

# JAY ASHCROFT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

look ahead  
strategies

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# TOP HITS

## RIDING ON HIS FATHER'S COATTAILS

### Out Of Touch Political Heir

- Ashcroft benefited from a privileged upbringing as a result of his father's public positions and influence.
  - Ashcroft grew up in the Missouri Governor's Mansion, living there from the age of 11 to 19. (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/14/14)
  - In 1995, Ashcroft spent the summer living with his father in D.C. in a room above the garage of Sen. Mitch McConnell. (*The Springfield News-Leader*, 7/9/95)
- In the 1990's, Ashcroft attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy before dropping out in his third year. When asked if he repaid the taxes on his tuition after failing to serve in the military - as required by law - Ashcroft claimed he left the academy with no outstanding obligations and received no special treatment. To date, Ashcroft has refused to provide records that would clarify what exactly happened when he dropped out of the academy. ("John Ashcroft," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/17/16)
- From 2000 to 2012, Ashcroft failed to vote in six major elections, including multiple presidential primaries, his father's 2000 U.S. Senate primary, a contentious 2008 Republican gubernatorial primary, and the 2004 ballot measure to preserve traditional marriage in Missouri. (*The Kansas City Star*, 6/23/16)

### Working For His Father's Politically Connected Law Firm

- From 2009 to 2017, Ashcroft worked for his father's politically connected law firm, where he helped corporate clients facing government issues and SEC investigations. He did such work without registering as a lobbyist. ("Jay Ashcroft," [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/14/14; Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12; *St. Louis Business Journal*, 9/12/16; Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14; "Jay Ashcroft," [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15)
- While at his father's law firm, Ashcroft also represented a venture capitalist charged with embezzling \$9.1 million from his clients, and a man accused of taking his mother's money and home after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. ("Jay Ashcroft," [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/14/14; Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12; *St. Louis Business Journal*, 9/12/16; Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14; "Jay Ashcroft," [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15)
- Ashcroft also helped the firm's clients provide "immigration support" to clients seeking visas, asylum, and reviews of their immigration status. ("Jay Ashcroft," [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15)
- The Ashcroft Law Firm's growing list of controversial clients has included the Russian "Merchant of Death" who was recently sent back to Russia in exchange for imprisoned WNBA star Brittney Griner; a Ukrainian oligarch accused of murder and financial crimes; the regime in Qatar that has long hosted exiled members of Hamas' leadership; the repressive Republic of Congo; and a corrupt former Indonesian prime minister. (*Reuters*, 12/5/14; *Reuters*, 6/10/17; *Law360*, 1/19/22; FARA, Ashcroft Law Firm Filing, 4/1/18; *The Daily Beast*, 4/8/19)
  - While it is unclear if Ashcroft worked for the firm's clients listed in the preceding bullet, such clients have enriched his family, who have contributed over \$170,000 to his campaigns and a supportive PAC. ("Janet Elise Ashcroft," [FollowTheMoney.org](#), Accessed 9/13/23; MEC, Contribution Database, Accessed 9/13/23; "John Ashcroft," [FollowTheMoney.org](#), Accessed 9/13/23; MEC, Contribution Database, Accessed 9/13/23)

### Running For Office On His Father's Name

- During Ashcroft's failed 2014 State Senate bid, he ran with establishment support, appeared on the ballot as "John R. Ashcroft," and he invoked his father's past work with Democrats. (*St. Louis Public Radio*, 7/24/14; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/14/14)

- During Ashcroft's 2016 Missouri Secretary of State bid, he admitted his last name helped him win the Republican primary. (["Politically Speaking,"](#) 10/5/16)

## Father's Gubernatorial Legacy Of Tax & Spending Hikes

- During his time as the governor of Missouri, Jay's father, John Ashcroft, repeatedly worked with the Democrat-controlled legislature to push tax and spending hikes.
  - During John Ashcroft's two terms as governor, he supported \$947.5 million in tax hikes, many of which were also backed by the Democrat-controlled legislature. (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8/27/00)
  - During John Ashcroft's two terms as governor, Missouri's state budget increased from \$5.7 billion to \$10.2 billion, an increase of 79 percent. (*The Kansas City Star*, 11/3/94)

## RUNNING AS A MODERATE IN 2014

- During Ashcroft's failed 2014 State Senate campaign in a moderate St. Louis County district, he said that he would compromise with Democrats, did not rule out a gas tax hike, and he was noncommittal on if he would support ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion in Missouri. ([The Missouri Times](#), 7/24/14; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10/27/14)
- In 2014, Ashcroft also faced criticism for taking "few hard-and-fast stands," "campaigning on a vague limited-government philosophy," and "veering away from promising specific policy goals." (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10/27/14; [St. Louis Public Radio](#), 10/24/14)

## POTENTIAL TRUMP VULNERABILITIES

### Not An Early Supporter Of Trump's 2016 Presidential Campaign

- In December 2015, Ashcroft declined to tell an interviewer if he had a "short list" of presidential favorites, and, in March 2016, he said that none of the Republican or Democrat presidential candidates "looked very presidential" during their debates. ([This Week In Missouri Politics](#), 12/13/15; 3:45 Mark; "Politically Speaking," [St. Louis Public Radio](#), 3/10/16; 26:10 Mark)

### Having It Both Ways On The 2020 Election

- Despite calling the 2020 election a success in Missouri, Ashcroft questioned its legitimacy in other states. **More recently, he met with election conspiracist Mike Lindell.** (*Democrat News*, 11/11/20; *The Griffon News*, 11/14/20; [The Kansas City Star](#), 1/5/23)
- In September 2020, Ashcroft encouraged Missouri voters to ignore then-President Donald Trump's claim that mail-in ballots would lead to fraud, but after the election he expressed a deep mistrust in such ballots. (*The Griffon News*, 11/14/20; [St. Louis Public Radio](#), 9/24/20)
- In 2021, Ashcroft refused to say the election was stolen from Trump, and he later said "the right person [Biden] probably won the election." (*The Kansas City Star*, 1/11/21; "This Week In Missouri Politics – October 17, 2021," [This Week In Missouri Politics](#), 10/17/21) Minute: 09:30 – 10:01

### Dodging A Question About Trump's Georgia Indictment

- In August 2023, Ashcroft dodged a question about how he would have handled Trump's indictment for interfering in Georgia's 2020 election. ([The Kansas City Star](#), 8/15/23)

## SILENT DURING THE ERIC GREITENS SCANDAL

- In 2018, Ashcroft refused to comment on the Greitens sex scandal that led to his resignation as governor. ([The Kansas City Star](#), 5/30/18; *The Kansas City Star*, 2/23/18; *Springfield News-Leader*, 5/7/18)

# POTENTIAL ISSUE VULNERABILITIES

## State Spending

- While Ashcroft has campaigned as an outspoken critic of the recent growth of Missouri's state budget, a review of his own office budgets found that general revenue appropriations nearly doubled, while actual general revenue expenditures grew by a more modest 15 percent. (Missouri Office of Administration, [Executive Budgets-FY2017 To FY 2023](#), Accessed 10/22/23)
  - **NOTE:** The client should consult with a pro-Kehoe state budget expert before using the budget data referenced above. In past campaigns, state budget debates have largely hinged on general revenue data.

## Foreign Ownership Of Missouri Land

- In 2023, Ashcroft supported failed legislation to restrict, but not ban, the foreign ownership of land in Missouri. The Ashcroft-backed bill also faced questions about the removal of language to ban the foreign ownership of land near U.S. military bases. ([Jefferson City News Tribune](#), 1/25/23; Missouri Senate Agriculture, Food Production & Outdoor Resources Committee, Jay Ashcroft Testimony On SB 55, 1/24/23)

## Crime

- In 2023, Ashcroft testified in support of a failed omnibus crime bill that featured several Republican-backed provisions, but also included language to provide taxpayer-funded health care to ex-prisoners. ([Jefferson City News Tribune](#), 1/27/23)

## Abortion

- In 2023, Ashcroft implied he would resign as governor, rather than push back, if abortion rights were passed in Missouri. ([CBS-4 KMOV](#), 11/1/23)
- In 2023, Ashcroft opposed adding exceptions for rape and incest to Missouri's abortion ban. ([The Kansas City Star](#), 7/27/23)

## Transgender Rule

- In 2023, Ashcroft opposed Attorney General Andrew Bailey's rule to restrict hormone therapy and gender surgeries for adults. ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/20/23)

## The Influence Of Lobbyists

- While Ashcroft has railed against the influence of lobbyists in Jefferson City, his top fundraiser is a lobbyist (Steve Tilley), and his campaign committee and a supportive PAC have received over \$150,000 in donations from lobbyists and special interest groups. (MEC, Ashcroft For Missouri & Committee For Liberty-Analysis, Updated 11/1/23)

## Indebted To Trial Lawyers

- To date, the pro-Ashcroft Committee for Liberty has received \$1 million or 65% of its donations from deep-pocketed trial lawyers. (MEC, Ashcroft For Missouri & Committee For Liberty-Analysis, Updated 11/1/23)

# FLAGGED TRAVEL

- During Ashcroft's time as Secretary of State, the Bill Gates-funded, pro-CRT Hunt Institute paid nearly \$5,000 for his lodging and travel; the left-leaning news website Axios paid \$1,211.57 for one of his trips, and the pro-ESG and -amnesty Bipartisan Policy Center paid \$882.74 for another trip. (MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

# SECRETARY OF STATE ISSUES

## Photo ID Failures

- In 2015, Ashcroft launched a high-profile amendment petition to implement photo ID requirements in Missouri, but he failed to submit any signatures. ([The Missouri Times](#), 5/13/16)
- As Missouri's Secretary of State, Ashcroft repeatedly lost legal battles to uphold the state's photo ID law and was forced to campaign for reelection in 2020 on reviving the law. ([Columbia Daily Tribune](#), 2/22/20)

## "Zuckerbucks"

- In 2020, Ashcroft's office accepted a \$1.4 million grant from the Mark Zuckerberg-funded Center for Election Innovation & Research, which Trump supporters accused of being part of Zuckerberg's \$500 million effort to elect Joe Biden president. ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 10/10/20; [Fox Business](#), 9/22/22)

## ERIC Program

- In 2023, Ashcroft pulled Missouri out of the multi-state ERIC program, which ensures the accuracy of voter rolls, just five years after he touted the state's entry into it. He made the move shortly after Trump supporters attacked the program. (Bipartisan Policy Center, [Blog Post](#), 2/1/18; [Missouri Independent](#), 3/7/23)

## Marijuana Ballot Initiative Petition

- In 2022, Ashcroft certified a ballot initiative petition to place a referendum on the 2022 ballot allowing voters to legalize recreational marijuana in Missouri. ([Springfield News-Leader](#), 12/6/21; [Kansas City Business Journal](#), 8/9/22)
- Ashcroft's office, in coordination with the campaign behind the ballot initiative, approved the petition via a secretive process, whereby it overruled the decisions of local election officials that had disqualified thousands of signatures. ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)
  - Steve Tilley, a top Ashcroft fundraiser, has been a registered lobbyist for the group behind the petition since January 2022. (MEC, [Lobbyist Database](#), Accessed 11/1/23)
- Opponents of legalizing drugs launched a failed legal challenge, claiming the petition was improperly certified by Ashcroft. ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)
- Marijuana legalization in states such as California has led to increases in illegal marijuana production, increased criminal activity, and threats to police and civilians. ([The Los Angeles Times](#), 9/8/22)

## Ballot Language Challenges To Abortion-Related Initiative Petitions

- In 2023, Missouri judges rewrote Ashcroft's ballot language for six pro-abortion initiative petitions, stating they were biased, "misleading," and "replete with politically partisan language." ([The Joplin Globe](#), 9/25/23; [Missouri Independent](#), 10/31/23)
- In 2023, a group behind an initiative petition to add exceptions for rape and incest to Missouri's abortion ban filed a pending lawsuit against Ashcroft for writing unfair and inaccurate ballot language. ([Missouri Independent](#), 10/27/23)

## Potentially Expensive Anti-ESG Rule

- In 2023, Ashcroft clashed with business and trade groups over his issuance of an anti-ESG rule, which critics fear will increase fees on Missouri investors and financial firms. ([The Kansas City Beacon](#), 8/3/23)

## Taxpayer-Funded Work For A Campaign Donor

- In 2023, Ashcroft used tax dollars to hire a campaign donor to represent him in a legal challenge to his anti-ESG rule. ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 9/9/23)

## \$9.7 Million Mistake

- In 2023, a state audit found that Ashcroft's office lacked "adequate controls and procedures over financial reporting" that could have resulted in an overstatement of at least \$9.7 million in financial statements. (Missouri State Auditor, [Audit Report 2023-56](#), Filed 9/15/23)

## Politicizing Local Elections

- In 2021, Ashcroft said he was considering a measure to turn local elections into partisan battles. ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), 9/17/21)

## State Referendums

- Ashcroft has supported making it harder for Missourians to place constitutional amendments on the statewide ballot. (St. Louis Public Radio, 3/27/19)

## TOUTING A SHORT-LIVED ENGINEERING CAREER

- While Ashcroft has been touting the decade he spent "devoted to engineering," he flunked out of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's engineering program, and he later spent just 4 years working as an actual engineer and 6 years teaching about engineering at a community college. While it is unclear if Ashcroft was required to be licensed by the state for his work as an engineer, his name does not appear in the state's licensing database for professional engineers. ("John Ashcroft," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22; Missouri Secretary Of State's Office, [Jay Ashcroft Biography Page](#), Accessed 8/24/22; U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, FOIA Response, 8/15/23)



# TIMELINE

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**July 12, 1973 – Born John “Jay” Robert Ashcroft In Jefferson City, MO.** (Nexis, Accessed 10/26/21; “About Jay,” [Ashcroft For Missouri](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**1990 – Graduated From Jefferson City High School.** ([California Democrat](#), 7/17/19)

**July 1991-June 1994 – Attended The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/11/16)

**1994-1996 – Graduated With A B.S. In Engineering Management From The Missouri University Of Science & Technology.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**May 1996-June 2000 – Worked As An Engineer At Systems & Electronics, Inc.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**1997-1998 – Graduated With A Master’s Degree In Engineering Management From The Missouri University Of Science & Technology.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**July 2000-May 2006 – Worked As An Engineering Professor At St. Louis Community College.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21 ; “About Jay,” [Ashcroft For Missouri](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**2002-2008 – Graduated With A J.D. From St. Louis University’s School Of Law.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**September 2008-February 2009 – Worked As An Associate At Armstrong Teasdale.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**May 2009- 2017 – Worked As An Associate At The Ashcroft Law Firm.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**August 5, 2014 – Won The Republican Primary For Missouri State Senate District 24 With 54 Percent Of The Vote.** (“Primary Election August 5, 2014,” [Missouri Secretary Of State](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**November 4, 2014 – Lost The General Election For Missouri State Senate District 24 With 46 Percent Of The Vote.** (“General Election November 4, 2014,” [Missouri Secretary Of State](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**August 2, 2016 – Won The Republican Primary For Missouri Secretary Of State With 61.3 Percent Of The Vote.** (“Primary Election August 2, 2016,” [Missouri Secretary Of State](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**November 8, 2016 – Won The General Election For Missouri Secretary Of State With 57.6 Percent Of The Vote.** (“General Election November 8, 2016,” [Missouri Secretary Of State](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**January 2017-Present – Served As Missouri Secretary Of State.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**August 4, 2020 – Won The Uncontested Republican Primary For Missouri Secretary Of State.** (“Primary Election August 4, 2020,” [Missouri Secretary Of State](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**November 3, 2020 – Won The General Election For Missouri Secretary Of State With 60.5 Percent Of The Vote.** (“General Election November 3, 2020,” [Missouri Secretary Of State](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

**April 6, 2023 –Declared His Candidacy For Missouri Governor.** ([Missouri Independent](#), 4/6/23)

# PUBLIC RECORDS

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# PROPERTY RECORDS

112 Monterey Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109



(Zillow.com, [112 Monterey Drive Profile](#), Accessed 2/28/22)

**Ashcroft And His Wife, Katherine, Own The Residence Located At 112 Monterey Drive In Jefferson City, MO**

**According To Cole County Records, The Ashcrofts Have Owned The Residence Located At 112 Monterey Drive Since 2017.** (Find Data, [MidMOGIS](#), Accessed 2/8/22)

ASSESSOR INFORMATION	
Parcel ID	1003050004001015
Property Location	112 MONTEREY DR MO 65109
Owner	ASHCROFT, JOHN ROBERT & KATHERINE MARIE
	112 MONTEREY DR
	JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109
Property Description	EMERALD RIDGE SEC 1 LOT 7
Deed Book-Page-Date	{679-209 8/8/2017}, {679-209 08/08/2017}, {662-797 03/04/2016}, {655-235 06/19/2015}
Sec-Twn-Rng	5/44/12

(Find Data, [MidMOGIS](#), Accessed 2/8/22)

**Ashcroft's Residence Has An Appraised Value Of \$269,100.** (Find Data, [MidMOGIS](#), Accessed 2/8/22)

Sec-Twn-Rng	5/44/12
SqFt-Above Grade	2882
Fin. Bsmnt Sz-SqFt	750
Year Built	1993
Date Certified	2021
Appraised Value	\$ 269100

(Find Data, [MidMOGIS](#), Accessed 2/8/22)

**The Ashcrofts Have Paid The Property Taxes On The Residence In A Timely Manner**

**Since The Ashcrofts Purchased The Residence Located At 112 Monterey Drive In 2017, They Have Paid The Property Taxes In A Timely Manner.** (Parcel Number 10-03-05-0004-001-015, [Cole County Property Tax Inquiry](#), Accessed 2/8/22)

