anderson said. "He will become a member of our household. So how do we go about minimizing the risk that's out there for him? I'm still processing the implications."

Anderson spoke at the Blue Valley school board meeting this past week, to share his concerns that his son could be exposed to the virus at school and take it home to his sick grandfather. He was one of the few who spoke in favor of stricter COVID-19 protocols before the district decided that it would not mandate masks.

"We all have different perspectives on risk: What is risky, what is not, how much risk we're willing to accept. That's fine. But when those decisions affect the risks of others, we are stealing safety from others for personal benefit," he said.

*Several other parents argued against a mandate, saying that requiring their children to wear masks at school all day would impede learning and make them uncomfortable. They argued for the personal choice to send their child to school with a mask or not. **(Source: The Kansas City Star, July 25, 2021)***

Anderson on TV news complaining about school COVID protocols.

Shawnee Mission schools shifting older students to remote learning after Thanksgiving

Jason Anderson admits remote learning was tough for his special needs son, too. So he switched back to full-time in-person classes last week. But within four days, they got a notice of a positive COVID case in his class.

"It does give me pause about the decision," Anderson said.

He is thankful Blue Valley is moving older students to virtual learning after Thanksgiving, but is concerned for his elementary student and whether school can keep running long-term.

"I fully believe that's not sustainable," Anderson said.

His family is skipping a traditional Thanksgiving gathering and believes any chance of keeping kids in school this winter will hinge on others doing the same this holiday season.

"I don't expect that to be the norm in the metro so do think the wave we're seeing right now is not going to go away after Thanksgiving, if anything it's going to sustain and increase if we don't change behavior," Anderson said.

In Olathe, the district is planning to allow winter sports to continue and some high-need special needs students will still be allowed on-campus.

(Source: FOX - 4 WDAF, November 18, 2020)

Articles he wrote on Medium

Talks about being part of the pro-mask, pro vaccine clique.

Some voices from the anti-mask cohort were particularly loud. Those voices are now candidates for the three upcoming open seats. They are coordinated, and still rather angry.

As a member of the pro-mask / pro-vaccine clique, I've tried to keep my voice calm, rational, and fact-based. And consistent. It's been a rewarding experience to share my little spreadsheet with my neighbors, and to provide all of us with a common set of knowledge from which to discuss. (I did try to reach out to the "competing" group, but they declined my invitation. Like much of the rest of modern conservative culture, group membership seems to require conforming to things I can't abide by.)

(Source: <https://medium.com/life-tips/the-long-tail-of-covid-politics-72cf2d75176d>)

Article where he calls people who ran for school board "whackadoodles".

In the November 2021 elections, among the thousands of various local government positions up for grabs, nearly 400,000 students had their school boards turned upside-down by one political action committee — motivated by resentment about mask mandates, pandemic fatigue, and the critical race theory boogeyman.

If you're a parent in any US public school district, odds are very good that you've had the opportunity to see some absolute craziness at your local school board meetings over the past year. If you didn't like the crazy on display, I've got some very bad news for you: Those folks ran for school boards across the country, and a lot of them won. The reason that so many whackadoodles will be seated in school boards next year has very little to do with what they want to do to public schooling; it's about money: more specifically, the direct connection between money spent and the number of voters that show up.

(Source: https://medium.com/@jason_anderson/the-1776-project-money-airdrop-41ff2608671b)

Quote in article: “vocal minority of our community has cultivated anger and resentment to build a “parents movement”.

For over a year — ever since the first attempt to implement public health policy in response to the COVID pandemic — a vocal minority of our community has cultivated anger and resentment to build a “parents movement.” This movement culminated last week in the election of [two new](#) school board members, driven by ideological fury and national rhetoric about critical race theory and misinformation about vaccine and mask safety and efficacy (and supported by an [out-of-state political action committee](#)).

The following week, the school board voted to remove mask requirements in high school buildings in a [6-1 vote](#). I cannot claim any inside knowledge of how that decision was reached, but it was clear that the decision had been made earlier in the day before public comments from the community.

Four days later, the school district reported [75 new COVID cases](#), a tripling from a week prior.

Twenty-four of our 35 buildings reported cases; the prior week, only 10. It is as if this stealthy virus

spontaneously erupted throughout the community over the Halloween break and infected itself in parties and social gatherings.

