THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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joplinglobe.com THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 $3.00

Ceremony planned to celebrate Ewert Park reopening

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Residents will soon see the results of a yearlong effort to renovate Ewert Park.

The city of Joplin has scheduled a reopening celebration of the historic park for 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17.

As a result of the renovation, a special feature can be enjoyed there when the weather makes it possible. One of the new amenities will be a splash park that will operate in warm weather and an ice ribbon for skaters in the winter.

It is uncertain whether the ice ribbon will be ready for use at the time of the reopening. A city spokesman said that will depend on the temperatures and the weather leading up to the celebration. The temperature must be below 50 degrees for several days for the ice ribbon to be hard enough for skating.

A new splash park with landscaping and improvements to the current bathhouse building will provide fun in the water during the warm seasons.

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Globe file

Paul Bloomberg, Joplin Parks and Recreation director, talks last summer about plans for renovating Ewert Park.

★ ★ ★ MIDTERM ELECTION 2026 ★ ★ ★



John Hacker | Globe

Roger Koch, a Republican running unopposed for Missouri House District 162, checks out the results of Tuesday's midterm election at the Jasper County courthouse in Carthage.

2026 Jasper County turnout below past midterm elections

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Voter turnout in Tuesday's midterm election was not as high as the 2022 or 2018 midterm elections, according to local results.

Jasper County Clerk Charlie Davis said turnout in Jasper County on Tuesday was 38.5%, or 32,454 of the 84,283 registered voters in Jasper County.

He said turnout in the last midterm election in 2022 was 42.8% while turnout in 2018 was 52.9%.

Davis said no issues or problems were reported from any of the 46 polling places during Election Day and the counting of the ballots at the courthouse in Carthage after polls closed went as smoothly as it could.

One thing the November 2026 election did not have was a race for U.S. Senate from Missouri — something the last two midterm elections had on the ballot.

Davis said 2018 also was the year voters legalized medical marijuana and it was the year when Republican Josh Hawley defeated Democrat Claire McCaskill for his first six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

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Voters reject redistricting, abortion amendment at polls

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With all of Missouri's 3,214 precincts reporting, voters on Tuesday rejected the 2025 redistricting map that was designed to give Republicans a 7-1 advantage in the U.S. House, instead retaining the 6-2 map legislators approved in 2022.

- **Proposition A** failed, with 1,273,815 voters opposed, or nearly 62%, compared to 785,969 voters, or just over 38%, in favor. The measured asked voters to say "yes" or "no" to the mid-decade redistricting of the U.S. House district map requested by President Donald Trump that became the center of national media attention in the state and federal courts through the summer and fall. The Legislature drew a new congressional map in September 2025 to dilute the primarily Democratic 5th Congressional District in Kansas City. Because of a Democratic victory in Missouri's 2nd District, the final vote Tuesday ended up shifting 5-3 in favor of Republicans.
- **Constitutional Amendment 3**, to repeal abortion access that was first approved by Missouri voters with a different Amendment 3 in 2024, also failed. The vote was 1,173,172 against, or more than 55%, while 941,065 favored it, or more than 44%. This measure was put on the ballot by the Missouri state Legislature to revisit that 2024 vote.
- **Constitutional Amendment 6** won, with 1,251,555 "yes" votes, or nearly 60%, to 835,585 "yes" votes,

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Republicans hold on to state House, Senate seats in Jasper, Newton counties

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Republicans on Tuesday held on to state House and Senate seats in Southwest Missouri, according to complete but unofficial returns in Jasper and Newton counties.

Only one race in Jasper County was close.

In House District 161 which represents much of Joplin, Republican Louise Secker won by fewer than 300 votes over Democrat Aaron Joseph Metzger. Secker received 3,819 votes and Metzger got 3,523.



Louise Secker



Jill Carter

The Jasper County clerk's office said about 31% of the registered voters in District 161 turned out to vote on Election Day or by mail-in or absentee vote.

Among the other races in Jasper and Newton counties:

- In the 32nd District state Senate race, results from Jasper and Newton counties show that incumbent Republican Jill Carter received 35,290 votes in both counties while Democrat Imma J. Curl received 14,958 votes.
- The Missouri secretary of state's website shows that Brenden Kelly has won the state House District 127 seat representing eastern and northern Jasper County, all of Barton County and parts of Dade and Cedar counties, by a count of 9,126

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Betty Harper, Joplin, signs the election iPad confirming that she is eligible to vote before getting her ballot on Tuesday.

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