**As Of September 10, 2023, There Are No Property Taxes Due On The Residence.** (Parcel Number 10-03-05-0004-001-015, [Cole County Property Tax Inquiry](#), Accessed 9/10/23)



SITE ADDRESS 112 MONTEREY DR 12.099

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
10-03-05-0004-001-015. EMERALD RIDGE SEC 1 LOT 7
Section: 5 Township: 44 Range: 12 Acres 0.96

ASHCROFT, JOHN ROBERT & KATHERINE MARIE  
112 MONTEREY DR  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109

ACCOUNT # 011477  
Lending Code:

2022 REAL ESTATE  
COUNTY OF COLE

VALUATION	
51,130	RESI
0	AGRI
0	COMM
51,130	TOTAL
<b>TAX RATE</b>	
5.9825	

TAX AMOUNT	
STATE OF MO	\$15.34
COLE COUNTY GR	\$34.00
JC SCHOOL DIST	\$2,433.43
CCSS	\$47.40
JEFF CITY FIRE PENSION FUND	\$49.14
LIBRARY	\$102.26
JEFFERSON CITY	\$235.20
ROAD & BRIDGE	\$142.09

TAX DUE	3,058.86
FEES	0.00
INTEREST / PENALTY	0.00
AMOUNT PAID	3,058.86
TOTAL DUE	0.00

Paid on  
12/29/2022

(Parcel Number 10-03-05-0004-001-015, [Cole County Property Tax Inquiry](#), Accessed 9/10/23)

**12138 Mirror Lake Drive, Creve Coeur, MO 63146**



(Coldwell Banker, [12138 Mirror Lake Drive](#), Accessed 2/28/22)

**From 2004 To 2017, Ashcroft And His Wife, Katherine, Owned The Residence Located At 12138 Mirror Lake Drive In Creve Coeur, Which They Sold For \$210,000. They Paid The Property Taxes On The Residence In A Timely Manner.** (St. Louis County Recorder's Office, [Deed Inquiry](#), Accessed 2/28/22)

3	Hale Dolores <i>Atret al</i> , Hale Living <i>tret al</i>	Ashcroft John R <i>et ux</i> , Ashcroft Katherine M E...	08/04/2004 1416	16014 1642	5	16O330405 WD	Orchard Lake Plat 6 Lot 48 Pb 104 Pg 90
4	Ashcroft John R <i>et ux</i> , Ashcroft Katherine M E...	Granneman Charles C Et..., Granneman Eric T <i>et ux</i>	08/24/2017 519	22666 2148	3	16O330405 WD	Orchard Lakes Plat #6 Lot:48 Plat Page:90

(St. Louis County Recorder's Office, [Deed Inquiry](#), Accessed 2/28/22)

### Sales Information: 16O330405 - All Available Years

Sale Date	Sale Price	Sale Type	Sale Validity Code - Name	Book - Page
08/24/2017	\$210,000	land and building	X - valid sale	22666 - 2148
08/04/2004	\$205,000	land and building	X - valid sale	16014 - 1642

(St. Louis County Recorder's Office, [Deed Inquiry](#), Accessed 2/28/22)

### Personal Property Records

**According To Cole County Records, The Ashcrofts Pay Personal Property Taxes On A 2011 Honda Pilot, A 2017 Nissan Versa, And A Small Boat. They Have Paid Their Taxes In A Timely Manner.** (Cole County Personal Property Tax Inquiry, [Jay & Katherine Ashcroft](#), Accessed 9/10/23)

Account Information			
<b>Account Number</b> 115634	<b>Account Type</b> PRIVATE	<b>Tax Status</b> Active	
<b>Tax Year</b> 2022	<b>Date Returned</b> 3/1/2022	<b>Tax Code</b> JCJEF -	
<b>Net Taxable Value</b> 5,250	<b>Tax Rate</b> 5.9825	<b>Total Tax</b> \$314.08	<a href="#">Pay Taxes</a>
<b>Owner Name &amp; Address</b> ASHCROFT, JOHN R & KATHERINE M 112 MONTEREY DR JEFFERSON CITY, MO, 65109			



Items			
Item	VIN	Quantity	Assessed Value
2011 HONDA PILOT UTILITY 4D EX-L 4WD 3.5L V6	5FNYF4H52BB021557	1	2,750
1975 JON BT10FT BOAT 10FT		1	100
2017 NISSAN VERSA SEDAN 4D S 1.6L I4	3N1CN7AP9HL819447	1	2,400
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,250</b>

Billing Details	
Tax Billed	\$314.08
Penalty Billed	\$0.00
Cost Billed	\$0.00
<b>Total Billed</b>	<b>\$314.08</b>
Amount Paid	\$314.08
<b>Total Unpaid</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Date Paid	12/29/2022
Paid By	ASHCROFT, JOHN R & KATHERINE M

**Tax Due Amounts**

Account Has No Balance Due.

(Cole County Personal Property Tax Inquiry, [Jay & Katherine Ashcroft](#), Accessed 9/10/23)

## VOTING RECORDS

### Ashcroft Is An Active Registered Voter In The State Of Missouri

**According To The Missouri Secretary Of State’s Office, Ashcroft Is Registered To Vote At His Jefferson City Residence.** (“Check Your Voter Registration,” [Missouri Secretary of State](#), Accessed 2/7/21)

**Check Your Voter Registration**

Yes, John Ashcroft is registered at 112 MONTEREY DR JEFFERSON CITY, 65109

Your precinct is 9.03. To view your polling place and a listing of candidates and issues on the next ballot, please visit our [Voter Outreach Portal](#)

(“Check Your Voter Registration,” [Missouri Secretary of State](#), Accessed 2/7/21)

### Prior To 2014, Ashcroft Failed To Vote In Six Major Elections, Including One Where His Father Was On The Ballot

**Ashcroft Did Not Catch “The Political Bug” Until 2014.** “Jay Ashcroft grew up in the Governor’s Mansion in Jefferson City, calling it home from age 11 to 19. He is the middle child of John D. Ashcroft, who served as Missouri’s governor from 1985 to 1992 and held a string of other state and federal offices – including U.S. attorney general – over three decades. Through it all, Jay Ashcroft, 41, didn’t catch the political bug. He became an engineer, a community college teacher and a lawyer. He married, had three children, made his home in an unincorporated area of St. Louis County and steered clear of the limelight. Then last March, Ashcroft suddenly joined the race for an open state Senate seat in the county’s 24<sup>th</sup> District. He said several Republican leaders, including party chief Ed Martin, encouraged him. After initially balking, he said yes. ‘I was looking at the potential people that were running for the seat and felt like I had a better view of the role of government, and that’s why I jumped in,’ Ashcroft said. In his view, ‘the purpose of government is to protect your right to live your life the way you’d like to.’” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/14/14)

**In 2016, Ashcroft Faced Questions About His Lackluster Voting History, Which Included Failing To Vote In One Of His Father’s Primaries, Missing A 2004 Vote To Preserve Traditional Marriage, And Skipping Three**

**Presidential Primaries.** “But to win, Jay Ashcroft is going to have to address his voting history. It may not be drop-dead embarrassing. But it is, well, questionable. Jay Ashcroft didn’t vote in that primary featuring his dad back in August 2000, and he didn’t vote in Missouri presidential primaries in 2000, 2004 or 2012. And he didn’t vote in the big Republican primary election in August 2008 when Republican candidates for governor Kenny Hulshof and Sarah Steelman squared off or the August 2004 primary election when that controversial constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman was on the ballot.” (The Kansas City Star, 6/23/16)

**In Total, Ashcroft Missed 6 Elections From 2000 To 2012.** “The Kraus online ad attacked Ashcroft for failing to vote in six major elections between 2000 and 2012. In response, Ashcroft said he’s been an active participant in elections his entire adult life as a voter and election judge and worker. He didn’t comment on the missed elections.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/11/16)

## PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Time Period	Filing Date	Employment (Over \$1K Income)	Miscellaneous Income	Associations	Lodging & Travel
3/29/15/ to 3/29/16	4/11/16	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	Orchard Lakes Suidivision HOA	None
1/1/16 to 12/31/16	2/7/17	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None
1/1/17 to 12/31/17	4/30/18	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	The Hunt Kean Institute paid \$1,672.67 for Ashcroft's 12/6 trip to DC related to a fellowship.
1/1/18 to 12/31/18	5/1/19	State Of Missouri	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	The Hunt Institute paid \$2,002.79 for Ashcroft's 8/8 to 8/10 trip to Seattle, WA related to a fellowship; Axios paid \$1,211.57 for Ashcroft's 10/24 to 10/25 trip to DC for an election security forum; the Bipartisan Policy Center paid \$882.74 for Ashcroft's 4/26 to 4/27 trip to DC for a voting forum; the Belfer Center paid \$623.87 for Ashcroft's 12/3 to 12/4 trip to Cambridge, MA for a cybersecurity conference.
1/1/19 to 3/31/20	4/13/20	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None	The U.S. Election Assistance Commission paid \$506.68 for Ashcroft's 4/10 trip to Memphis for a board meeting; the Hunt Institute paid \$1,188.69 for Ashcroft's 3/6 trip to North Carolina for an education meeting; the RSLC paid \$2,680.35 for Ashcroft's 12/8 trip to Wyoming for a retreat.
1/1/20 to 12/31/20	5/3/21	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	River Oak Christian Academy (Spouse)	None
1/1/21 to 12/30/21	5/2/22	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None	None
1/1/22 to 12/30/22	5/1/23	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse); Wendy's (Son)	None	River Oak Christian Academy (Spouse)	The Heritage Foundation paid \$1,216.37 for Ashcroft's April trip to DC to speak on elections; the Conservative Partnership Institute paid \$1,015.85 for Ashcroft's July trip to DC to speak on elections; the RNLA paid \$219 for Ashcroft's August trip to Phoenix, AZ to speak on elections; the Foundation for Government Accountability paid an undisclosed amount for Ashcroft's December trip to Naples, FL to speak on elections.

(MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

- **Ashcroft Worked For His Father’s Law Firm Until 2017, And His Wife, Katherine, Is A Lawyer Who Has Written Law Books For Cengage Learning.**
- **Ashcroft Has Not Disclosed Any Stocks, Bonds Or Other Holdings With An Equity Interest In Excess Of \$10,000.**
- **Since 2017, Groups, Companies And Agencies, Including The Hunt Institute, Axios, The Bipartisan Policy Center And The Heritage Foundation, Have Paid Over \$13,000 For Ashcroft’s Lodging And Travel Costs To Attend Events In D.C., Tennessee, North Carolina, Washington, Wyoming, And Florida.**

## COURT RECORDS

### In 2013, Ashcroft Was Charged With Operating A Motor Vehicle With Brakes Not In Good Working Order, For Which He Was Fined \$100

**On September 2, 2013, Ashcroft Was Charged With “Operated Mtr Veh With Brakes Not In Good Working Order (2 Sets Except Motorcycle).”** (State v. John Robert Ashcroft, Case No. 701011416, [Missouri State Court System](#), Accessed 1/31/22)

Charge/Judgment		
<b>Description:</b> Operated Mtr Veh With Brakes Not In Good Working Order (2 Sets Except Motorcycle) { <i>Infraction RSMo: 307.170</i> }	<b>Code:</b> 4826600	<b>Disposition:</b> Guilty Plea - 11/19/2013
<b>Date:</b> 09/02/2013		<b>Arresting Agency:</b> MO HP TROOP D - SPRINGFIELD
Sentence		
<b>Sentence:</b> Fine	<b>Start Date:</b> 11/19/2013	<b>Fine:</b> \$100.00
<b>Sentence Date:</b> 11/19/2013		

(State V. John Robert Ashcroft, Case No. 701011416, [Missouri State Court System](#), Accessed 1/31/22)

**On November 15, 2013, Ashcroft Pled Guilty.** (State V. John Robert Ashcroft, Case No. 701011416, [Missouri State Court System](#), Accessed 1/31/22)

11/15/2013	<b>Traffic Arraignment Scheduled</b> <b>Associated Entries:</b> 11/19/2013 - Guilty Plea <b>Scheduled For:</b> 11/25/2013; 9:00 AM ; KENNETH FOSTER THOMPSON; Webster
	<b>Hearing Continued/Rescheduled</b> <b>Hearing Continued From:</b> 11/18/2013; 10:00 AM Traffic Arraignment

(State v. John Robert Ashcroft, Case No. 701011416, [Missouri State Court System](#), Accessed 1/31/22)

**On November 19, 2013, Ashcroft Was Fined \$100. He Later Paid The Fine.** (State V. John Robert Ashcroft, Case No. 701011416, [Missouri State Court System](#), Accessed 1/31/22)

11/19/2013	<b>Record of Traffic Disp Issued</b>
	<b>Costs &amp;/or Fines Paid in Full</b> <b>Filed By:</b> JOHN ROBERT ASHCROFT
	<b>Infr Cost Pd VB non TR</b> <b>Filed By:</b> JOHN ROBERT ASHCROFT
	<b>Guilty Plea</b> <b>Associated Entries:</b> 11/15/2013 - Hearing Continued/Rescheduled <b>Associated Entries:</b> 11/15/2013 - Traffic Arraignment Scheduled <b>Scheduled For:</b> 11/25/2013; 9:00 AM ; KENNETH FOSTER THOMPSON; Webster

(State v. John Robert Ashcroft, Case No. 701011416, [Missouri State Court System](#), Accessed 1/31/22)

## PERSONAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

### At The Federal Level, Ashcroft Has Contributed \$200 To The Missouri Republican State Committee’s Federal Account

**On March 10, 2020, Ashcroft Contributed \$200 To The Missouri Republican State Committee’s Federal Account.** (“Individual Contributions,” [Federal Election Commission](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

Date	Name	Recipient	State	Employer	Amount
3/10/20	ASHCROFT, JOHN R	MISSOURI REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE-FEDERAL	MO	STATE OF MISSOURI	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>					<b>\$200.00</b>

(“Individual Contributions,” [Federal Election Commission](#), Accessed 9/7/23)





## At The State Level, Ashcroft Has Contributed Over \$2,800 To Republican Candidates And Committees

C000983	JEFFERSON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	July Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr. Saint Louis MO 63146	Ashcroft Law Firm/Attorney	05/11/2015	\$155.00	Monetary	No
C061024	GREENE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	October Quarterly Report	Jay Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr St Louis MO 63146	Attorney	07/27/2015	\$100.00	Monetary	No
C061024	GREENE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	April Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr St Louis MO 63146	Attorney	03/24/2015	\$120.00	Monetary	No

(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

C141305	STEPHAN GORDON CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN	8 Day Before General Municipal Election-4/7/2015	Jay Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr St Louis MO 63146	Attorney	03/12/2015	\$150.00	Monetary	No
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(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

C151010	SCHNELTING FOR MISSOURI	July Quarterly Report	John R Or Katherine Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Drive Saint Louis MO 63146	The Ashcroft Law Firm	06/13/2015	\$100.00	Monetary	No
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(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

C000387	ST CHARLES COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	8 Day Before General Municipal Election- 4/5/2016	JOHN P ASHCROFT 12138 MIRROR LAKE DRIVE SAINT LOUIS MO 63146	ASHCROFT LAW FIRM	03/07/2016	\$55.00	Monetary	No
C000953	MO REPUBLICAN PARTY	April Quarterly Report	John R Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr St Louis MO 63146	Self/Attorney	02/23/2016	\$200.00	Monetary	No
C000953	MO REPUBLICAN PARTY	April Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 12138 mirror lake drive St. Louis MO 63146	Self/Attorney	02/24/2016	\$660.00	Monetary	No
C000978	LAFAYETTE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	April Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr St Louis MO 63146	Ashcroft Law Firm	03/04/2016	\$120.00	Monetary	No
C051190	COLE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	April Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr. 3944 Blocks Branch Rd. St Louis MO 63146	former Atty. General, USA/consultant	02/15/2016	\$120.00	Monetary	No
C061024	GREENE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	April Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr 4463 E Golden Oak Ln St Louis MO 63146	Attorney	03/10/2016	\$240.00	Monetary	No
C061024	GREENE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE	October Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Dr St Louis MO 63146	Attorney	07/27/2016	\$100.00	Monetary	No

(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

C161082	Friends Of Sara Walsh	30 Day After Election- 8/8/2017	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Drive Saint Louis MO 63146	State of Missouri/Missouri Secretary of State	07/28/2017	\$200.00	Monetary	No
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(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

C000898	WEBSTER COUNTY CENTRAL REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE	July Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 112 Monterey Drive Jefferson City MO 65706	State of Missouri/Secretary of State	05/05/2018	\$50.00	Monetary	No
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(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

A151004	Citizens For Stumpe	8 Day Before General Municipal Election-4/2/2019	John Ashcroft 12138 Mirror Lake Rd St. Louis MO 63146	State of Missouri	03/10/2019	\$250.00	Monetary	No
C000310	Randolph County Republican Central Committee	April Quarterly Report	Jay Ashcroft 208 Capital Building Jefferson City MO 65270	State of MO /Sec of State	03/14/2019	\$35.00	Monetary	No

(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

C000482	Crawford County Republican Central Committee	April Quarterly Report	Jay Ashcroft 600 West Main Street Jefferson City MO 65101	State of Missouri/Secretary of State	03/05/2020	\$20.00	Monetary	No
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(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

MECID	Committee Name	Report	Contributor Name/Address	Employer/Occupation	Contribution Date	Contribution Amount	Monetary/In- Kind
C000970	MACON COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE	July Quarterly Report	Jay Ashcroft 112 Monterey Dr Jefferson City MO 65109	State of MO/Sec. of State	04/21/2023	\$100.00	Monetary
C081336	Moniteau County Republican Club	April Quarterly Report	JAY ASHCROFT 201 W CAPITOL AVE JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101	State of Missouri/SOS	02/04/2023	\$35.00	Monetary

(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

MECID	Committee Name	Report	Contributor Name/Address	Employer/Occupation	Contribution Date	Contribution Amount	Monetary/In-Kind
C000978	Lafayette County Republican Central Committee	July Quarterly Report	John Ashcroft 112 Monterey Dr Jefferson City MO 65109	State of Missouri	04/20/2023	\$40.00	Monetary

(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

MECID	Committee Name	Report	Contributor Name/Address	Employer/Occupation	Contribution Date	Contribution Amount	Monetary/In-Kind
C222263	Mark Mantovani for STL	30 Day After General Election-11/8/2022	John R Ashcroft 112 Monterey Drive Jefferson City MO 65109	State of Missouri/Secretary of State	11/08/2022	\$250.00	Monetary

(MEC, [Campaign Contribution Database](#), Accessed 9/7/23)

## PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

### EDUCATION

**Ashcroft Attended The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy For Three Years Before Dropping Out For Unspecified Reasons**

**According To Ashcroft's LinkedIn Profile, He Attended The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy From 1991 To 1994**

**From 1991 To 1994, Ashcroft Attended The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy In Kings Point, New York.** ("John Ashcroft," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)



United States Merchant Marine Academy  
1991 - 1994

("John Ashcroft," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)

**Ashcroft Was Pictured In The Midships Yearbooks For 1992, 1993 And 1994**

**In The 1992 Midships Yearbook, Ashcroft Was Listed As A Member Of The Academy's 1991 Soccer Team.** (Midships, 1992 Yearbook, Page 340)

# SOCCER

The 1991 Kings Point Soccer Team started off the season slowly, going 0-3-2 in their first five games, but then the flood gates opened and the Mariners went 8-4 in their remaining 12 regular season games to finish second in the Skyline Conference behind New Jersey Tech. The Kings Point Booters got the last laugh, however, when they eliminated New Jersey Tech in a 2-1 overtime victory during the first round of the 1991 ECAC Metropolitan Post-Season Tournament. In the tournament finals, the Mariners beat William Paterson 4-2 in overtime to win the Tournament.