*Nobody should be surprised, because **this is exactly what happened last year**. This inflection point marked the beginning of the Winter Wave, where over 1,000 students caught ill between November and January. Sadly, we seem prepared and willing to repeat this experience again in 2021–22.*

If the school board had invited anyone from the county health department to speak and present their recommendations, they would have been told to [keep the mask mandate](#). If the school board had surveyed the community in a methodologically sound manner, they would have learned that the majority of the district’s students, parents, and patrons support current safety protocols and would continue to support them through the winter.

Instead, a noisy minority of parents continues to bully their way through our governing bodies, insisting that their opinion demands greater attention and respect than that of others.

*I am only one parent, but I am not alone in my views. What I have learned through observation of these past 15 months and the recent election campaigns is that pressure and harassment are more effective policy tools than rational thought and scientific research; that all I need to do to get my way is to say it louder and incessantly; that the only way to stop a motivated bully is to **punch them in the rhetorical face**. You can expect to see continued strife in the community, at board meetings, and (perhaps) within the board itself until you decisively stare down your aggressors.*

By humoring the anti-science crowd, you have empowered them. By not forcefully rejecting their claims, you have endorsed their claims. If that was your intention, then so be it, but own your convictions.

Most importantly, you need to plan now for how the district will deal with COVID in the coming years. The disease will not disappear, and we clearly lack the communal will to pull together as one in support of public health attestations, so the inevitable outcome will be continued spikes of infections, randomly, in perpetuity.

(Source: https://medium.com/@jason_anderson/an-open-letter-to-the-blue-valley-school-district-ebbcf743ac94)

Article with transcript of Anderson blasting the Blue Valley District for lifting the mask mandate

Earlier tonight, I rapidly burned through my allotted 3 minutes at the public comments period of the July 19 Board of Education meeting for the [Blue Valley School District](#). I've transcribed them here, for easier reference by the Board and other interested members of the community.

Below my comments, I have a few additional words about my reaction to the meeting.

Thank you for your time; my name is Jason Anderson and I'm the parent of a 5th-grade student at Timber Creek Elementary. I'm speaking today for myself and as a liaison of the Blue Valley Covid-19 Transparency Group, which is a gathering of around 850 fellow parents, teachers, and other affected community members. My comments are not endorsed by this group, but I think they accurately reflect our shared experiences.

Earlier today, the American Academy of Pediatrics [issued guidance](#) urging in-person learning for all students and also requiring masks for all students regardless of vaccination status:

“As we start the 2021–22 school year, a large portion of students are not eligible to be vaccinated and there are COVID variants that are more contagious. Because of this and because we want to have all students in school, the AAP advocates for all students, teachers and staff to wear masks while indoors in school.”

Obviously, that is not where Blue Valley stands today. I have not been a lifelong resident of the district, but it’s saddening that public health policy and the preference for individual rights over the public good have become so divisive. People are looking for black-and-white answers to something with a lot of gray; I’ll use my personal circumstances as one example.

My son, who is 11, is not yet eligible for a COVID vaccine. My father is currently hospitalized and preparing for chemotherapy. The district is only offering an in-person solution for next year, with no mask mandate. I now get to decide whether or not it’s safe for my son to visit my father, and whether it’s safe for me to visit my father, based on the unmasked behaviors of other families at our school.

We all have different perspectives on risk: what is risky, what is not, how much risk we’re willing to accept. That’s fine. But when those decisions affect the risks of others, we are stealing safety from others for personal benefit. When you send your child to school next month without a mask, you are slightly increasing my risk. When you scream about your right to do so, you make me question the value of being your neighbor.

I moved to Overland Park specifically to provide the benefits of Blue Valley to my son, but the actions and attitudes of the past year have made me reconsider that decision. These are not the morals I aspire to. We should all have at least some duty to the common good.

I thank the board for making unpopular decisions last year. I regret that you may be called upon to do it again. But I think it's very important now, at this moment, to be clear with the community about what's at stake. Vaccinations for under-12 aren't going to be available before mid-winter, which means the bulk of the school year will be with completely unvaccinated students at the elementary level. We need to help everyone understand that this is still a dynamic situation, and that policy adjustments might be necessary based on the health of the community. It's disappointing to see people running to serve on this board who have explicitly yelled at these policies as the reason to run; I would ask all candidates to take a moment to stop criticizing public health policy and instead talk about what they would have done instead. Our district needs solutions; complaints aren't enough.

I'm not a medical doctor, but I do work in medical communications. Our clients include the FDA, CDC, National Institutes of Health, and 7 of the top 10 drug companies. We've worked on vaccine education and vaccine hesitancy efforts for over a decade. I'm a data scientist by training and digested all of the district, county, state, and national COVID data not just for personal benefit but in a professional capacity. I say to the board, and to the community, that significant risks remain. I'm saying this as a pragmatist, not to be alarmist. The board plays a leadership role in this and must remain vigilant and be prepared to act when public health professionals and the data recommend that we do.

Into the Lion's Den

(Credit is due to KristiB for this subtitle) Public comments at the school district meetings are allocated one hour, in 3-minute segments. Tonight's session had two "anti COVID" speakers, 17 "pro-COVID" speakers, and a retired librarian who I sincerely applaud. Speaker after speaker approached the podium, recited a list of grievances (masks, or Critical Race Theory, or falsified pseudoscience) to receive a round of applause.

I received deafening silence.

I wish I could say I was shocked by the apathy to a tale of trying to protect a sick loved one, but I'm not. The applause was somewhat muted for the speakers immediately following my statement, but it didn't take much longer for red meat to be back on the menu.

The Board of Education, to their credit, did exchange kind words with me at the end of the meeting, but not a single neighbor could make eye contact. In their circles, I was a pariah, a vocal but anonymous voice from the Internet with whom they disagree and who dared to be physically present in their self-congratulatory orgy of circular rhetoric. I would like to believe that without the surrounding audience, somebody might have said "I'm sorry about your father."

Such is this, our American life.

*I do believe (**very** strongly) that all of the candidates owe the public an answer to what would you have done? It's all well and good to say that you don't like the decisions made by others, but if you're going to use COVID and mask policy as a get-out-the-vote strategy then you damned well better have an answer for how you would do things in their place. If you don't have a solution, don't talk about the problem.*

(Source: https://medium.com/@jason_anderson/my-full-comments-to-the-blue-valley-school-district-board-of-education-e4f960bd398e)

Article where Anderson admits to his software piracy in his youth.

Quote from article: "I frequently need to remind myself that the law does not represent ethics, or justice. It represents the enforcement

of power systems. Sometimes the law happens to align with a fundamental moral truth, but nothing requires that to be so.”

Now that I’m confident the statute of limitations has expired, I’d like to tell a story about adolescent software piracy. In the 80’s, before PC and Mac conquered our homes, we lived in a Babel’s tower of proprietary computers. There weren’t any billion-dollar software companies yet, just some enterprising nerds trying to make money in the brave new world of intangible goods. [Microsoft](#), [Electronic Arts](#), [Activision](#), [Psygnosis](#), [Epyx](#) — these are names with a deep personal connection for me. (Yes, I suppose those “Lotus 1–2–3” and “WordPerfect” people may have been swimming in money, but that’s not terribly interesting to my 10-year-old self.)

Back then, when you wanted to have software for your hardware you still had to go to a physical store and bring a box home with some sort of physical media (Babbage’s! Electronics Boutique!). A 5.25" floppy disk (360KB each!), then double-sided 5.25" floppy disks (720KB!), then multiple 5.25" floppy disks, then multiple 3.5" disks (1.44MB each!). These are the days before consumer-grade hard drives: the software had to fit in the physical RAM of your hobbyist hardware, swapping out one bit of content with another by loading more stuff from the disks. Bonus: reading from disk was slow as a snail.