The Mariners swept the Skyline Conference post season honors this year with head coach Michael Smolens winning Coach of the Year, while Jim Homan was named Co-Player of the Year and Jeff Brennan was named Rookie of the Year. Also receiving Skyline honors for the Mariners were Mike Martino and Jim O'Leary, who joined Jim Homan on the First Team All-Stars, while Kevin Fitzpatrick, Mike Murphy, Chris Schroeder, and Brennan were all named second team All-Stars. With two beautiful goals in the 4-2 overtime win against William Paterson, Brennan also took home the ECAC Tournament's Most Valuable Player award.

The team will be graduating five seniors this year. Co-Captains Jim Homan and Jim O'Leary along with Mike Martino, Chris Janus, and Rob Schiachetano. But with Coach Smolens and new Co-Captains Mike Murphy and Chris Schroeder at the helm, along with an excellent and experienced returning squad, the 1992 season looks promising for the Mariners.



TEAM PHOTO

Top Row: Trainer Kris Koster, Kevin McNutt, Matt Shanley, Brian Kibildis, Jim Brennan, Jim Kirslya, Brett Miller, Chris Wolfheld, Mike Murphy, Brian Brown, Brian Homan, Jim O'Leary, Rob Schiachetano, Peter Jacobs, Coach Mike Smolens. Bottom Row: John Ashcroft, Matt Hunnuksela, Chris Paul, Chris Schroeder, John Shaw, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Chris Janus, Mike Martino, Peter Keegan, Gianni Bocuzzi, Jeff Brennan. Not pictured: Scott Scherer.

(Midships, 1992 Yearbook, Page 340)

In The 1992 Midships Yearbook, Ashcroft Was Listed As A Member Of The 4<sup>th</sup> Company A-Split, Class Of 1995. (Midships, 1992 Yearbook, Page 273)

## FOURTH COMPANY A-SPLIT



Class Of 1995

- |             |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| ALLARICE    | GIAMBRONE  | ROAN       |
| ALTENBURN   | GROSS      | SCHERR     |
| ASHCROFT    | HERRMAN    | SCOBED     |
| BARGALLO    | HODGAS     | SEDLER     |
| BISHOP, C.  | JANKOWSKI  | SHAW       |
| BISHOP, J.  | KEEGAN     | SHEDLOCK   |
| BOCZZI      | KINNYA     | SIMPSON    |
| BONSA       | KONZE      | SMITH, A.  |
| BOWEN       | LAWS       | SMITH, C.  |
| BRIGHELLI   | LIV        | SNIPES     |
| BRUNER      | MCLITT     | SNYDER, K. |
| CAPEK       | MIRONOV    | SNYDER, M. |
| CONROY      | MCKINLEY   | STEWART    |
| DOVACHUR    | MORGAN     | TELLERIA   |
| ESTRADA     | MISGITT    | WAGLER/PAL |
| FRANGIAMORE | PENLUCEN   | WHITCOMB   |
| FUHER       | QUINN      |            |
| GALTER      | RINGWELSKI |            |

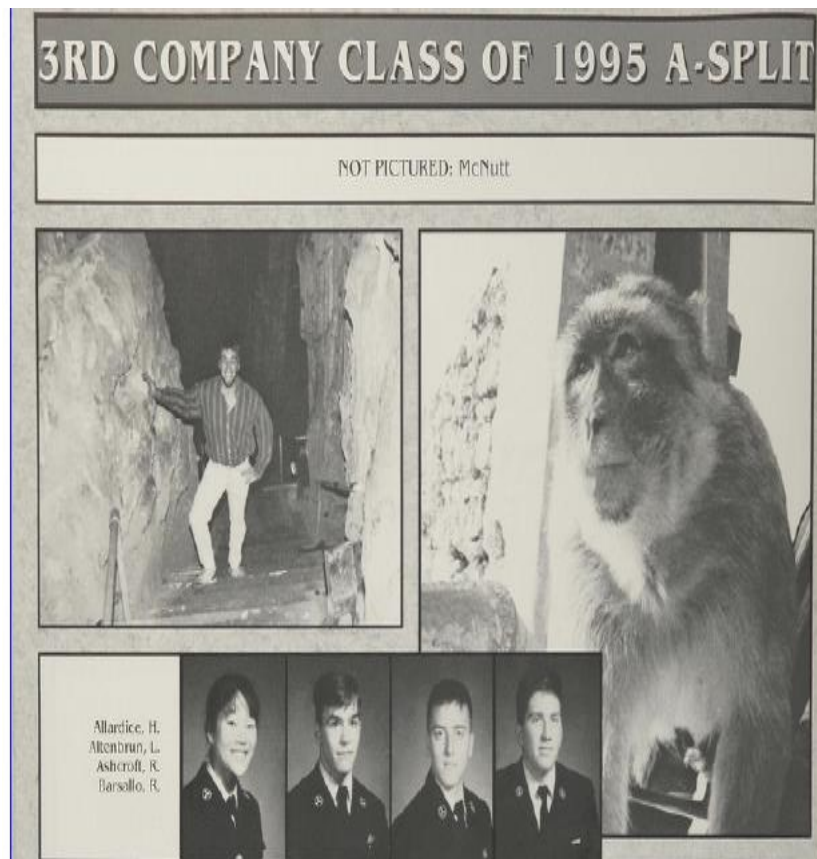
(Midships, 1992 Yearbook, Page 273)

**In The 1993 Midships Yearbook, Ashcroft Was Again Listed As A Member Of The 4<sup>th</sup> Company A-Split, Class Of 1995.** (Midships, 1993 Yearbook, Page 202)



(Midships, 1993 Yearbook, Page 202)

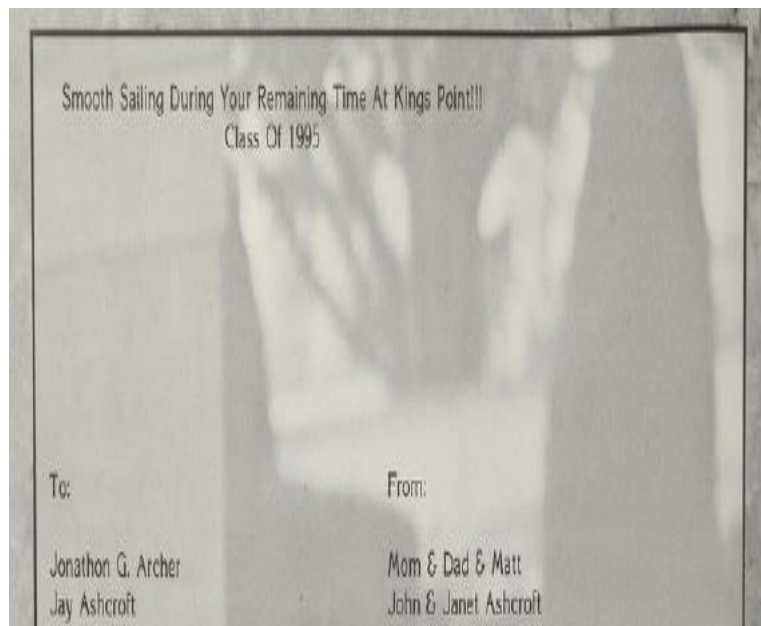
**In The 1994 Midships Yearbook, Ashcroft Was Listed As A Member Of The 3<sup>rd</sup> Company A-Split, Class Of 1995.** (Midships, 1994 Yearbook, Page 218)



(Midships, 1994 Yearbook, Page 218)

**In 1992, Ashcroft's Parents Signed Onto A Yearbook Message Wishing The Class Of 1995 "Smooth Sailing" At The Academy**

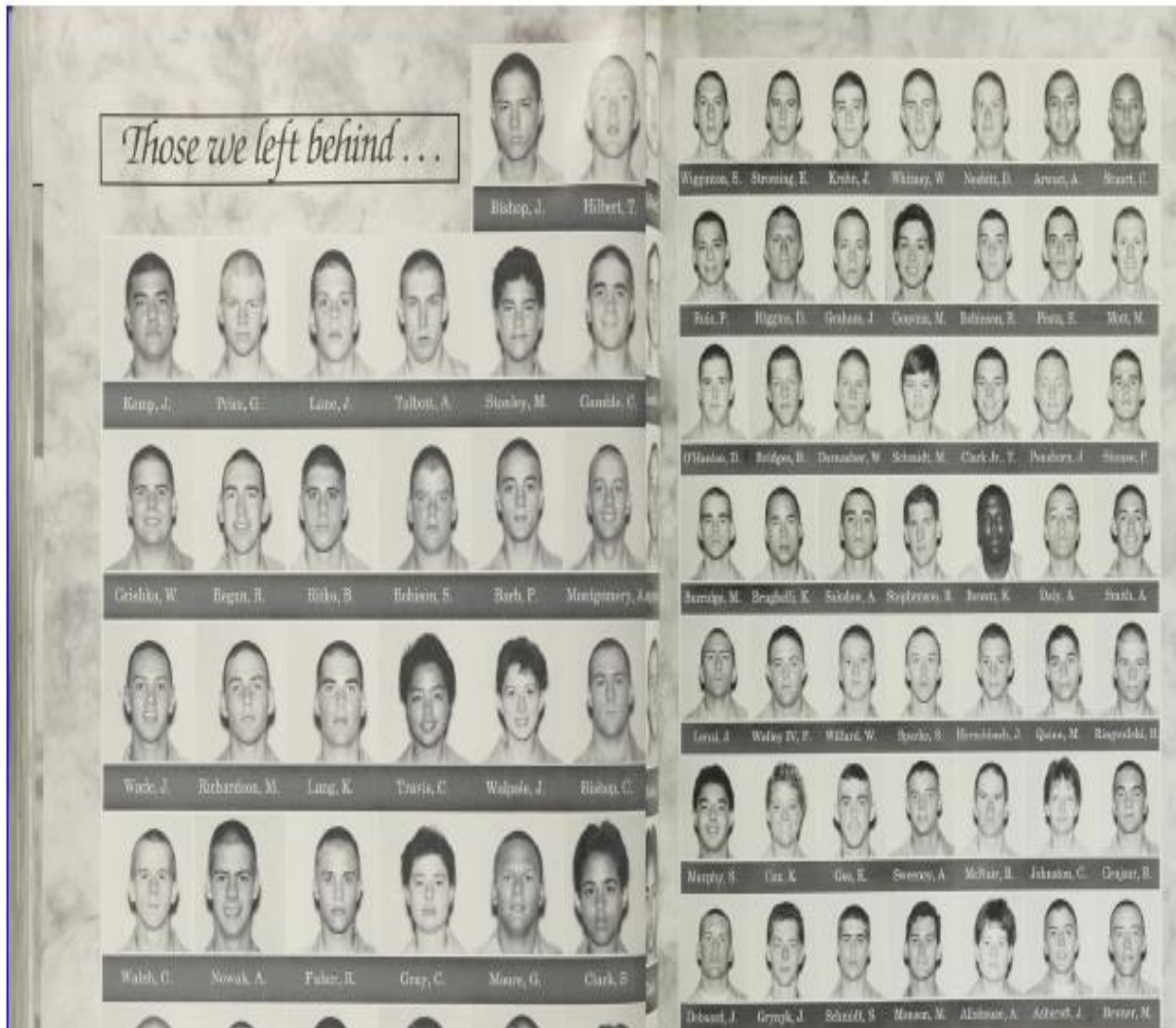
**In The 1992 Midships Yearbook, Ashcroft's Parents Signed Onto A Yearbook Message Wishing The Class Of 1995 "Smooth Sailing."** (Midships, 1992 Yearbook, Page 398)



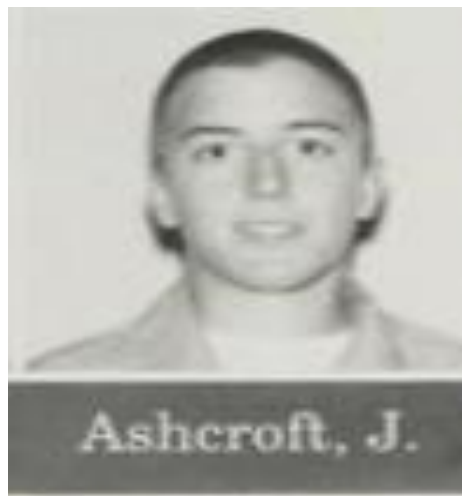
(Midships, 1992 Yearbook, Page 398)

**Ashcroft's Failure Was Noted In The 1995 Midships Yearbook**

**In The 1995 Midships Yearbook, Ashcroft Was Pictured Among “Those We Left Behind.”** (Midships 1995 Yearbook, Pages 452-453)

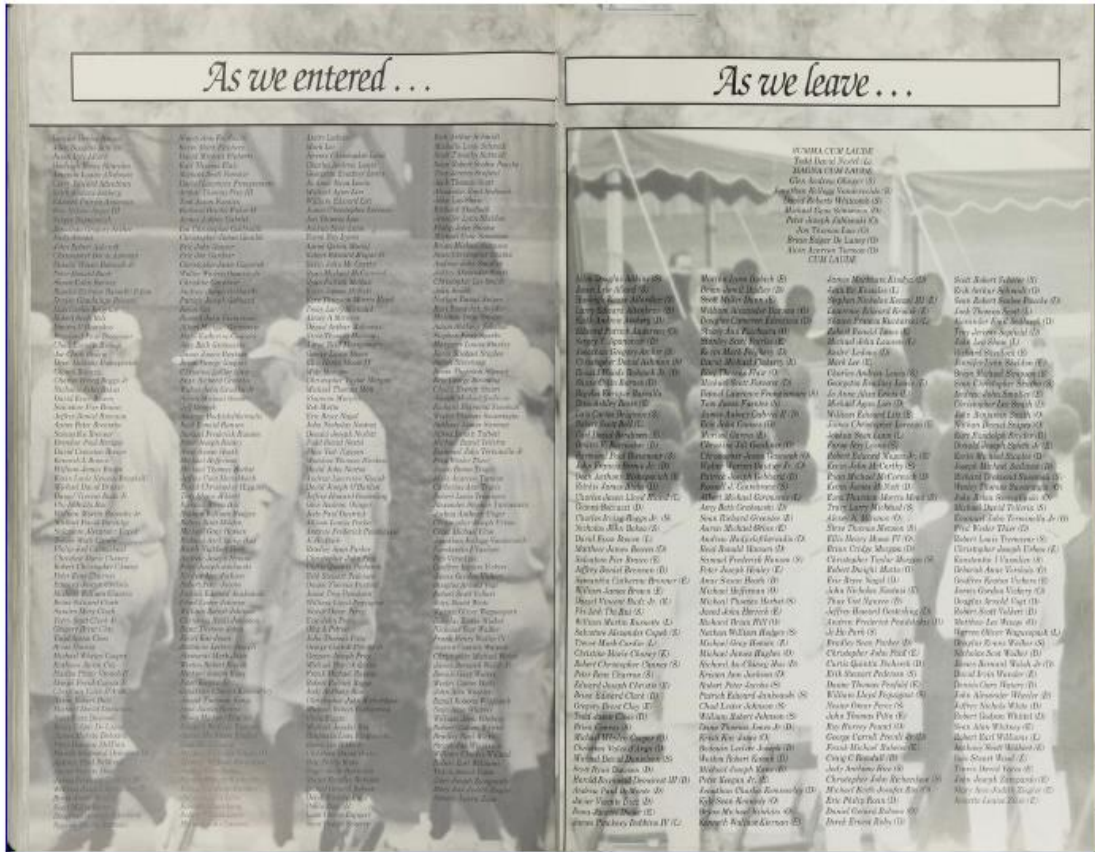


(Midships, 1995 Yearbook, Pages 452-453)



(Midships, 1995 Yearbook, Page 453)

**Ashcroft's Failure Was Also Noted In A 2-Page Spread Titled "As We Entered ... As We Leave ..." His Name Was Listed In The "As We Entered" Page, But It Was Not Listed On The "As We Leave" Page. (Midships, 1995 Yearbook, Pages 450-451)**



(Midships, 1995 Yearbook, Pages 450-451)

**Despite A Law Requiring Merchant Marine Academy Dropouts To Repay Their Taxpayer-Funded Tuition Or To Enlist In The Military, Ashcroft Has Claimed He Did Not Have Any Outstanding Obligations**

In July 2016, Ashcroft's GOP Primary Opponent, State Sen. Will Kraus, Noted That He Dropped Out Of The Merchant Marine Academy After Just Three Years. "State Sen. Will Kraus of Lee's Summit ran a video ad wondering why Jay Ashcroft, his opponent in the primary for secretary of state, dropped out of the Merchant Marine Academy after just three years. 'Was he dismissed for bad behavior?' the announcer asks ominously. 'He doesn't answer your questions. He doesn't finish the job. He is far from who he says he is.'" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/17/16)

- **Kraus' Campaign Charged That Ashcroft Was Legally Obligated To Either Join The Military, Repay His Taxpayer-Funded Tuition, Or Get Special Permission To Not Repay His Tuition As A Result Of His Decision To Drop Out Of The Academy.** "A video from the Kraus campaign: Announcer: Jay Ashcroft uses his last name as a political tool, but he's fallen far from the family tree. Jay attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy for three years, which by law means he must serve in the military, repay taxes for his tuition, or get special permission not to. But Jay never finished at the Academy. He didn't serve. He hasn't said he repaid taxpayers and he won't tell us why. Did he get special treatment because his father was governor? Was he dismissed for bad behavior? Missourians don't know because Jay won't answer basic questions about a serious issue." (Show Me Progress, 7/5/16)
- **A Service Obligation Document For The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy States, "Failure To Comply With Your Service Obligation Will Result In Induction Into The U.S. Armed Forces Or Repayment Of (A) The Cost Of The Education You Received While Enrolled At USMMS Or (B) The Amount Of SIP Funding You Received From MARAD."** (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Website, "Your Service Obligation" Document, Accessed 7/3/23)

## YOUR SERVICE OBLIGATION

Upon entrance in USMMA or the SIP Program, you signed an agreement (the "Service Obligation Contract"), which is mandated by law. In the exchange for your education at USMMA or SIP funding, you committed to fulfill a maritime service obligation following graduation- an obligation that is restated in MARAD's regulations and in the Service Obligation Contract you signed.