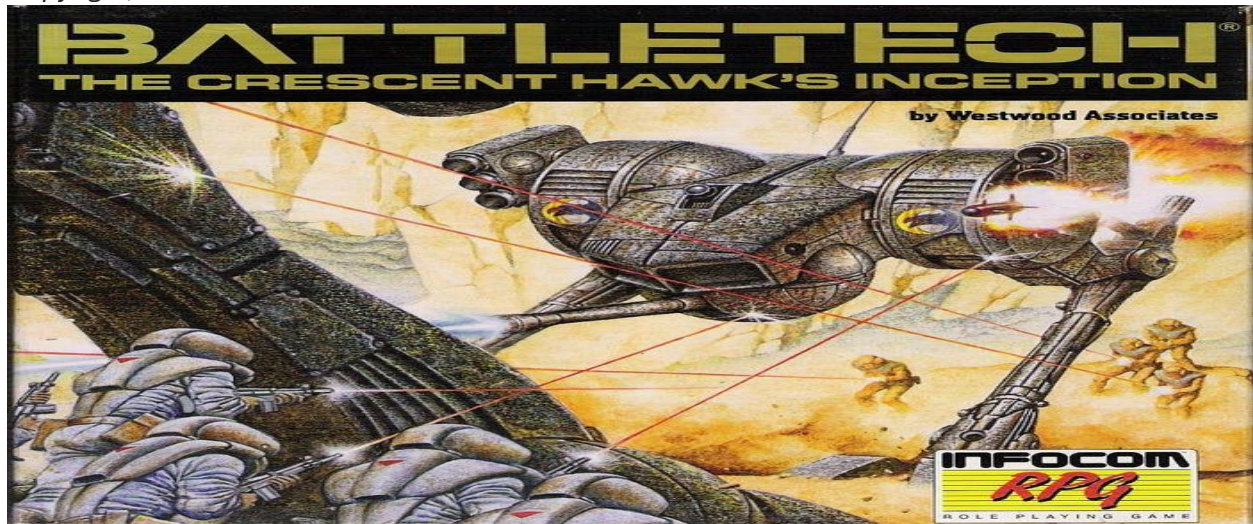
The trusty Commodore 1541 @ 300 BPS transfer rate

For all of the reasons above, software ran a lot closer to the metal. It had to; there were no “APIs” except for whatever features were built into the chip. It wasn’t unusual to hand-tune some code in assembly language because you needed to precisely synchronize what you were trying to draw on screen with the “vertical sync” of the television. (Yes, you plugged your computer into a tube television and used an adapter to convert the computer’s output into a signal more akin to a VHF antenna broadcast). You could buy magazines at your local Waldenbooks and B.Dalton Bookseller with titles like RUN that included pages and pages of source code for whatever game or application was being published that month. In print. I can remember spending an hour typing in the code for a game, line by line, discovering malbehaviors when I tried to run it, and then having to debug the program to find where I typed something wrong.

(Sidebar: that thing about mastering something by spending thousands hours doing it? The above process worked really well for that.)

Why go through all that effort? I was a poor-ass kid that didn't have the cash to match my appetite for computer games. Thinking back on that time in my life, though, I was far from alone in my total lack of education in copyright law or economic ethics. Kids (well, American kids at least) don't get that sort of proactive moral education outside of the church or familial role models. Which is not to say that my parents were thieves or morally hollow; they simply had no idea what I was doing. In those earlier digital decades, I'm pretty confident that nobody (that is, non-technical average parents and businesspeople and nurses and salespersons and whatnot) knew what was going on unless they were actively involved in the doing.

Copyright, Then



In those pre-Internet years, the legal system didn't really pay much attention to teenage game piracy mischief. Game developers and publishers certainly did, and a [tit-for-tat copy protection battle](#) escalated for many years. Developers would create a new method of preventing a game from being copied from one disk to another. Hackers would, uh, hack it. Much of this battle was pretty clever stuff, on both sides. For example, I remember really wanting to play [BattleTech: The Crescent Hawk's Inception](#) (don't judge) on my Commodore 64 but I was 12 and broke. One particularly annoying copy protection feature was a dependency on the printed manual that comes with

a purchased copy of the game. *It contained a map, and at a certain point in the game you needed that map to answer a question. Fail the question, fail the copy protection, fail the game.*

Now, if you had a copy of the game, from a friend or a BBS or who knows where, you probably didn't have the manual. But you did have all of the code for the game, sitting on a 5.25" disk in 6510 assembly, readable and writable with a hex editor that could burn changes straight to the disk. You could replace the bit of code that calls the copy protection test with a bunch of 0xEA NOP codes and ✨ finish the game! Usually, things would be trickier, with checksums to rebalance and whatnot, but I do have a vague-yet-specific memory of doing something exactly like this and being able to finish the game.