What follows is a summary of the applicable laws and regulations governing your service obligation.

Having successfully completed the course of instructions at your Academy and received your U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) with an officer endorsement, your remaining service obligation covers the following four elements:

1. Service/employment in the maritime industry or U.S. Armed/Uniformed Services;
2. Maintaining your USCG credential;
3. Maintaining your Reserve commission; and
4. Annual compliance reporting.

Your obligation requires completion of every element listed above. The only exception to this is individuals who, for the five (5)- year period following graduation, serve as a commissioned officer on active duty in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces or as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). Those graduates who provide five (5) years of honorable active duty service shall be excused from the licensure and reserve requirements of their obligation. Details are included below.

Failure to comply with your service obligation may lead to induction into the U.S. Armed Forces or repayment of (a) the cost of the education you received while enrolled at USMMS or (b) the amount of SIP funding you received from MARAD.

[U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Website, "[Your Service Obligation](#)" Document, Accessed 7/3/23]

**In 2016, Ashcroft's Campaign Called Kraus' Criticism Misleading And Claimed Ashcroft Left The Merchant Marine Academy With No Outstanding Obligations Or Special Treatment.** "The Kraus online ad attacked Ashcroft for failing to vote in six major elections between 2000 and 2012. In response, Ashcroft said he's been an active participant in elections his entire adult life as a voter and election judge and worker. He didn't comment on the missed elections. The Kraus ad also questioned Ashcroft's departure from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in the 1990s without serving in the military and asked if he had been dismissed or gotten special treatment because of his father. The Ashcroft campaign called the ad misleading and said he had left the academy without any outstanding obligation and wasn't given special treatment." ( *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/11/16)

**In 2023, Ashcroft Accused House Speaker Dean Plocher Of "Falsely Lashing" When He Renewed Questions About Ashcroft's Time At The Merchant Marine Academy.** "...Ashcroft, the GOP front-runner for Missouri governor next year, posted on social media that the Legislature should investigate the matter and, if the allegations of wrongdoing are confirmed, 'take action to protect the integrity of the House of Representatives and the people's money.' Plocher responded by recycling an attack against Ashcroft from the 2016 GOP primary, asking Ashcroft on social media whether he will 'pay back taxpayers the tens of thousands of dollars you owe them after dropping out of the Merchant Marine Academy.' 'Last I checked all dropouts have to pay back the people's money,' he wrote, adding: 'Jay, don't throw rocks when you live in a glass house.' Ashcroft attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy but did not graduate. A spokesman for Ashcroft's gubernatorial campaign said in an email to the Independent that it is 'unfortunate that the speaker, caught with his hand in the cookie jar, is falsely lashing out at those who believe we have an obligation to protect, not abuse, taxpayer money.'" (*Missouri Independent*, 10/25/23)

**In 2016, The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Confirmed Ashcroft's Attendance But Declined To Provide Additional Info Without His Consent**

**In 2016, An Academy Spokesman Confirmed Ashcroft's Attendance, But Declined To Provide Additional Info Without His Consent.** "Academy spokesman Ben Benson said Ashcroft attended the academy from July 1991 to June 1994 but federal privacy rules prevent him from providing further information on his tenure there unless Ashcroft authorized its release." (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/11/16)



**In 2023, The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Responded To A FOIA For Ashcroft's Records By Again Confirming His Attendance - This Time Noting He Was In "The Marine Engineering Systems Bachelor Degree Program" - But Declining To Provide Additional Info**

**In August 2023, The U.S Merchant Marine Academy Responded To A FOIA For Ashcroft's Records By Stating That He "Departed The Academy On 07 June 1994 Before Completing The Marine Engineering Systems Bachelor Degree Program."** (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, FOIA Response, 8/15/23)



# U. S. Merchant Marine Academy

U.S. Department of Transportation

Maritime  
Administration

Office of the Registrar  
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699  
Main: 516-726-5799  
Fax: 516-773-5241

15 August 2023

Re: John Robert Ashcroft

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to certify that John Robert Ashcroft was a Midshipman at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY 11024-1699.

John Robert Ashcroft was enrolled as a full time student at the Academy from 07 July 1991 to 07 June 1994. John Robert Ashcroft departed the Academy on 07 June 1994 before completing the Marine Engineering Systems Bachelor Degree program.

Sincerely,




Debra Deow-Kalladeen  
Institutional Research Assistant

(U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, FOIA Response, 8/15/23)

*Ashcroft Received Bachelor's And Master's Degrees From The Missouri University Of Science & Technology, And He Later Received A Law Degree From St. Louis University*

**From 1994 To 1998, Ashcroft Attended The Missouri University Of Science & Technology, Graduating With Bachelor's And Master's Degrees In Engineering Management**



Missouri University of Science and Technology  
B.S., Engineering Management  
1994 - 1996

("John Ashcroft," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)



**Missouri University of Science and Technology**  
 M.S., Engineering Management  
 1997 - 1998

("John Ashcroft," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)

**DegreeVerify Confirmed That Ashcroft Received Both Degrees.** (DegreeVerify, Jay Ashcroft Degree Verification, Accessed 11/17/23)

**INFORMATION VERIFIED**

Name On School's Records: JOHN ROBERT ASHCROFT  
 Date Awarded: 12/19/1998  
 Degree Title: MASTER OF SCIENCE  
 Official Name of School: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ROLLA  
 Major Course(s) of Study: ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT MS  
 (and NCES CIP Code, if available): 143501  
 Dates of Attendance: 01/15/1997 to 12/18/1998

**INFORMATION VERIFIED**

Name On School's Records: JOHN ROBERT ASHCROFT  
 Date Awarded: 05/11/1996  
 Degree Title: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
 Official Name of School: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ROLLA  
 Major Course(s) of Study: ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT BS

(DegreeVerify, Jay Ashcroft Degree Verification, Accessed 11/17/23)

**From 2002 To 2008, Ashcroft Attended St. Louis University's School Of Law, Graduating With A Juris Doctorate**



**Saint Louis University School of Law**  
 J.D.  
 2002 - 2008

Activities and societies: Honor Council Founding Chairman

("John Ashcroft," [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)

**In 2008, Ashcroft Was Admitted To The Missouri State Bar A Few Months After He Graduated From Law School.** (The Missouri Bar, [Lawyer Database](#), Accessed 3/22/22)

Full Name	Ashcroft, John Robert
Bar Number	61078
Date Admitted	09/17/2008
Location	Jefferson City, MO 65109 United States
Current Standing	Good Standing

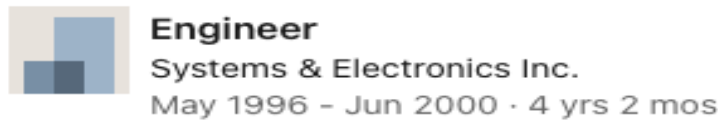
(The Missouri Bar, [Lawyer Database](#), Accessed 3/22/22)

## EARLY PROFESSIONAL CAREER

### Work As An Engineer

#### From May 1996 To June 2000, Ashcroft Worked As An Engineer At Systems & Electronics, Inc. In West Plains, MO

**From May 1996 To June 2000, Ashcroft Worked As An Engineer At Systems & Electronics, Inc.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)



**Engineer**  
Systems & Electronics Inc.  
May 1996 - Jun 2000 · 4 yrs 2 mos

(“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)

**In 1998, Ashcroft Moved To St. Louis County After He Was Transferred By Systems & Electronics.** “A Jefferson City native, he moved to St. Louis County in 1998, when he was transferred by his West Plains, Mo.-based employer. An engineer at the time, Ashcroft switched careers in 2008 when he earned a law degree. He began working at his father’s law firm in 2009.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10/27/14)

#### Systems & Electronics, Now Known As DRS Sustainment Systems, Is A Technology And Radar Support Company For The U.S. Military

**During His Time As An Engineer, Ashcroft Worked In The Defense Industry.** “Name: John ‘Jay’ Ashcroft Age: 41 Home: Unincorporated St. Louis County Education: Law degree, St. Louis University, 2008; bachelor’s and master’s degrees, engineering management, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, 1996 and 1998. Jobs: Attorney at Ashcroft law firm in Clayton; former defense industry engineer and engineering professor at St. Louis Community College. Family: Wife Katie, three children. Website: Ashcrofforsenate.com” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/14/14)

#### **According To The Missouri Secretary of State’s Office, Systems & Electronics Is Now Known As DRS Sustainment Systems, Inc.** ([Missouri Secretary of State](#), Accessed 2/23/21)

Business Name	Charter No.	Type	Status	Created	Registered Agent Name
DRS SUSTAINMENT SYSTEMS, INC.	F00251666	Gen. Business - For Profit (Foreign)	Good Standing	4/29/1983	CSC-LAWYERS INCORPORATING SERVICE COMPANY
<i>SYSTEMS &amp; ELECTRONICS INC. (previous name)</i>					

(Missouri Secretary of State, Accessed 2/23/21)

- **DRS Is A Tech Solutions Provider For The U.S. Military.** “Systems DRS Sustainment Inc. provides technology products and integrated solutions for military forces. The Company offers ground and airborne radar systems, aviation ground support equipment, fuel and water system, armor and mobility, automatic test equipment, and chemical and biological protective shelter.” (Bloomberg, Accessed 2/21/22)

**NOTE:** Although it is unclear if Ashcroft would have been required to be licensed as a professional engineer, a review of active and inactive professional engineering licenses in the state of Missouri produced no evidence he held such a license.

## Missouri Division of Professional Registration

[PR Home](#)

### Non-Active Status Licensee Search Results

Disclaimer: If you are unable to locate the individual for whom you are searching, please contact the appropriate licensure board or the Division of Professional Registration.

**County Name:** ALL

**Profession Name:** Professional Engineer

**Search Criteria:** Name = Ashcroft

Go to page

0 records found - you are viewing page

#	Licensee Name	Profession	City, State	Detail
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0 records found - you are viewing page

(Missouri Division Of Professional Registration, [Inactive Professional Engineer License Database](#), Accessed 8/24/22)

## Missouri Division of Professional Registration

[PR Home](#)

### Results

**County Name:** ALL

**Profession Name:** Professional Engineer

**Search Criteria:** Name = ashcroft

Go to page

0 records found - you are viewing page

#	Licensee Name	Profession	City, State	Detail
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0 records found - you are viewing page

(Missouri Division Of Professional Registration, [Active Professional Engineer License Database](#), Accessed 8/24/22)

## Engineering Teacher At St. Louis Community College

### From July 2000 To May 2006, Ashcroft Worked As A Professor At St. Louis Community College, Where He Taught Engineering

**From July 2000 To May 2006, Ashcroft Worked As A Professor At St. Louis Community College.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)

 **Professor**  
St. Louis Community College  
Jul 2000 - May 2006 - 5 yrs 11 mos

(“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)

**During His Time At St. Louis Community College, Ashcroft Taught Engineering.** “He [Ashcroft] then moved to St. Louis and attended St. Louis University Law School while teaching engineering at St. Louis Community College. He graduated with his J.D. in 2008. He now works at his father’s law firm, Ashcroft Law Firm.” (FOX-2 KTVI, 10/1/20)

**Since Ashcroft’s Failed 2014 State Senate Campaign, He Has Touted His Engineering Work, Claiming He Spent A Decade “Devoted To Engineering”**

**In May 2014, Ashcroft Claimed His “Training And Experience As An Engineer” Equipped Him To Make A “Special Contribution” As A State Senator.** TMT: “What is your background?” Ashcroft: “My background is a bit unusual in politics. My training and experience as an engineer and attorney have equipped me to make a special contribution to the legislative process in Jefferson City. After college, I worked in the defense industry for about five years, and then became a certified public school teacher and an assistant professor of engineering. Here in St. Louis County, I currently practice law at The Ashcroft Law Firm with a focus on privacy and data protection. This background provides me with an understanding of business, education and the law.” ... TMT: “What is the one thing you would like our readers to know about Jay Ashcroft?” ASHCROFT: “People should know that as state senator, I will bring the best approach to government. We can’t just tax, spend and regulate our way to prosperity. My experience as an engineer, perspective as a teacher, and study as an attorney will help me act to foster the environment for growth and opportunity that people should expect from government.”

(The Missouri Times, 5/14/14)

**In His Current State Biography, Ashcroft Claims To Have Spent A Decade “Devoted To Engineering.”** (Missouri Secretary Of State’s Office, [Jay Ashcroft Biography Page](#), Accessed 8/24/22)

**Personal**

Prior to being elected, Secretary Ashcroft worked as an engineer, professor and attorney. Secretary Ashcroft was born, raised and educated in Missouri. He and his wife, Katie, have three sons and one daughter.

Ashcroft attended Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla) where he earned degrees in engineering management. After graduating he moved to West Plains, Missouri, to work for a defense-based engineering company where he managed an outstanding team of individuals who worked to develop instruments used in vehicles for the Air Force.

In 2000, Ashcroft moved to St. Louis and began teaching engineering and technology courses for Saint Louis Community College. Many of his former students carried their enhanced engineering capacities into their jobs in St. Louis’ auto manufacturing industry.

After a decade devoted to engineering, Ashcroft sought to bring his technical experience into the practice of law. He graduated from St. Louis University Law School in 2008 and went to work for a legal firm in their Intellectual Property division. Later, he went on to work with his father in the Ashcroft Law Firm, specializing in helping businesses comply with the impact of government regulations. He practiced law for eight years in St. Louis County, counseling clients on legal issues ranging from regulatory compliance to patent prosecution and election law.

(Missouri Secretary Of State’s Office, [Jay Ashcroft Biography Page](#), Accessed 8/24/22)

## Armstrong Teasdale

**From September 2008 To February 2009, Ashcroft Worked As An Associate With Armstrong Teasdale, Where He Worked In The Firm’s Patent, Trademark And Intellectual Property Practice**

**From September 2008 To February 2009, Ashcroft Worked As An Associate With Armstrong Teasdale.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)



(“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 2/15/22)

**An Archived Biography From Armstrong Teasdale’s Website Indicates Ashcroft Worked In The Firm’s St. Louis Office With The Patent, Trademark And Intellectual Property Practice.** (Armstrong Teasdale Website, [Jay Ashcroft’s Biography](#), Accessed 3/22/22 via Archive.org)

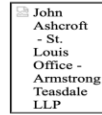
## John Ashcroft

### Education

- Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., 2008)
- University of Missouri-Rolla (M.S., Eng. Mgt., 1998; B.S., Eng. Mgt., 1996)

### Professional and Civic Activities

- The Missouri Bar



John Ashcroft

Associate  
St. Louis Office

314-621-5070 ext. 7502  
Fax: 314-259-4769

[E-Mail](#)  
[V-Card](#)

[View Full Resume \(pdf\)](#)

Areas of Practice

[Patent, Trademark and other Intellectual Property](#)

(Armstrong Teasdale Website, [Jay Ashcroft's Biography](#), Accessed 3/22/22 via Archive.org)

# RIDING ON HIS FATHER'S COATTAILS

## OVERVIEW

### *John Ashcroft's High Profile Public Positions*

#### **Ashcroft's Father, John, Served Missouri As Both Governor And U.S. Senator, In Addition To Serving As President George W. Bush's Attorney General**

**From 1985 To 1993, Ashcroft Served As The Governor Of Missouri, And He Later Served As A U.S. Senator And As Bush's Attorney General.** "ASHCROFT, John David, a Senator from Missouri; born in Chicago, Ill., on May 9, 1942; attended the public schools in Springfield, Missouri; graduated from Yale University 1964; received J.D. degree from University of Chicago School of Law 1967; admitted to the bar in Springfield 1967; taught business law at Southwest Missouri State University; state auditor of Missouri 1973-1975; attorney general of Missouri 1976-1985; Governor of Missouri 1985-1993; chairman of the National Governors Association 1991-1992; elected as a Republican to the United States Senate in 1994 and served from January 3, 1995 to January 3, 2001; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 2000; attorney general of the United States, 2001-2005." (Ashcroft, John David, [Biographical Directory Of The United States Congress](#), Accessed 2/16/22)

### *Jay Ashcroft's Privileged Upbringing*

#### **Jay Ashcroft Enjoyed A Privileged Upbringing That Included Calling The Missouri Governor's Mansion Home, Living At Sen. Mitch McConnell's D.C. Residence, And Meeting Former President Ronald Reagan**

**Ashcroft Grew Up In The Missouri Governor's Mansion, Where He Lived From The Age Of 11 To 19.** "Jay Ashcroft grew up in the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City, calling it home from age 11 to 19. He is the middle child of John D. Ashcroft, who served as Missouri's governor from 1985 to 1992 and held a string of other state and federal offices - including U.S. attorney general - over three decades. Through it all, Jay Ashcroft, 41, didn't catch the political bug. He became an engineer, a community college teacher and a lawyer. He married, had three children, made his home in an unincorporated area of St. Louis County and steered clear of the limelight. Then last March, Ashcroft suddenly joined the race for an open state Senate seat in the county's 24<sup>th</sup> District." (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/14/14)

**In 1995, Ashcroft Spent The Summer Living With His Father In Washington, D.C. In A Room Above Sen. Mitch McConnell's Garage.** ([The Springfield News-Leader](#), 7/9/95)

Janet Ashcroft is living at their Willard farm. They have sold their St. Louis home, and Ashcroft is bunking in what he characterizes as a "sort of one-room efficiency apartment, one glorified room."

The room is above the garage of Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican. **Jay Ashcroft**, a student at the University of Missouri-Rolla, is spending the summer with his father, sharing the tiny apartment.

"I do think Janet will come out

([The Springfield News-Leader](#), 7/9/95)

**In January 2016, Ashcroft Posted A Photo Of Him Shaking Hands With Reagan.** (Jay Ashcroft, [Facebook](#), 1/25/16)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Facebook](#), 1/25/16)

**VIDEO: In One Of Ashcroft's Campaign Ads, This Photo Is Shown With An Inscription That Reads, "To Jay Ashcroft With Best Wishes, Ronald Reagan."** ("Consistent," [Jay Ashcroft](#), 7/15/16) Minute 0:02



("Consistent," [Jay Ashcroft](#), 7/15/16) Minute 0:02

## JOHN ASHCROFT'S GUBERNATORIAL LEGACY OF HIGHER TAXES & BIG SPENDING

### During John Ashcroft's Time As Governor (1985-1993), Conservatives Complained That He Was Too Accommodating To The Democrat-Controlled Legislature

**During Ashcroft's Time As Governor, Conservatives Complained That He Was Too Accommodating To The Democrat-Controlled Legislature.** "Conservative Republicans used to grouse that during his years as governor from 1985 to 1993, John Ashcroft was too accommodating to the Democrats who controlled Missouri's Legislature. Ashcroft had a standard reply: 'My job is to move us in a direction, not necessarily to get us to a destination.'" (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10/20/99)

### As Governor, Ashcroft Supported \$947.5 Million In Tax Hikes, Many Of Which Were Also Backed By The Democrat-Controlled Legislature

**In 2000, The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Reported Ashcroft Supported \$947.5 Million In Tax Hikes During His Time As Governor.** "Taxes went up \$562.5 million during his eight years as governor, because of two gas tax increases that Ashcroft backed. Voters approved one of them in 1987; the Legislature approved the other in 1992. In 1991, voters rejected an effort, which Ashcroft backed, to raise taxes \$385 million more for education programs." (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8/27/00)

- **During Ashcroft's Failed 2000 U.S. Senate Re-Election Campaign, Democrats Took Him To Task For Supporting Tax Hikes During His Time As Governor.** "Carnahan, Ashcroft's lieutenant governor from 1989-93 and now his challenger, has put together a list of Ashcroft's tax increases, proposed and enacted. The total comes to \$ 895 million." (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 1/3/99)

**Ashcroft's Biggest Tax Hikes Included A Voter-Approved 4-Cent Gas Tax Hike In 1987, A Voter-Rejected Multi-Tax Hike Plan For Education In 1991, And A 6-Cent Gas Tax Hike In 1992.** "Ashcroft took his two biggest tax initiatives to the voters: a gasoline tax increase to fund road and bridge repair, approved in 1987, and an assortment of taxes tied to education improvements that voters rejected in 1991. But there was no public



vote on the biggest single tax increase of his governorship, the road construction bond issue in 1992 that increased the gasoline tax by 6 cents a gallon.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10/20/99)

- **Ashcroft’s 1987 Gas Tax Hike Increased The State’s Rate From 7 To 11 Cents Per Gallon.** “The biggest single event during Ashcroft’s four-year term was passage last April of a 4-cent increase in the state’s gasoline tax, raising the tax rate from 7 cents to 11 cents a gallon. The increase, which was approved by voters, was designed to raise money for maintenance and construction of bridges and highways.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 3/23/88)
- **In 1991, Missouri Voters Overwhelmingly Rejected Ashcroft’s \$385 Million Plan To Increase Sales, Income And Tobacco Taxes To Boost Education.** “Missouri voters swept aside a plea for help from educators Tuesday, overwhelmingly killing the \$385 million Proposition B tax and education plan and handing a severe political setback to Gov. John Ashcroft. ... Proposition B would have produced \$190 million for public schools, \$190 million for colleges and universities and \$5 million for economic development. It would have increased sales, income and tobacco taxes and required a variety of education reforms. Some critics considered the reforms weak; others termed the sales tax jump unfair for lower-income people.” (The Kansas City Star, 11/6/91)
- **Ashcroft’s 1992 Gas Tax Hike Increased The State’s Rate From 11 To 17 Cents Per Gallon.** “Missourians will start paying two cents more for a gallon of gasoline on April 1 under a motor fuel tax increase signed into law Thursday. The tax increase rolled out of the Senate shortly after noon, was passed by the House within half an hour, and signed by Gov. John Ashcroft at 3 p.m. Ashcroft approved the bill - which will raise the gas tax 6 cents over the next four years. ... The tax will increase to 17 cents a gallon from 11 cents by April 1, 1996. ... The General Assembly’s overwhelming support of the bill surprised its sponsors. The Senate approved it 30-4 on Thursday. It already had passed the House last week, but because the Senate made minor changes, the bill returned to the House before going to Ashcroft. The House approved the changes 117-28.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 2/21/92)

**As Governor, Ashcroft Also Proposed Cigarette Tax Hikes On Four Separate Occasions.** “He [Ashcroft] proposed four different times to raise Missouri’s tax on cigarettes -- the same tax he assailed in Washington as an unconscionable levy on the working class.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1/3/99)

**As Governor, Ashcroft Also Signed Bills To Tax Catalog Purchases, Video Rentals, And To Impose A Temporary Sales Tax Hike.** “Ashcroft also signed bills to create a local tax on catalog purchases that raised \$63.4 million a year, a sales tax on video rentals raising \$5.3 million a year and a temporary sales tax increase that raised \$135 million a year to meet a court order on pension reimbursements. All those tax bills were sent to Ashcroft by a Democrat-controlled General Assembly.” (The Kansas City Star, 9/5/00)

#### **As Governor, Ashcroft Enacted No Significant Tax Cuts**

**In 2000, The Kansas City Star Reported Ashcroft “Enacted No Significant Tax Cuts” During His Time As Governor.** “Ashcroft and the lawmakers enacted no significant tax cuts - those over \$1 million, according to the Division of Planning and Budget.” (The Kansas City Star, 9/5/00)

#### **As Governor, Ashcroft Signed Democrat-Backed State Budgets That Increased Total Spending By 79 Percent**

**During Ashcroft’s Two Terms As Governor, Missouri’s State Budget Increased From \$5.7 Billion To \$10.2 Billion, An Increase Of 79 Percent.** “The former two-term Missouri governor, two-term attorney general and auditor (who, of course, now praises term limits) flies around the state trumpeting himself as a penny pincher. Fact: With John Ashcroft as governor, Missouri’s total budget went from \$5.7 billion to \$10.2 billion in fiscal years 1986 through 1993, which Ashcroft presided over. That’s a 79 percent increase for a governor who had the power of line-item veto.” (The Kansas City Star, 11/3/94)

**As Governor, Ashcroft Made A Deal With Labor Unions To Block Right-To-Work Legislation, And He Signed A Bill To Tie Missouri To The Federal Minimum Wage**

**In 1986, Ashcroft Made A Deal With Labor Unions To Block Right-To-Work Legislation.** “Organized labor considers Ashcroft anathema, citing his opposition to increases in the minimum wage and his efforts to enact legislation giving companies the right to negotiate flexible work schedules with employees. Yet as governor Ashcroft made his peace with unions, vowing as early as 1986 that he would not try to enact a right-to-work law giving workers in union shops the right to opt out of union membership.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1/3/99)

**Ashcroft Also Signed Legislation To Tie The State’s Minimum Wage To The Federal Level.** “He [Ashcroft] swore off any role in restoring Missouri’s anti-union right-to-work law, declaring in 1986 that ‘what we do not need right now are dead and divisive issues that pit employees vs. employers.’ He signed the legislation that tied Missouri’s minimum wage to the federal level.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10/20/99)

## JAY ASHCROFT’S WORK FOR HIS FATHER’S LAW FIRM

*In 2009, Jay Ashcroft Joined The Ashcroft Law Firm*

**In May 2009, Ashcroft Went To Work As A Lawyer At The Ashcroft Law Firm, Which Was Founded And Led By His Father**

**Prior To Becoming A Lawyer, Ashcroft Worked In Higher Education And As An Engineer.** “Before joining The Ashcroft Law Firm, Mr. Ashcroft practiced law in the Intellectual Property Group at Armstrong Teasdale, L.L.P. While there, Mr. Ashcroft drafted patent applications and responded to United States Patent and Trademark Office actions, specializing in areas of aircraft, power generation and distribution. Prior to entering the legal field, Mr. Ashcroft served six years as a professor of engineering at the Saint Louis Community College, where he taught courses such as thermodynamics, machine design, statics, dynamics and programmable logic controllers. Mr. Ashcroft has also worked in the defense industry as an engineer, where he managed a team that oversaw the design, quality and manufacturing processes for the production of Air Force vehicles. In this capacity, Mr. Ashcroft worked with Air Force personnel to develop product designs, capabilities and to perform root cause analysis for product defects. Mr. Ashcroft earned his Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University and is a member of the Missouri Bar. He has also received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in engineering management from Missouri University of Science and Technology. Mr. Ashcroft is pleased to work with the team of experienced attorneys that comprise The Ashcroft Law Firm. He values the firm’s focus on resolving client issues in a timely manner and helping them achieve optimal outcomes.” (“Jay Ashcroft,” [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15)

**VIDEO: Ashcroft Said He And His Wife Went To Law School Together After Getting Married, Which He Jokes Was When His “Career Went In The Wrong Direction.”** Ashcroft: “While I was teaching, I got married to my wife and we decided to go to law school together. So, I that’s where a lot of people would say my career went in the wrong direction, when I went to law school. I graduated from St. Louis University of Law School have been practicing law the last eight years.” (Jay Ashcroft: Candidate For Secretary of State,” [Missouri Chamber Of Commerce](#), 8/26/16) Minute: 0:38 - 0:52

**In May 2009, Ashcroft Went To Work As An Associate At The Ashcroft Law Firm.** (“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)



(“John Ashcroft,” [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 12/21/21)

- 
- **The Ashcroft Law Firm Is A National Law Firm Founded By His Father, John Ashcroft.** “Ashcroft, who has lived in St. Louis County since 1998, works in Clayton at the Ashcroft Law Firm, a national firm founded by his father. Jay Ashcroft’s specialty is helping corporations comply with government regulation. He has represented financial services and pharmaceutical companies, among others.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 7/14/14)

## Ashcroft Last Reported Income From The Ashcroft Law Firm In 2017 – His First Year As Secretary Of State.

(MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

Time Period	Filing Date	Employment (Over \$1K Income)	Miscellaneous Income	Associations	Lodging & Travel
3/29/15/ to 3/29/16	4/11/16	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	Orchard Lakes Suidivision HOA	None
1/1/16 to 12/31/16	2/7/17	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None
1/1/17 to 12/31/17	4/30/18	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	The Hunt Kean Institute paid \$1,672.67 for Ashcroft's 12/6 trip to DC related to a fellowship.
1/1/18 to 12/31/18	5/1/19	State Of Missouri	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	The Hunt Institute paid \$2,002.79 for Ashcroft's 8/8 to 8/10 trip to Seattle, WA related to a fellowship; Axios paid \$1,211.57 for Ashcroft's 10/24 to 10/25 trip to DC for an election security forum; the Bipartisan Policy Center paid \$882.74 for Ashcroft's 4/26 to 4/27 trip to DC for a voting forum; the Belfer Center paid \$623.87 for Ashcroft's 12/3 to 12/4 trip to Cambridge, MA for a cybersecurity conference.
1/1/19 to 3/31/20	4/13/20	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None	The U.S. Election Assistance Commission paid \$506.68 for Ashcroft's 4/10 trip to Memphis for a board meeting; the Hunt Institute paid \$1,188.69 for Ashcroft's 3/6 trip to North Carolina for an education meeting; the RSLC paid \$2,680.35 for Ashcroft's 12/8 trip to Wyoming for a retreat.
1/1/20 to 12/31/20	5/3/21	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	River Oak Christian Academy (Spouse)	None
1/1/21 to 12/30/21	5/2/22	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None	None
1/1/22 to 12/30/22	5/1/23	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse); Wendy's (Son)	None	River Oak Christian Academy (Spouse)	The Heritage Foundation paid \$1,216.37 for Ashcroft's April trip to DC to speak on elections; the Conservative Partnership Institute paid \$1,015.85 for Ashcroft's July trip to DC to speak on elections; the RNLA paid \$219 for Ashcroft's August trip to Phoenix, AZ to speak on elections; the Foundation for Government Accountability paid an undisclosed amount for Ashcroft's December trip to Naples, FL to speak on elections.

(MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

### *Ashcroft Specialized In Helping “Corporate Clients Implement Internal Controls Necessary To Comply With Government Regulation”*

**According To The Ashcroft Law Firm’s Archived Website, Jay Ashcroft Helped “Corporate Clients Implement Internal Controls Necessary To Comply With Government Regulation.”** “Drawing on his experience as an attorney and a mechanical engineer, Jay Ashcroft has counseled clients on legal issues ranging from regulatory compliance to patent prosecution. At The Ashcroft Law Firm, Mr. Ashcroft’s focus has been to help corporate clients implement internal controls necessary to comply with government regulation. Mr. Ashcroft has recently assisted in the representation of a multinational banking and financial services company in their claim to funds held by the United States Government as a result of the acquisition of assets and accounts from a banking institution under investigation by the United States for money laundering.” (“Jay Ashcroft,” [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15)

**The Ashcroft Law Firm’s Archived Website Also Stated That Ashcroft Advised Tele-Sales Companies, Multinational Banking And Financial Firms And Individuals Under SEC Investigations, In Addition To Providing “Immigration Support” To Clients Seeking Visas, Asylum And Reviews Of Their Immigration Status.** “Mr. Ashcroft has investigated and advised nationwide tele-sales company in necessary policies and procedures necessary to operate legally across the country. He has advised companies on compliance with national and international data breach laws and assisted in the representation of a multinational banking and financial services company in their claim to funds held by the United States Government as a result of the acquisition of assets and accounts from a banking institution under investigation by the United States for money laundering. Mr. Ashcroft has provided immigration support to individuals seeking visas, asylum and review of their immigration status and legal assistance and guidance to institutions regarding compliance with the Foreign

Accounts Tax Compliance Act. He has defended an individual against multi-million dollar civil and criminal charges brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice. Mr. Ashcroft has represented individuals in various civil actions in state and federal court. He has also participated in the extensive internal compliance review of fortune [\*sic] 500 companies in the healthcare device field and defense industry.” (“Jay Ashcroft,” [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15)

## Jay Ashcroft

Home / Professionals / [Jay Ashcroft](#)

Drawing on his experience as an attorney and a mechanical engineer, Jay Ashcroft has counseled clients on legal issues ranging from regulatory compliance to patent prosecution.

At The Ashcroft Law Firm, Mr. Ashcroft’s focus has been to help corporate clients implement internal controls necessary to comply with government regulation. Mr. Ashcroft has recently assisted in the representation of a multinational banking and financial services company in their claim to funds held by the United States Government as a result of the acquisition of assets and accounts from a banking institution under investigation by the United States for money laundering.

Mr. Ashcroft has investigated and advised nationwide tele-sales company in necessary policies and procedures necessary to operate legally across the country. He has advised companies on compliance with national and international data breach laws and assisted in the representation of a multinational banking and financial services company in their claim to funds held by the United States Government as a result of the acquisition of assets and accounts from a banking institution under investigation by the United States for money laundering. Mr. Ashcroft has provided immigration support to individuals seeking visas, asylum and review of their immigration status and legal assistance and guidance to institutions regarding compliance with the Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act. He has defended an individual against multi-million dollar civil and criminal charges brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice. Mr. Ashcroft has represented individuals in various civil actions in state and federal court. He has also participated in the extensive internal compliance review of fortune 500 companies in the healthcare device field and defense industry.