At the time, I didn't really feel like I had just committed copyright infringement. (I'd never heard the word copyright.) I didn't think of myself as a "pirate" — those were the people that tried to profiteer, to crack games at scale, to monetize their knowledge of the deep underbelly of computers and dark webs. Right? Hell, there were monthly clubs where people of all types would gather and trade their collections as if they were baseball cards!

The world still needed to assert that intangible goods are worthy of the same respect we give to non-intellectual property. This has always been a conundrum for me, for on the one hand I have made all of my adult income in the service of intangible software goods. And yet, on the other, something changes about an entertainment experience through the act of experiencing it. My emotions, memories, opinions, and stories can't possibly be owned and licensed from somebody else. Right? Who owns a story? We all feel compelled to share stories with each other, even the stories we paid for. (This is fundamentally the point of movie trailers and viral marketing.) But there must be limits to this ownership of narrative.

Intellectual Property Law, Today

Modern copyright, trademark, and patent law is (pardon my language) clusterfucked. You can publish a story and your estate has exclusive ownership of that story for 70 years after your death. You can grow a hybrid seed from two plants, patent that seed, and prevent any other farmer from doing the same without paying you. You can claim exclusive ownership of phrases like “[that’s hot](#) “. If you’re Facebook, you can trademark the word “face.” All of these things are currently legal, which is why patent trolls and predatory trademark prosecution and YouTube Content ID and all sorts of other billion-dollar enterprises thrive on the knowledge that larger, more powerful organizations can force smaller entities into submission. The difference in consequences between somebody selling a Mickey Mouse fanfiction novella and somebody ripping off a little-known short story isn’t determined by the law, it’s determined by the the degree of legal resources.

I frequently need to remind myself that the law does not represent ethics, or justice. It represents the enforcement of power systems. Sometimes the law happens to align with a fundamental moral truth, but nothing requires that to be so. For any individual IP violation, different answers could exist for whether it is legal or ethical. Intellectual property law defends economic rights only, which means the moral outcome of a dispute derives from the moral compass of the two parties.

I am not optimistic about future trends for copyright, trademark, and patent law. Multiple Supreme Court cases in the US have defended and expanded the reach and strength of IP rights for creative mediums in favor of the corporations that own and monetize our creative works. For example, while copyright exists on this blog from the moment it was published, I cannot assert my legal rights related to this post [until the content has been registered with the Copyright Office](#). A nominal [\\$35 fee](#) would register this piece of content, which will take one to seven months to process. In the meantime, Joe’s Blog (who scrapes and republishes my work without permission) can essentially proceed uninterrupted. If Joe has more/better lawyers or more money, there’s really nothing to be

done about it. Whatever minimal economic value exists from my ramblings can be sucked out and deployed on a platform with a monetized audience. Legal teams at Disney, Fox, AT&T, etc. certainly submit all of their content for copyright registration by default. It's a small but valuable line item in their legal budget, and it's money that I could never justify as an investment.

Closing Thoughts

Given the opportunity, would I copy a game for personal use today? I don't think so. I'm no longer broke and can buy the things I want; there's just so much less friction to buy something than deal with all of the technical (viruses) and legal risks. With age and maturity, we (hopefully!) can better appreciate how much effort is involved in crafting a game or a story or a song.

Now, strict interpretations of the law — “stealing is stealing” — are defensible in the abstract. But I've not yet met the person who can apply that strictness to all aspects of their financial relationship with the world; pirating a game is stealing and illegal, but using various services to get out of a speeding ticket is perfectly rational because it is legal. Don't shoplift that shirt, but grab that extra refill from the soda fountain without paying for the refill. Did you binge on Napster? Have you ever shared your Netflix account? Used your old school email address to get “student pricing” on something? All of these things arguably prevent someone from reaping the full value of their work.

My point: strict legal interpretations are not the same thing as a pure soul and tuned moral compass. These microaggressions endure because different people have different definitions for what should be the fair market value for something, and (even more complex) our estimates of FMV evolve over time. (Source: https://medium.com/@jason_anderson/copyrights-piracy-and-ethics-625ac8f35092)

Late Property Taxes

Late Property Taxes at his Jackson County Home for the Tax Years: 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.