Before joining The Ashcroft Law Firm, Mr. Ashcroft practiced law in the Intellectual Property Group at Armstrong Teasdale, L.L.P. While there, Mr. Ashcroft drafted patent applications and responded to United States Patent and Trademark Office actions, specializing in areas of aircraft, power generation and distribution. Prior to entering the legal field, Mr. Ashcroft served six years as a professor of engineering at the Saint Louis Community College, where he taught courses such as thermodynamics, machine design, statics, dynamics and programmable logic controllers. Mr. Ashcroft has also worked in the defense industry as an engineer, where he managed a team that oversaw the design, quality and manufacturing processes for the production of Air Force vehicles. In this capacity, Mr. Ashcroft worked with Air Force personnel to develop product designs, capabilities and to perform root cause analysis for product defects.

Mr. Ashcroft earned his Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University and is a member of the Missouri Bar. He has also received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in engineering management from Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Mr. Ashcroft is pleased to work with the team of experienced attorneys that comprise The Ashcroft Law Firm. He values the firm’s focus on resolving client issues in a timely manner and helping them achieve optimal outcomes.



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(“Jay Ashcroft,” [Ashcroft Law Firm](#), Archived 12/13/15)

### *While Working At His Father’s Law Firm, Ashcroft Represented A Venture Capitalist Charged With Embezzling \$9.1 Million From Clients*

### **In 2012, Ashcroft Represented Burton Douglas Morriss, Who The SEC Charged With Embezzling \$9.1 Million From Clients**

**On February 17, 2012, The SEC Filed A Lawsuit Against Morriss In The U.S. District Court-Eastern District Of Missouri.** (Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

CASE NO.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, )  
 )  
 ) **Plaintiff,** )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 ) **BURTON DOUGLAS MORRISS,** )  
 ) **ACARTHA GROUP, LLC,** )  
 ) **MIC VII, LLC,** )  
 ) **ACARTHA TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS, LP, and** )  
 ) **GRYPHON INVESTMENTS III, LLC** )  
 )  
 ) **Defendants, and** )  
 )  
 ) **MORRISS HOLDINGS, LLC,** )  
 )  
 ) **Relief Defendant.** )

(Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**The SEC Charged That Morriss Fraudulently Transferred \$9.1 Million In Investor Funds For His Personal Use To Pay For Loans, Alimony And Expensive Vacations.** (Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

1. From approximately 2005 through 2011, Defendant Burton Douglas Morriss, through several private equity funds and fund management companies he controlled, fraudulently transferred approximately \$9.1 million of investor funds to himself and his family's holding company for personal use. Among other things, Morriss satisfied loans, paid alimony, and took expensive vacations. The companies disguised the transfers as loans and/or receivables without the knowledge or consent of investors. The offering documents and subscription agreements of the entities through which Morriss solicited investments failed to advise investors that Morriss could or would transfer their money for his personal use.

(Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**The SEC Also Charged That Morriss Used \$2.5 Million In Investor Funds To Satisfy A Personal Loan.** (Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

2. In addition, Morriss and the management company he controlled concocted a scheme to recruit new investors to purchase membership interests in one of the private equity funds, MIC VII, LLC, without the unanimous consent of the existing investors as required by MIC VII's Limited Liability Company Agreement. This diluted the investments of existing MIC VII investors. Effectively, Morriss used the \$2.5 million in investor funds to satisfy a portion of a personal loan.

(Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**The SEC Asserted, “Morriss Lived A Lavish Lifestyle, Living In A Multi-Million Dollar Home, Driving Luxury Automobiles, Leasing A Private Airplane And Helicopter, And Taking Expensive Vacations.”** (Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

20. **Morriss lived a lavish lifestyle, living in a multi-million dollar home, driving luxury automobiles, leasing a private airplane and helicopter, and taking expensive vacations.**

(Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**In September 2013, Jay Ashcroft Took Over As Morriss’ Lawyer.** (Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**MOTION TO WITHDRAW**

COME NOW Catherine L. Hanaway and Lisa Ottolini and for their Motion to Withdraw as Counsel for Defendant Burton Douglas Morriss state as follows:

1. Catherine L. Hanaway and Lisa Ottolini are joining Husch Blackwell, LLP effective September 3, 2013.
2. Husch Blackwell, LLP was previously local counsel in Ron Nixon, et al. vs. B. Douglas Morriss, et al., Case No. 11SL-CC04718.
3. John R. Ashcroft of The Ashcroft Law Firm, who is already an attorney of record for Defendant Morriss and Matthew Bartle of Bartle & Marcus LLC have agreed to represent Defendant.

(Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**Ashcroft Served As Morriss’ Lead Attorney.** (Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

<p><b>Burton Douglas Morriss</b>  <i>Added: 01/17/2012</i>  <i>TERMINATED: 02/26/2014</i>  <i>(Defendant)</i></p>	<p>represented by</p>	<p><b>John R. Ashcroft</b>                  ASHCROFT HANAWAY LLC                  222 South Central Ave                  Suite 110                  St. Louis, MO 63105                  314-863-7001                  314-863-7008 (fax)  <i>Assigned: 09/03/2013</i>                  LEAD ATTORNEY                  ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED</p>
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(Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**In February 2014, A Judge Ordered Morriss To Disgorge The \$9.1 Million He Was Accused Of Embezzling And Pay \$416,090.71 In Interest.** (Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

**CASE NO. 4:12-CV-00080 CEJ**

<b>SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>v.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>BURTON DOUGLAS MORRIS,</b>	)	
<b>ACARTHA GROUP, LLC,</b>	)	
<b>MIC VII, LLC,</b>	)	
<b>ACARTHA TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS, LP, and</b>	)	
<b>GRYPHON INVESTMENTS III, LLC</b>	)	
<b>Defendants, and</b>	)	
	)	
<b>MORRIS HOLDINGS, LLC,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Relief Defendant.</b>	)	

**FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANT BURTON DOUGLAS MORRIS**

The Securities and Exchange Commission having filed a complaint, and Defendant Burton Douglas Morriss having: entered a general appearance; consented to the Court’s jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of this action; consented to entry of this Judgment without admitting or denying the allegations of the complaint (except as to personal and subject matter jurisdiction, which Morriss admits); waived findings of fact and conclusions of law; and waived any right to appeal from this Judgment:

**DISGORGEMENT AND PREJUDGMENT INTEREST**

**IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that Morriss is liable for disgorgement of \$9.1 million, representing profits gained as a result of the conduct alleged in the Complaint, together with prejudgment interest of \$416,090.71. Morriss shall satisfy this obligation by paying \$9,516,090.71 within 14 days after the entry of this Final Judgment.

(Securities and Exchange Commission v. Morriss et al, Case No. 4:2012cv00080, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 1/17/12)

**In A Separate Federal Case, Morriss Pleaded Guilty To Tax Evasion And Was Sentenced To Five Years In Prison**

**In August 2013, Morriss Pleaded Guilty To Tax Evasion. Court Records Showed He Owed \$5.5 Million In Back Taxes.** “Burton Douglas Morriss pled guilty to tax evasion charges associated with his evasion of taxes on millions of dollars of income he earned between 2006 and 2009. According to his plea agreement, the tax liability Morriss attempted to evade in 2007 was \$2,888,483. The total tax due and owing by Morriss for all tax years is \$5,559,386. According to court documents, Morriss was a venture capitalist living in St. Louis County. Morriss admitted that, through his work, he was versed in tax laws. As a venture capitalist, he would discuss tax consequences of buying and selling investments to sophisticated investors. Moreover, he had been dealing with advisers and lawyers regarding his personal taxes for many years before 2006.” (“Local Venture Capitalist Pleads Guilty To Tax Charges,” Federal Bureau Of Investigation, [Press Release](#), 8/26/13)

**In September 2013, Morriss Was Sentenced To Five Years In Prison.** “Doug Morriss, the former chairman of the Acartha Group in Clayton who was sentenced in 2013 to five years in prison on tax evasion charges, is scheduled to be released Thursday. Morriss is currently located at the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ residential re-entry office at 1222 Spruce St. in downtown St. Louis, according to federal records. U.S. District Judge Rodney Sippel in April amended Morriss’ prison sentence to three years, allowing for his early release. The new sentence stipulates that Morriss be on supervised release for three years and that he pay restitution of nearly \$5.6 million to the IRS. Morriss, now 53, in 2013 pleaded guilty to one felony count of tax evasion for the 2007 tax year; he claimed more than \$18 million in losses associated with a variety of entities, including Morriss Holdings, MIC Aircraft, Tech Aircraft and MIC Real Estate, though his tax liability was \$2.9 million.” ([St. Louis Business Journal](#), 9/12/16)

***While Working At His Father’s Law Firm, Ashcroft Represented A Client Who Was Sued For Stealing From His Alzheimer’s-Inflicted Mother***

**In April 2014, Gigi Turner Sued Her Brother Alan Orcutt For Transferring Their Mother’s Home And \$12,970 From Her Banking Account To Him After Their Mother Was Declared Mentally Infirm Due To Alzheimer’s Disease**

**On April 4, 2014, Turner Filed A Lawsuit Against Orcutt In The U.S. District Court-Eastern District Of Missouri.** (Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

Case: 4:14-cv-00701-UNA Doc. #: 1 Filed: 04/04/14 Page: 1 of 9 PageID #: 44

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

GIGI TURNER,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No.
	)	
ALAN WALTER ORCUTT	)	
	)	
and	)	
	)	
VILMA ELENA FLOYD	)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
	)	
Defendants.	)	

(Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

**Ashcroft Represented Orcutt In The Case.** (Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)



**Alan Walter Orcutt**  
Added: 04/04/2014  
(Defendant)

represented by

**John R. Ashcroft**  
ASHCROFT HANAWAY LLC  
222 South Central Ave  
Suite 110  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
314-863-7001  
314-863-7008 (fax)  
Assigned: 04/04/2014  
LEAD ATTORNEY  
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

(Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

**Turner Sued Orcutt And Vilma Floyd, Identifying Herself And Orcutt As Floyd's Children.** (Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

Plaintiff states the following for the Common Count against Defendants:

1. Plaintiff, Gigi Turner, ("Gigi Turner" or "Plaintiff"), is a citizen and resident of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.
2. Defendant, Alan Walter Orcutt, ("Alan Orcutt" or "Defendant") is a citizen and resident of Ellis County, Waxahachie, Texas and resides at 1200 Sycamore, Apt. 7696, Waxahachie, Texas.
3. Defendant, Vilma Elena Floyd ("Mrs. Floyd") is a permanent resident of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri and presently resides with her daughter, Gigi Turner.
4. That both Plaintiff and the Defendant, Alan Orcutt, are the children of Mrs. Floyd.

(Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

**Turned Stated That Floyd, Who Was 75 Years Old, Had Been Declared Mentally Or Physical Infirm Due To Alzheimer's Disease.** (Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

5. Upon information and belief, Mrs. Floyd, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, age 75, is incapable by reason of mental or physical infirmity of properly caring for her interest in this litigation. She is legally incapacitated and incompetent.

(Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

**Turner Charged That Orcutt Exerted "Undue Influence" When He Transferred Floyd's Home In Florida To Him And Paid Himself \$12,970 From Her Bank Account.** (Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Alan Orcutt, obtained signature authority on Mrs. Floyd's checking account at Bank of America, account number 898021240501.

15. That on or about September 19, 2012, Defendant, Alan Orcutt, through undue influence had Mrs. Floyd, unknowingly transfer her home, located at 228 Amberjack Drive, Unit #33, Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, Florida, 32548; to Defendant, Alan Orcutt, by Assignment of Sublease (see attached Plaintiff's Exhibit 2).

16. That Mrs. Floyd was diagnosed with having Alzheimer's disease, and Defendant, Alan Orcutt, sometime thereafter, relocated Mrs. Floyd from her home in Fort Walton Beach, Florida to an apartment located in Waxahachie, Texas.

17. At all times relevant, Defendant, Alan Orcutt, was in a fiduciary relationship with his mother, Mrs. Floyd.

18. At all times relevant, Defendant, Alan Orcutt, was in a confidential relationship with Mrs. Floyd.

19. At all times relevant, Mrs. Floyd was physically or mentally incompetent and unable to make decisions which were in her best interest.

20. At all times relevant, Defendant, Alan Orcutt, exercised control over Mrs. Floyd for the personal benefit of Defendant, Alan Orcutt.

21. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Mrs. Floyd, is suffering financial distress, insolvency and is unable to pay her debts and expenses as they mature.

22. On February 20, 2013, Defendant, Alan Orcutt, issued a transfer from the Bank of America bank checking account, the deposits of which were owned by Mrs. Floyd, in the sum of \$12,970.00, payable to Defendant, Alan Orcutt. (See attached Plaintiffs' Exhibit 3).

(Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

(f) From taking any act on behalf of Mrs. Floyd, including payment of claimed living or other expenses from Mrs. Floyd's assets, accounts or money.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests the Court to enter a Temporary Restraining Order against Defendant, Alan Orcutt, and those in concert with him and for such other relief as the court believes proper.

(Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 4/4/14)

## **In July 2014, Turned Dismissed Her Lawsuit Without Prejudice**

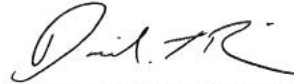
**In July 13, 2014, Turner Dismissed Her Lawsuit Without Prejudice.** (Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 7/13/14)

### **MEMORANDUM OF DISMISSAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

COMES NOW Plaintiff, by her attorney, Daniel J. Grimm of the law firm Layton and Southard, LLC, and hereby dismisses the above named matter without prejudice.

Respectfully submitted,

LAYTON & SOUTHARD, LLC



DANIEL J. GRIMM, #6289627

(Turner v. Orcutt et al, Case No. 4:2014cv00701, United States District Court Eastern District Of Missouri, Filed 7/13/14)

## ***Other Controversial Clients Of The Ashcroft Law Firm***

### **Russian Arms Dealer Known As The “Merchant Of Death”**

**In 2014, Russian Arms Dealer Viktor Bout Hired The Ashcroft Law Firm To Represent Him As He Sought A New Trial After Being Convicted And Sentenced To 25 Years In Prison For Conspiring To Kill U.S. Soldiers.** “Convicted Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout believes he has evidence to justify a new U.S. trial and has hired the law firm of former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to help him pursue his case. Bout, 47, is serving a 25-year prison sentence following his November 2, 2011 jury conviction for having conspired to kill U.S. soldiers by way of his agreement to sell weapons to a Colombian rebel group. According to filings on Monday with the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Bout hired the Ashcroft Law Firm and Alexey Tarasov, a Houston-based lawyer, to help him obtain a new trial based on unspecified ‘newly discovered evidence.’ ... Michael Sullivan, a partner at Ashcroft’s firm and former U.S. attorney in Massachusetts who would work on the case, declined to comment. Tarasov did not immediately respond to requests for comment. ... Bout’s challenge follows the September 2013 rejection by the federal appeals court in Manhattan of his arguments that his conviction followed a ‘vindictive’ prosecution and his improper extradition from Thailand to face U.S. charges. Jurors convicted Bout of having agreed to sell arms to informants posing as members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which the U.S. government had deemed a foreign terrorist organization, and conspiring to acquire and export anti-aircraft missiles. ... Bout is in a medium-security prison in Marion, Illinois, and is not eligible for release until Dec. 15, 2029. He was the subject of a 2007 book, ‘Merchant of Death.’” ([Reuters](#), 12/5/14)

- **In 2022, The Biden Administration Exchanged Bout, Known As The “Merchant Of Death,” For WNBA Star Brittney Griner, Who Was Imprisoned In Russia.** “Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout, who returned home Thursday in a swap for WNBA star Brittney Griner, is widely known abroad as the ‘Merchant of Death’ who fueled some of the world’s worst conflicts. In Russia, however, he’s seen as a swashbuckling businessman who was unjustly imprisoned after an overly aggressive U.S. sting operation.” ([The Associated Press](#), 12/8/22)

### **Government Of Qatar**

**In 2017, The Government Of Qatar Paid The Ashcroft Law Firm \$2.5 Million While Its Regime Refuted Then-President Donald Trump’s Claim That It Supported Terrorism.** “The government of Qatar has hired John Ashcroft, the U.S. attorney general during the Sept. 11 attacks, as it seeks to rebut accusations from U.S. President Donald Trump and its Arab neighbors that it supports terrorism. Qatar will pay the Ashcroft Law Firm \$2.5 million for a 90-day period as the country seeks to confirm its efforts to fight global terrorism and comply with financial regulations including U.S. Treasury rules, according to a Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA, filing on Friday with the Justice Department. ‘The firm’s work will include crisis response and management, program and system analysis, media outreach, education and advocacy regarding the client’s historical, current and future efforts to combat global terror and its compliance goals and accomplishments,’ according to a letter

by Ashcroft firm partner Michael Sullivan included in the filing. Qatar faces isolation by fellow Arab countries after Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Egypt severed ties with Doha on Monday, accusing it of supporting Islamist militants and their adversary Iran. Qatar denies the allegations. The crisis is a major diplomatic test for the United States, which is a close ally of countries on both sides but has given mixed signals on whether to isolate Qatar or bring it into talks with other Gulf countries. Trump on Friday accused Qatar of being a 'high level' sponsor of terrorism in remarks made shortly after his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, pushed Qatar's Arab neighbors to 'immediately take steps to de-escalate the situation.'" [\(Reuters, 6/10/17\)](#)

**In A 2022 FARA Filing, The Ashcroft Law Firm Still Listed Qatar As A Client.** (FARA, Ashcroft Law Firm Filing, 7/30/22)

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list the foreign principal(s) whom the registrant continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Government of Qatar  
Republic of Congo

(FARA, Ashcroft Law Firm Filing, 7/30/22)

- **Qatar Has Long Hosted Exiled Members Of Hamas' Leadership.** "Qatar has been able to play this role because it has hosted Hamas leaders in exile, though it's unclear whether it can keep doing so amid growing pressure from the U.S., Israel and Europe, which designate Hamas as a terrorist organization. A Qatari official, who asked that their name not be used to discuss a sensitive issue, told NPR the Hamas political office in Doha was opened over a decade ago in coordination with the U.S., after a request from Washington to establish indirect lines of communication. [\(NPR, 11/2/23\)](#)

## **Republic Of Congo**

**In 2022, The Ashcroft Law Firm Represented The Republic Of Congo In A \$1 Billion Dispute With A Former Government Contractor.** "A former government contractor for the Republic of Congo owed nearly \$1 billion is fighting the country's efforts to shut down its attempts to seize a swanky New York City condominium allegedly connected to embezzled funds, arguing that the country is unfairly obstructing the litigation. Commissions Import Export SA, or Commisimpex, told a New York federal judge in a letter Monday that it holds two large and unsatisfied judgments against the Republic of Congo, and the country and a company that helped the Republic buy the condo at 1 Central Park West with fraudulently transferred funds can't rely on their recent motions to dismiss to prevent the contractor from learning where the money came from. ... The construction firm is asking the court for permission to seize the \$7.1 million Manhattan condominium located in the Trump International Hotel and Tower building, which it says was purchased for the daughter of Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso using embezzled funds from the country's coffers. ... The Republic of Congo is represented by Michael J. Sullivan of Ashcroft Law Firm LLC." [\(Law360, 1/19/22\)](#)

**In A 2022 FARA Filing, The Ashcroft Law Firm Listed The Republic Of Congo As A Client.** (FARA, Ashcroft Law Firm Filing, 7/30/22)

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list the foreign principal(s) whom the registrant continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Government of Qatar  
Republic of Congo

(FARA, Ashcroft Law Firm Filing, 7/30/22)

## **Imprisoned Ex-Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak**

**In April 2018, The Ashcroft Law Firm Disclosed It Was Working For Razak.** (FARA, Ashcroft Law Firm Filing, 4/1/18)

U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

**Exhibit A to Registration Statement  
Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of  
1938, as amended**

**INSTRUCTIONS.** Furnish this exhibit for EACH foreign principal listed in an initial statement and for EACH additional foreign principal acquired subsequently. The filing of this document requires the payment of a filing fee as set forth in Rule (d)(1), 28 C.F.R. § 5.5(d)(1). Compliance is accomplished by filing an electronic Exhibit A form at <https://www.fara.gov>.

**Privacy Act Statement.** The filing of this document is required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, for the purposes of registration under the Act and public disclosure. Provision of the information requested is mandatory, and failure to provide this information is subject to the penalty and enforcement provisions established in Section 8 of the Act. Every registration statement, short form registration statement, supplemental statement, exhibit, amendment, copy of informational materials or other document or information filed with the Attorney General under this Act is a public record open to public examination, inspection and copying during the posted business hours of the Registration Unit in Washington, DC. Statements are also available online at the Registration Unit's webpage: <https://www.fara.gov>. One copy of every such document, other than informational materials, is automatically provided to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, and copies of any and all documents are routinely made available to other agencies, departments and Congress pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act. The Attorney General also transmits a semi-annual report to Congress on the administration of the Act which lists the names of all agents registered under the Act and the foreign principals they represent. This report is available to the public in print and online at: <https://www.fara.gov>.

**Public Reporting Burden.** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .49 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, Registration Unit, Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.


1. Name and Address of Registrant The Ashcroft Law Firm, LLC 13321 North Outer Forty Road, Suite 300; St. Louis, MO 63017		2. Registration No. <i>6438</i>
3. Name of Foreign Principal Mr. Najib Razak	4. Principal Address of Foreign Principal Malaysia	

(FARA, Ashcroft Law Firm Filing, 4/1/18)

**Razak Hired The Ashcroft Law Firm In The Midst Of A Massive Corruption Scandal That Resulted In Him Being Found Guilty In 2020 Of The Multi-Billion-Dollar Looting Of A Sovereign Wealth Fund.** "A massive financial scandal linked to the 1MDB wealth sovereign fund helped sink former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's political career and ended the six-decade rule of his coalition in 2018 national elections. Najib was found guilty Tuesday in his first corruption trial over the multibillion-dollar looting of 1MDB. A timeline of how the saga unfolded: ... Jul. 21, 2016: The U.S. Justice Department initiates moves to recover over \$1 billion that investigators say was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib and used to buy assets. May 9, 2018: Najib's National Front coalition, which had ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957, loses in a general election. ... May 10-June 2018: Najib and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, are banned from leaving the country, and the new government reopens investigations into 1MDB. Police seize cash and thousands of luxury items, from jewelry to handbags, from premises linked to Najib, worth up to 1.1 billion ringgit (\$259 million). July 4, 2018: Najib is charged with three counts of criminal breach of trust and one count of abusing his power. Aug. 8, 2018: Najib pleads not guilty to three more counts of money laundering and asks for a trial. Sept. 20, 2018: Najib pleads not guilty to another 25 charges of abuse of power and money laundering. ... Oct. 25, 2018: Najib and his former treasury secretary-general jointly are charged with six counts of criminal breach of trust over government payments linked to 1MDB. ... July 28, 2020: Najib is found guilty in his first corruption trial over the multibillion-dollar looting of 1MDB." ([The Associated Press, 7/28/20](#))

**Ukrainian Oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky**

**In 2019, The Ashcroft Law Firm Represented Kolomoisky, A Ukrainian Oligarch And Accused Killer Who Was Investigated By The FBI For Possible Financial Crimes.** "The FBI is investigating Ihor Kolomoisky, a Ukrainian oligarch who has sparred with the country's current president, according to three people briefed on the probe. The investigators are scrutinizing potential financial crimes, including money laundering, according to the sources, who say the probe is wide-ranging and has been under way for quite some time. Kolomoisky has not



been charged with any crime, and a lawyer representing him said he denies any wrongdoing. 'Mr. Kolomoisky categorically denies that he has laundered any funds into the United States, period,' said Mike Sullivan, an attorney with the Ashcroft Law Firm who represents Kolomoisky. ... The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Ohio is involved in the probe, as Kolomoisky has investments there, according to the Kyiv Post. ... Jonathan Brunson, who worked at the U.S. embassy in Kiev and was senior analyst on Ukraine for the Crisis Group, took a different view. 'I think Kolomoisky is super-dangerous,' he said. 'He is probably one of the most dangerous oligarchs because he's one of the ones who's willing to get his hands dirty.' Brunson pointed to Kolomoisky's role in funding the ultra-far-right Azov battalion, a group of Ukrainian fighters alleged to have ties to American white supremacists. ... Kolomoisky has a host of enemies. He's been accused of commissioning contract killings. And in 2016, Ukraine's central bank nationalized Kolomoisky's PrivatBank because it didn't have enough cash. Billions of dollars disappeared from its coffers because it lent so much to Kolomoisky associates, according to the FT." ([The Daily Beast](#), 4/8/19)

## Sweetheart Deal

**In 2007, The Ashcroft Law Firm Was Handpicked By Then-U.S. Attorney Chris Christie To Make Up To \$52 Million To Monitor Zimmer Holdings, A Knee And Hip Replacement Maker That Settled Kickback Allegations.** “Former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft’s law firm could earn \$52.2 million helping the U.S. attorney’s office in New Jersey monitor a leading maker of knee and hip replacements, according to recent public filings. Ashcroft’s firm is among five legal teams U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie hand-picked to watch the manufacturers, who agreed in September to pay \$311 million and hire monitors to settle allegations they paid surgeons to use and promote their devices. Christie, who took office in January 2002 and worked under Ashcroft until Ashcroft stepped down in 2005, denied any conflict Tuesday. ... The arrangement, disclosed in Oct. 31 filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, was first reported Tuesday by *The Star-Ledger* of Newark. The deal calls for Zimmer Holdings of Indiana to pay Washington-based Ashcroft Group Consulting Services an average monthly fee between \$1.5 million and \$2.9 million. That includes a flat payment of \$750,000 to the firm’s ‘senior leadership group,’ individual legal and consulting services at up to \$895 an hour and as much as \$250,000 in monthly expenses. Ashcroft’s firm could make the full \$52.2 million, but it will earn less if Zimmer complies with the agreement, Christie said ... The agreements were made by Zimmer Holdings Inc., as well as Biomet Orthopedics Inc., DePuy Orthopaedics Inc., Smith & Nephew Inc. and Stryker Corp. The five companies account for nearly 95 percent of the market in hip and knee implants.” (*The Associated Press*, 11/20/07)

## PokerStars

**In 2010, PokerStars Solicited Legal Advice From The Ashcroft Law Firm.** “A 2006 law makes it a federal crime for gambling businesses to knowingly accept most forms of payment for illegal Internet gambling. Because of the law, Internet gambling companies based overseas have concocted schemes to use separate processing companies to hide payments, according to the indictment made public Friday. After many of those accounts were shut down, the companies allegedly found banks willing to take payments they knew were from gambling. A letter last year to SunFirst from a law firm led by former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft says the firm believes it could be legal to process payments for peer-to-peer poker players, that is those who play against each other and not against a computer. ‘If a case was taken all the way to a judge and/or jury, and a decision was made on the legality of these practices ... we believe the decision would be in favor of online poker as a game of skill being allowed under those laws,’ said Catherine Hanaway, the attorney who wrote the letter. The letter dated July 26, 2010, was solicited on behalf of one of the poker companies, PokerStars, named in the indictment and addressed to SunFirst Bank. It came about seven months after the indictment says SunFirst began processing payments. But the letter makes clear that the Department of Justice ‘takes a contrary position’ and warns that ‘the law in this area was unsettled.’ Hanaway said given that warning, she was not surprised by the indictments. ‘It is consistent with what we describe in the letter as to the DOJ position,’ she said.” (*Salt Lake Tribune*, 4/18/11)

## US Fidelis

**US Fidelis Was A Wentzville-Based Auto Warranty Company That Collapsed In 2009 Amidst Fraud Charges That Led To Two Top Executives Being Sentenced To Prison For Stealing From Customers.** “Darain Atkinson, the co-founder and former president of US Fidelis, was sentenced Monday to eight years in prison on state charges. The action by Circuit Judge Jon Cunningham followed Atkinson’s sentencing last week on federal charges; he got eight years and was ordered to pay \$4.5 million in back taxes. The federal and state sentences will run concurrently. In the state case, Atkinson previously pleaded guilty to stealing, insurance fraud and deceptive business practices. ... Wentzville-based US Fidelis, formerly known as National Auto Warranty Services, collapsed in 2009 amid fraud accusations. Officials said US Fidelis misled customers into thinking they were talking to auto dealers or manufacturers and were getting a comprehensive service warranty. Atkinson and his brother Cory Atkinson, the company’s co-founder, were accused of bleeding the company of more than \$100 million. ... Cory Atkinson, 42, of Chesterfield, pleaded guilty in June to federal and state charges. He was sentenced to 40 months on federal charges and four years on state charges, and was ordered to pay \$4.49 million in back taxes.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 9/28/12)

- **In 2011, The Ashcroft Law Firm Filed Suit After US Fidelis Stiffed It For \$676,277 In Consulting Work.** “The telemarketers of US Fidelis never would have been able to sell more than 650,000 vehicle-service contracts without the ‘financial grease’ provided by a little-known finance company that stands to take the lion’s share of US Fidelis’ \$25 million bankruptcy estate, according to a suit filed this week in the Wentzville firm’s bankruptcy case. If the suit succeeds at limiting the take of Chicago-based Mepco Finance Corp., more money could go to other creditors - including hundreds of disgruntled customers who have filed claims and state attorneys general seeking restitution for tens of thousands more. ... Among the plaintiffs is the law firm started by John Ashcroft, a former Missouri senator and U.S. attorney general. His firm contends that US Fidelis stiffed it \$676,277 for consulting work it performed. ... US Fidelis filed for bankruptcy in March 2010, and its owners, brothers Darain and Cory Atkinson, were indicted on June 15 on charges of consumer fraud, stealing and illegally selling insurance.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 9/9/11)

## RUNNING FOR OFFICE ON HIS FATHER’S NAME

*During Ashcroft’s Failed 2014 State Senate Bid, He Ran With Establishment Support, Appeared On The Ballot As “John R. Ashcroft,” And Invoked His Father’s Past Work With Democrats*

**In 2014, Ashcroft Ran For The Missouri State Senate In A Moderate District After Several Republican Leaders Recruited Him**

**In July 2014, Ashcroft Decided To Run For The Missouri State Senate After Several Republican Leaders, Including The Head Of The Missouri GOP, Recruited Him.** “Jay Ashcroft grew up in the Governor’s Mansion in Jefferson City, calling it home from age 11 to 19. He is the middle child of John D. Ashcroft, who served as Missouri’s governor from 1985 to 1992 and held a string of other state and federal offices - including U.S. attorney general - over three decades. Through it all, Jay Ashcroft, 41, didn’t catch the political bug. He became an engineer, a community college teacher and a lawyer. He married, had three children, made his home in an unincorporated area of St. Louis County and steered clear of the limelight. Then last March, Ashcroft suddenly joined the race for an open state Senate seat in the county’s 24th District. He said several Republican leaders, including party chief Ed Martin, encouraged him. After initially balking, he said yes. ‘I was looking at the potential people that were running for the seat and felt like I had a better view of the role of government, and that’s why I jumped in,’ Ashcroft said. In his view, ‘the purpose of government is to protect your right to live your life the way you’d like to.’” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/14/14)

- **Ashcroft: “I Was Looking At The Potential People That Were Running For The Seat And Felt Like I Had A Better View Of The Role Of Government, And That’s Why I Jumped In.”** (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/14/14)



## **Ashcroft Touted The Support Of Key Establishment Figures Such As Former Sen. Kit Bond, Sen. Roy Blunt, And Top GOP Donor Sam Fox**

**In 2014, Ashcroft Touted The Support Of Bond, Blunt And Fox.** “Ashcroft is touting support from a number of major Republican officials and donors -- such as U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, former Gov. Christopher ‘Kit’ Bond and wealthy business magnate Sam Fox - who see the younger Ashcroft as their best hope for keeping the 24th District in Republican hands.” (St. Louis Public Radio, 7/24/14)

## **Ashcroft Appeared On The Ballot As “John R. Ashcroft,” And He Invoked His Father’s Past Work With Democrats**

**During His Failed 2014 State Senate Bid, Ashcroft Appeared On The Ballot As “John R. Ashcroft,” And He Invoked His Father’s Past Work With Democrats.** “Jay Ashcroft noted that his father, while known for his conservative principles, also reached across the aisle when he was governor to a Missouri Legislature that was controlled by Democrats. ‘One thing my father did teach me was, ‘You can’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good,’” Ashcroft said. Jay Ashcroft’s name will appear on the ballot as ‘John R. Ashcroft,’ but that wasn’t an attempt to make voters think they were voting for his dad, the younger Ashcroft said. John is his real name and that’s how he signs legal documents, he said.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/14/14)

- **St. Louis Public Radio: “He [Ashcroft] Noted That His Father Worked Closely With A Democratic Legislature During His Two Terms As Governor.”** “Ashcroft scoffed at Schupp’s contention. He noted that his father worked closely with a Democratic legislature during his two terms as governor. ‘There’s this thought that he’s some, I don’t know, conservative, right-wing bogeyman – put in whatever pejorative term you want,’ he said. ‘But if people look at his record, they’ll see that’s not who he was.’” (St. Louis Public Radio, 8/6/14)

**Ashcroft Described His Political Philosophy As Influenced By His Father, Including The Lesson, “You Can’t Let The Perfect Be The Enemy Of The Good.”** “Jay Ashcroft noted that his father, while known for his conservative principles, also reached across the aisle when he was governor to a Missouri Legislature that was controlled by Democrats. ‘One thing my father did teach me was, ‘You can’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good,’” Ashcroft said. Jay Ashcroft’s name will appear on the ballot as ‘John R. Ashcroft,’ but that wasn’t an attempt to make voters think they were voting for his dad, the younger Ashcroft said. John is his real name and that’s how he signs legal documents, he said.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/14/14)

- **The Missouri Times Reported, “Ashcroft Says That He’ll Be Widely Open To Compromise On A Number Of Subjects.”** “Ashcroft says that he’ll be widely open to compromise on a number of subjects, citing his 10 years as an engineer before going back to law school for a degree as proof that he knows how to work in an environment that isn’t all about individual success. ‘Honestly, if you’re designing a bridge, you don’t care if you get credit for the bridge,’ Ashcroft said. ‘You care if it works, if it’s safe. Is it affordable? Can we build it? It couldn’t matter less who gets their name on it.’ Ashcroft points to the battle over Medicaid expansion as an example of politicians refusing to look outside the box, or allowing political concerns to trump policy adjustments. ‘I don’t think anyone, no matter how against expansion they might be, is against expanding healthcare availability to the people that most need it,’ Ashcroft said. ‘Medicaid is one of those solutions, or at least it could be one. It’s not the only solution though. We need to be focusing on what the problem is. What are all the possible solutions to the problem? Why is this one better? At that point you’re supposed to have a rigorous debate. I feel like right now we are fighting over one solution instead of the best solution.’ ... Ultimately, Ashcroft is hoping to add a less partisan presence to the Senate chambers, should he succeed in both a tough primary and likely a blood-soaked general election for a swing seat.” (The Missouri Times, 7/24/14)