Home Other Property Data - Help

Property Search / Search Results / Property Summary / Receipt Detail

Official Tax Payment Receipt

Receipt No.:	9004264	Date and Time:	01/03/2015 09:04	Print Date:	07/10/2024
Receipt Details					
Parcel No.	Tax Year	TCA/District	Amount Applied	Unpaid Balance Amount*	Description
204938421	2014	001	\$196.30	\$0.00	Property Tax Principal
	2014	001	\$2.94	\$0.00	Property Tax Interest
	2014	001	\$5.97	\$0.00	Chapter 52 Fee
	2014	001	\$9.96	\$0.00	Chapter 141 Fee
Payer Name and Address Information					
Name	Address		Tender Type	Amount Tendered	
ANDERSON JASON S	1303 W 47TH ST ,KANSAS CITY ,MO64112		Visa	\$215.17	
Owner Name and Address Information					
Parcel No.	Name	Address	Since	To	
204938421	ANDERSON JASON S	1303 W 47TH ST, KANSAS CITY, MO 64112	05/14/2014	Current	

(Source: Jackson County Gov, MO Property Tax Search;

<https://ascendweb.jacksongov.org/ReceiptDetail.aspx?receiptnumber=9004264>)

Official Tax Payment Receipt

Receipt No.:	9732622	Date and Time:	10/17/2016 09:09	Print Date:	07/10/2024
Receipt Details					
Parcel No.	Tax Year	TCA/District	Amount Applied	Unpaid Balance Amount*	Description
204938421	2015	001	\$164.94	\$0.00	Property Tax Principal
	2015	001	\$24.74	\$0.00	Property Tax Interest
	2015	001	\$5.69	\$0.00	Chapter 52 Fee
	2015	001	\$9.48	\$0.00	Chapter 141 Fee
Payer Name and Address Information					
Name	Address		Tender Type	Amount Tendered	
ANDERSON JASON S	1303 W 47TH ST ,KANSAS CITY ,MO64112		Visa	\$204.85	
Owner Name and Address Information					
Parcel No.	Name	Address	Since	To	
204938421	ANDERSON JASON S	1303 W 47TH ST, KANSAS CITY, MO 64112	05/14/2014	Current	

(Source: Jackson County, MO Property Tax Search;

<https://ascendweb.jacksongov.org/ReceiptDetail.aspx?receiptnumber=9732622>)

Official Tax Payment Receipt

Receipt No.:	10196625	Date and Time:	03/07/2017 09:44	Print Date:	07/10/2024
Receipt Details					
Parcel No.	Tax Year	TCA/District	Amount Applied	Unpaid Balance Amount*	Description
204938421	2016	001	\$1,357.61	\$0.00	Property Tax Principal
	2016	001	\$61.09	\$0.00	Property Tax Interest
	2016	001	\$42.56	\$0.00	Chapter 52 Fee
	2016	001	\$70.94	\$0.00	Chapter 141 Fee
Payer Name and Address Information					
Name	Address		Tender Type	Amount Tendered	
ANDERSON JASON S	1303 W 47TH ST ,KANSAS CITY ,MO64112		Visa	\$1,532.20	

(Source: Jackson County, MO Property Tax Search;

<https://ascendweb.jacksongov.org/ReceiptDetail.aspx?receiptnumber=10196625>)

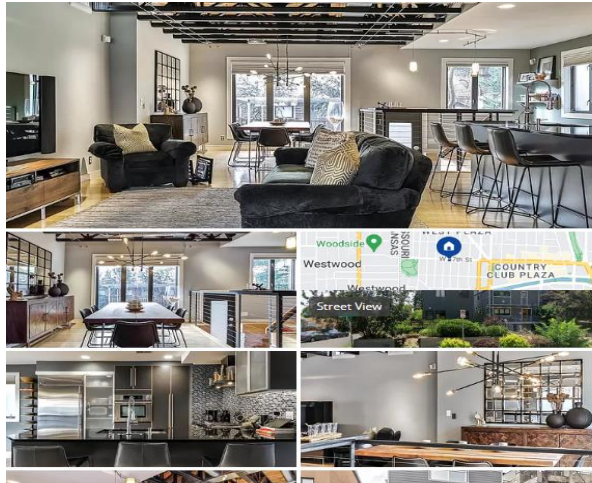
Official Tax Payment Receipt

Receipt No.:	10710423	Date and Time:	01/13/2018 02:33	Print Date:	07/10/2024
Receipt Details					
Parcel No.	Tax Year	TCA/District	Amount Applied	Unpaid Balance Amount*	Description
204938421	2017	001	\$1,225.84	\$0.00	Property Tax Principal
	2017	001	\$18.39	\$0.00	Property Tax Interest
	2017	001	\$37.32	\$0.00	Chapter 52 Fee
	2017	001	\$62.21	\$0.00	Chapter 141 Fee
Payer Name and Address Information					
Name	Address		Tender Type	Amount Tendered	
ANDERSON JASON S	1303 W 47TH ST ,KANSAS CITY ,MO64112		Electronic Check	\$1,343.76	
Owner Name and Address Information					
Parcel No.	Name	Address		Since	To
204938421	ANDERSON JASON S	1303 W 47TH ST, KANSAS CITY, MO 64112		05/14/2014	Current

(Source: Jackson County, MO Property Tax Search;

<https://ascendweb.jacksongov.org/ReceiptDetail.aspx?receiptnumber=10710423>)

This Kansas City, MO home he was delinquent on is a fairly ritzy property on the Plaza.



Zillow Edit Save Share More

3 bd | 3 ba | 2,044 sqft
 1303 W 47th St, Kansas City, MO 64112

● **Off market**
 Zestimate®: **\$667,700** | Rent Zestimate®: **\$4,145**
 Est. refi payment: \$4,222/mo [Refinance your loan](#)

Home value Owner tools Home details Neighborhood details

Get a cash offer in 3 minutes

Find out how much your home could sell for in as little as 3 minutes with a no-obligation cash offer.

Estimated market value **\$667,700**
 What is this number?

[Unlock your offer](#)

(Source: https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/1303-W-47th-St-Kansas-City-MO-64112/2345227_zpid/)

Donations

Given over 100 federal donations to Democrats. Includes donations to Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Joe Biden

committee	contributor_f	contributor	contributor_c	contributor_city	state	contributor_employer	contribution_rece	contribution_memo_text
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	9/8/2014 0:00	5 EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST.	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	6/25/2014 0:00	5 EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	9/13/2014 0:00	25 EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	36 W. 65TH TERRACE	KANSAS CITY	MO	64113 INSIGHTS META, LLC	9/28/2013 0:00	25 EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	36 W. 65TH TERRACE	KANSAS CITY	MO	64113 INSIGHTS META, LLC	9/28/2013 0:00	2.5 CONTRIBUTION TO ACTBLUE
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.28 EARMARKED FOR DEBORAH ROSS FOR SENATE ()
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.27 EARMARKED FOR MISSOURIANS FOR KANDER (C00572925)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/23/2016 0:00	10 EARMARKED FOR MISSOURIANS FOR KANDER (C00572925)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.27 EARMARKED FOR PATTY JUDGE FOR IOWA INC. ()
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.28 EARMARKED FOR CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO FOR SENATE (C00575548)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.27 EARMARKED FOR STRICKLAND FOR SENATE (C00573212)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.27 EARMARKED FOR RUSS FOR WISCONSIN (C00578013)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.27 EARMARKED FOR KIRKPATRICK FOR SENATE (C00578484)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.27 EARMARKED FOR TAMMY FOR ILLINOIS (C00574889)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.28 EARMARKED FOR KATIE MCGINTY FOR SENATE (C00582809)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	7/21/2016 0:00	2.27 EARMARKED FOR MAGGIE FOR NH (C00588772)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	2/10/2016 0:00	15 EARMARKED FOR BERNIE 2016 (C00577130)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	5/10/2016 0:00	1.5 CONTRIBUTION TO ACTBLUE
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	5/10/2016 0:00	15 EARMARKED FOR BERNIE 2016 (C00577130)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W 47TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	2/19/2016 0:00	15 EARMARKED FOR BERNIE 2016 (C00577130)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W. 47TH ST.	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	10/23/2016 0:00	3.58 EARMARKED FOR FRIENDS OF CHRISTINA M. HARTMAN (C00580316)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W. 47TH ST.	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	10/23/2016 0:00	3.57 EARMARKED FOR SUZANNA SHKRELI FOR CONGRESS (C00621250)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W. 47TH ST.	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	10/23/2016 0:00	3.57 EARMARKED FOR FRIENDS OF JANE DITTMAR (C00585976)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W. 47TH ST.	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	10/23/2016 0:00	3.57 EARMARKED FOR LINDBECK FOR ALASKA ()
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	1303 W. 47TH ST.	KANSAS CITY	MO	64112 INSIGHTS META, LLC	10/23/2016 0:00	3.57 EARMARKED FOR COLEMAN FOR CONGRESS (C00597641)

ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TERR, OVERLAND PARK	KS	66221 ELYSIUM HEALTH	12/8/2023 0:00	15	EARMARKED FOR KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C000:
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TERR, OVERLAND PARK	KS	66221 ELYSIUM HEALTH	1/8/2024 0:00	15	EARMARKED FOR KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C000:
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TERR, OVERLAND PARK	KS	66221 ELYSIUM HEALTH	2/8/2024 0:00	15	EARMARKED FOR KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C000:
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TERR, OVERLAND PARK	KS	66221 ELYSIUM HEALTH	3/8/2024 0:00	15	EARMARKED FOR KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C000:
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TERR, OVERLAND PARK	KS	66221 ELYSIUM HEALTH	3/30/2024 0:00	5	EARMARKED FOR SHARICE FOR CONGRESS (C00670034)
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TERR, OVERLAND PARK	KS	66221 ELYSIUM HEALTH	4/8/2024 0:00	15	EARMARKED FOR KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C000:
KANSAS DEI JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TER	OVERLAND PARK	KS	662218541 ELYSIUM HEALTH	5/8/2024 0:00	15	* EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION: SEE BELOW
ACTBLUE	JASON	ANDERSON	12418 W 163RD TERR, OVERLAND PARK	KS	66221 ELYSIUM HEALTH	5/8/2024 0:00	15	EARMARKED FOR KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C000:

Jackson County Court Case

Jason Anderon's Insights Meta company was sued by Kansas City, MO for delinquent taxes. This case was eventually dismissed. I'm ordering the case file to get more details.

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - Plaintiff

Address: 414 EAST 12TH STREET KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

Represented By

ZERCHER, ERIK - Attorney for Plaintiff

Address: 414 E 12th St 24th Flr KANSAS CITY, MO 64106
Business: (816) 513-3155

Co-Counsel

SMITH, NIKOLA - Attorney for Plaintiff

Address: 1903 CITY HALL SUITE 2300 414 EAST 12TH STREET KANSAS CITY, MO 64106
Business: (816) 513-3100

Co-Counsel

BARTON, ASHLEY - Attorney for Plaintiff

Address: 414 E 12TH STREET 2300 CITY HALL KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

Co-Counsel

DAVIDSON, SUMMER LYNN - Attorney for Plaintiff

Address: 414 East 12th Street 2800 City Hall KANSAS CITY, MO 64106
Business: (816) 513-3163

Co-Counsel

HAN, KYUNGWOONG - Attorney for Plaintiff

Address: 615 E 13TH ST KANSAS CITY, MO 64106
Business: (816) 889-5000

INSIGHTS META LLC - Defendant

Address: INSIGHTS META LLC RA: JASON ANDERSON 1303 W. 47TH STREET KANSAS CITY, MO 64112

Associated Entries, 06/15/2018 - Reading View

Scheduled For: 08/21/2018, 9:00 AM, JANETTE KAY RODECAP, Jackson - Kansas City

06/15/2018

Judge Assigned

Filing Info Sheet eFiling

Filed By: ERIK ZERCHER

Entry of Appearance Filed

Entry of Appearance.

Filed By: ERIK ZERCHER

On Behalf Of: CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Motion Special Process Server

Motion for Special Appointment for Service of Process.

Filed By: ERIK ZERCHER

Exhibit Filed

Exhibit A

Filed By: ERIK ZERCHER

Petition Filed - No Fees

Petition for Delinquent City Profits Tax and Delinquent Business License Tax.

(Source:

<https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet/cases/newHeader.do?inputVO.caseNumber=1816-CV15620&inputVO.courtId=CT16#party>