*In 2016, Ashcroft Ran For Missouri Secretary Of State, Receiving High Profile Endorsements From National Republicans And Admitting His Last Name Helped Him*

## **During His 2016 Secretary Of State Campaign, Ashcroft Benefited From High Profile Endorsements And Contributions From National Republicans**

**In February 2015, Ashcroft Announced His Campaign For Missouri Secretary Of State.** “Republican Jay Ashcroft announced his candidacy for secretary of state Thursday, setting up a GOP primary battle for the office that oversees Missouri’s elections and business registrations. Ashcroft declared his candidacy just hours after Democratic Secretary of State Jason Kander said he plans to run for U.S. Senate instead of another term as secretary in 2016. Republican state Sen. Will Kraus, who had announced his candidacy for secretary of state last year, reaffirmed Thursday that he is committed to the race. ‘Missouri is desperately in need of leaders who will fight for our state’s common sense conservative values,’ Ashcroft said in an emailed statement. ‘I will work to protect the integrity of our elections while ensuring the office’s business functions are streamlined to allow Missouri employers to focus on what they do best: creating businesses and jobs.’” (The Associated Press, 2/19/15)

**In June 2016, Mike Huckabee Gave A Speech, Alongside Ashcroft’s Father, In Which He Endorsed Ashcroft For Secretary Of State.** “The endorser of choice for Missouri Republicans? That would appear to be Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor. ... Now, he’s being summoned one more time to the Show-Me State. This time, Jay Ashcroft, a contender for secretary of state who’s in a competitive primary fight with Will Kraus of Lee’s Summit, is bringing in Huckabee for a Thursday event at the Ashcroft family farm in Willard, Mo. A news release notes that Huckabee, Ashcroft and his father, former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, will also hold a press availability in advance of the event.” (The Kansas City Star, 6/7/16)

- **On June 13, 2016, Huckabee Appeared In A Video Endorsing Ashcroft, Saying He Was A “True Conservative In This Race, Someone You Can Trust.”** “[Jay Ashcroft] is the true conservative in this race, someone you can trust. I hope you’ll give him your support. I am certainly happy to give him mine.’ - Mike Huckabee” (Jay Ashcroft, Facebook, 6/15/16)



(Jay Ashcroft, Facebook, 6/15/16)

**In July 2016, Ashcroft Also Received Support From Bush-Era Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.** “It also helped in fundraising. One example: Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld - a Cabinet colleague of John Ashcroft’s when he was U.S. attorney general - headlined a Jay Ashcroft fundraiser in Clayton earlier this year. Former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, the ex-Arkansas governor, appeared at a Jay Ashcroft event last month near Springfield. Ashcroft also has support from conservative icon Phyllis Schlafly.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/11/16)

**Conservative Activist Phyllis Schlafly Also Endorsed Ashcroft.** “It also helped in fundraising. One example: Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld - a Cabinet colleague of John Ashcroft’s when he was U.S. attorney general - headlined a Jay Ashcroft fundraiser in Clayton earlier this year. Former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, the ex-Arkansas governor, appeared at a Jay Ashcroft event last month near Springfield. Ashcroft also has support from conservative icon Phyllis Schlafly.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/11/16)

## Following His Republican Primary Victory, Ashcroft Admitted His Last Name Helped Him Win

**In October 2016, Ashcroft Admitted That His Last Named Helped Him Win The Republican Primary For Secretary Of State.** “When asked if his last name of Ashcroft helped his chances in a GOP primary, Jay Ashcroft replied: ‘I’m sure my name helped. But I also think it helped to be on the right side of the issues....I think it helped to be the individual that started off trying to say we should have a photo ID constitutional amendment.’” ([“Politically Speaking,”](#) 10/5/16)

## *Since 2014, Ashcroft Has Benefited From Contributions From Members Of His Family And Prominent D.C. Figures*

### Since 2014, John And Janet Ashcroft Have Contributed **Over \$170,000** To Jay Ashcroft’s Campaigns And Supportive PACs

**Since 2014, Janet Ashcroft Has Contributed **\$118,735** In Campaign And In-Kind Contributions To Her Son’s Campaign Committees. In 2022, She Also Contributed **\$25,000 To A Pro-Jay Ashcroft PAC.**** (“Janet Elise Ashcroft,” [FollowTheMoney.org](#), Accessed 9/13/23; MEC, Contribution Database, Accessed 9/13/23)

**Since 2014, John Ashcroft Has Contributed **\$8,120** To His Son’s Campaign Committees. In 2023, He Also Contributed **\$25,000 To A Pro-Jay Ashcroft PAC.**** (“John Ashcroft,” [FollowTheMoney.org](#), Accessed 9/13/23; MEC, Contribution Database, Accessed 9/13/23)

### In 2016, Former Assistant Attorney General Viet Dinh Contributed \$10,000 To Ashcroft’s Campaign

**On March 12, 2016, Dinh Contributed \$10,000 To Ashcroft’s Campaign.** (Ashcroft For Missouri, [Missouri Ethics Commission](#), Accessed 2/24/22)

NAME:			
ADDRESS:	Viet Dinh	3/12/2016	\$ 10,000.00
CITY / STATE:	500 New Jersey Ave.		
EMPLOYER:	Washington DC 20001		
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTEE:	Bancroft PLLC -- Partner	\$ 10,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MONETARY <input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND

(Ashcroft For Missouri, [Missouri Ethics Commission](#), Accessed 2/24/22)

- **Viet Dinh Served As Assistant Attorney General For John Ashcroft.** “Viet D. Dinh was sworn in as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy on May 31, 2001. Prior to his entry into government service, Dinh was Professor of Law and Deputy Director of Asian Law and Policy Studies at the Georgetown University Law Center. Dinh graduated magna cum laude from both Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was a Class Marshal and an Olin Research Fellow in Law and Economics. He was a law clerk to Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. He served as Associate Special Counsel to the U.S. Senate Whitewater Committee, as Special Counsel to Senator Pete V. Domenici for the Impeachment Trial of the President, and as counsel to the Special Master in In re Austrian and German Bank Holocaust Litigation. He is a member of the District of Columbia and U.S. Supreme Court bars.” (“Viet Dinh,” [U.S. Department Of Justice](#), Archived 2/16/04)

### In 2016, Bush-Era Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Contributed \$5,000 To Ashcroft’s Campaign

**On February 17, 2016, Rumsfeld Contributed \$5,000 To Ashcroft’s Campaign.** (Ashcroft For Missouri, [Missouri Ethics Commission](#), Accessed 2/24/22)

NAME:			
ADDRESS:	Donald Rumsfeld	2/17/2016	\$ 5,000.00
CITY / STATE:	1718 M Street NW #366		
EMPLOYER:	Washington DC 20036		
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTEE:	Self -- Self	\$ 5,000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MONETARY <input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND

(Ashcroft For Missouri, [Missouri Ethics Commission](#), Accessed 2/24/22)

### In 2016, Republican Consultant Karl Rove Contributed \$500 To Ashcroft’s Campaign

**On October 5, 2016, Rove Contributed \$500 To Ashcroft’s Campaign.** (Ashcroft For Missouri, [Missouri Ethics Commission](#), Accessed 2/24/22)

<b>NAME:</b> <b>ADDRESS:</b> Karl Rove <b>CITY / STATE:</b> 1408 Circle Ridge Dr Austin TX 78746 <b>EMPLOYER:</b> Karl Rove & Company -- President <input type="checkbox"/> <b>COMMITTEE:</b>	10/5/2016 ..... \$ 500.00	\$ 500.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>MONETARY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>IN-KIND</b>
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(Ashcroft For Missouri, [Missouri Ethics Commission](#), Accessed 2/24/22)

# POLITICAL & IDEOLOGICAL ISSUES

## FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

### *2016 Presidential Election*

**During The 2016 Presidential Primaries, Ashcroft Declined To Say If He Had A “Short List” Of Favorite Candidates, And He Stated That Neither The Republican Nor Democrat Candidates “Looked Very Presidential”**

**VIDEO: In December 2015, Ashcroft Declined To Tell An Interviewer If He Had A “Short List” Of Presidential Favorites.** Q: “Do you have a short list yet [of presidential favorites]? Have you narrowed it down? ASHCROFT: “Uh, not one that I’m ready to give out.” ([This Week In Missouri Politics](#), 12/13/15; 3:45 Mark)

**AUDIO: In March 2016, Ashcroft Said That None Of The Republican Or Democrat Presidential Candidates “Looked Very Presidential” During Debates.** ASHCROFT: “I don’t in any way want to emulate some of the presidential debates we’ve had, where I don’t think our candidates on both sides have looked very presidential.” (“Politically Speaking,” [St. Louis Public Radio](#), 3/10/16; 26:10 Mark)

**During The 2016 General Election, Ashcroft Maintained His Support For Trump Even After The Access Hollywood Video Surfaced**

**In September 2016, Ashcroft Was Noted As Having Endorsed Trump’s Campaign For President.** “Up and down the ballot, Missouri Republicans are rallying behind presidential candidate Donald Trump, according to a Trump news release. The release includes endorsements for Trump from U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, U.S. Rep. Billy Long and other Republicans in Congress. It also boasts support from candidates running for statewide office, including gubernatorial nominee Eric Greitens, lieutenant governor nominee and state Sen. Mike Parson, attorney general candidate Josh Hawley, secretary of state candidate Jay Ashcroft and state Sen. Eric Schmitt, who is running for treasurer.” ([Springfield News-Leader](#), 9/29/16)

**Following The Release Of The Access Hollywood Tape, Ashcroft Maintained His Support For Trump.** “Leading Missouri Republicans denounced Donald Trump’s 2005 remarks about groping women but declined to yank their support of the controversial GOP presidential nominee. ... Ashcroft told the *Washington Post* that the presidential election was ‘a binary choice. ‘I can either vote for Hillary Clinton, who ought to be in the big house instead of the White House, or I can vote for Donald Trump.’” ([Springfield News-Leader](#), 10/9/16)

### *2020 Presidential Election*

**In February 2020, Ashcroft Tweeted There Was “Strong Support” For Trump In Missouri**

**In February 2020, Ashcroft Attended A Cole County Lincoln Day Event And Tweeted There Was “Strong Support” For Trump.** “Strong support tonight for [@realDonaldTrump](#) at Cole County Lincoln Day this evening!” (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 2/17/20)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 2/17/20)

**In February 2020, Ashcroft Praised Trump’s State Of The Union Speech**

**In February 2020, Ashcroft Praised Trump’s State Of The Union Speech, Saying It “Told The Story Of America. Family, Faith, And Freedom.”** “Great SOTU tonight by @realdonaldtrump. During his speech he and his guests told the story of America. family, faith, and freedom. The State of Our Union is strong.” (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 2/4/20)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 2/4/20)

**2023 Georgia Indictment**

**In August 2023, Ashcroft Dodged A Question About How He Would Have Handled Trump’s Indictment For Interfering In Georgia’s 2020 Election.** “As former President Donald Trump faces an indictment for attempting to interfere in Georgia’s 2020 election, Missouri’s top election official dodged how he would have handled the situation in Missouri. When asked specifically by *The Star* on Tuesday whether Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft would have resisted Trump’s attempts to overturn an election result in Missouri as Georgia officials did in their state, Ashcroft’s campaign side-stepped the question. ‘As Secretary of State, Jay has prioritized election integrity, and demonstrated a commitment to running credible elections. As a result, Missouri now ranks third in the nation for election integrity and is a model for other states,’ spokesperson Jason Cabel Roe said in an email, citing a report from the Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based conservative think tank. ‘Jay has demonstrated a willingness to listen to all Missourians and will always take a fact-based approach to investigating election irregularities.’ ... Monday’s indictment against the former president offers an interesting case study for Ashcroft, who is in charge of running Missouri’s elections. Ashcroft holds the same office as Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a Republican who Trump allegedly attempted to pressure to overturn the election results in Georgia.” ([The Kansas City Star](#), 8/15/23)

## DISGRACED FORMER GOV. ERIC GREITENS

### *Silent During The Greitens Sex Scandal*

#### **In 2018, Ashcroft Refused To Comment On The Greitens Sex Scandal That Led To His Resignation As Governor**

**In 2018, Greitens Faced Corruption Allegations And A Sex Scandal That Culminated In A Felony Charge Of Invasion Of Privacy.** “His first year in office was dominated by a steady stream of corruption allegations, most stemming from his reliance on anonymous campaign contributions routed through secretive nonprofits. On the night last January when he delivered his 2018 State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature, the scandal that began his undoing became public. A woman with whom he had an affair in 2015 alleged that he took a nude photo without her consent to use as blackmail to keep her from talking about their relationship. Over the next five months, Greitens faced a barrage of accusations of criminal wrongdoing. Each time he remained defiant, shrugging off all allegations and vowing to remain in office. A St. Louis grand jury indicted him in February on one felony count of invasion of privacy, stemming from the woman’s accusations. In March, a House committee investigating Greitens as a precursor to impeachment released a bombshell 25-page report of its findings. The woman with whom Greitens had the affair testified to the committee under oath that in March 2015 he had taped her hands to pull-up rings, blindfolded her, spit water into her mouth, ripped open her shirt, pulled down her pants and taken a photo of her. She said Greitens threatened to make the photo public if she ever told anyone about their encounter, and called her ‘a little whore.’ When she tried to leave the basement of his St. Louis home, she told the committee, Greitens grabbed her in a ‘bear hug,’ laid her on the floor, pulled out his penis and coerced her into oral sex while she wept ‘uncontrollably.’” ([The Kansas City Star](#), 5/30/18)

#### **In February 2018, Ashcroft Remained Silent In The Aftermath Of Greitens’ Felony Indictment And Arrest.**

“The Missouri Republican Party’s full-throated defense of Gov. Eric Greitens in the face of a felony indictment stood in stark contrast Friday to the growing chorus of GOP lawmakers calling for him to resign. The state party attacked the credibility of the Democratic prosecutor overseeing the investigation of the Republican governor. GOP lawmakers, however, moved forward with plans to launch a legislative investigation in response to the indictment.... Lt. Gov. Mike Parson, the man who would replace Greitens if he stepped down, has not commented on the indictment. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and Treasurer Eric Schmitt also were silent about the arrest of their fellow Republican.” ([The Kansas City Star](#), 2/23/18)

#### **In May 2018, Ashcroft Refused To Discuss Greitens, Saying He Was Focused On His Job As Secretary Of State.**

“Ashcroft has been quiet on Greitens, and he reiterated Wednesday that he was just trying to do his job despite the distraction of his fellow Republican’s legal, political and personal troubles. ‘I was elected to do the job of secretary of state, and there are one or two things going on with our world,’ Ashcroft told the *News-Leader*. ‘We are focused on doing that, regardless of what happens or doesn’t happen at the Capitol or at the Governor’s Mansion or at the Truman Building. We are focused on doing what I promised, the people of the state were promised, and we’re focused on having good and secure elections.’” ([Springfield News-Leader](#), 5/7/18)

#### **In July 2018, Ashcroft Praised Incoming Gov. Mike Parson Following Greitens’ Resignation**

**In July 2018, Ashcroft Praised Parson After Greitens Resigned, Saying, “We Are Happy To Continue Working With Governor Parson As We Help Move The State Forward.”** “Ashcroft: ‘We are happy to continue working with Governor Parson as we help move the state forward.’” ([ABC 33](#), 7/1/18)

## RUNNING AS A WISHY-WASHY MODERATE IN 2014

#### **During His Failed 2014 State Senate Campaign, Ashcroft Campaigned On Jobs And Education, But He Issued Few Clear Positions**

**In His 2014 State Senate Campaign Announcement, Ashcroft Pledged To Focus On Jobs And Education.** “For the first time since 2000, an Ashcroft will be on the ballot in Missouri. Jay Ashcroft, son of former Missouri Governor, U. S. Senator and Attorney General John Ashcroft, filed Tuesday to run for the 24th district Missouri

State Senate seat. Jay Ashcroft pledged attention to jobs in the manufacturing sector along with a focus on education.” (FOX-2 KTVI, 3/25/14)

**In October 2014, The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Reported Ashcroft Had “Taken Few Hard-And-Fast Stands And Is Campaigning On A Vague Limited-Government Philosophy.”** “Though he has a famous conservative father - former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft - Jay Ashcroft has never held public office and has no voting record. A lawyer, he has taken few hard-and-fast stands and is campaigning on a vague limited-government philosophy. ‘The whole reason I’m running is, I think that government should be there to protect people’s ability to live life the way they want to,’ Ashcroft said in an interview in his Clayton law office.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10/27/14)

**In October 2014, St. Louis Public Radio Reported Ashcroft “Tended To Veer Away From Promising Specific Policy Goals” And Did Not Intend To Be A Career Politician.** “In previous interviews with St. Louis Public Radio, Ashcroft said he was prompted to run for the seat because he felt a calling to represent his friends and neighbors in the Missouri Senate. He promised to take a different mindset than other lawmakers in Jefferson City. ‘I’m not looking to be a career politician,’ Ashcroft said. ‘I really want to be someone that’s taking the voices of the district to Jefferson City, instead of being the voice in Jefferson City that’s dictating to the district. There’s 160,000 to 170,000 people in the district. It doesn’t matter how smart our legislators are in Jefferson City. The people of the district know more.’ In interviews, Ashcroft has tended to veer away from promising specific policy goals.” (*St. Louis Public Radio*, 10/24/14)

- **ASHCROFT: “I’m Not Looking To Be A Career Politician.”** (*St. Louis Public Radio*, 10/24/14)

**In December 2022, The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*’s Tony Messenger Stated That Ashcroft “Tried To Come Off As A Moderate” During His 2014 State Senate Campaign.** “Ashcroft, Missouri’s secretary of state, is a classic example of failing upward in politics. In 2014, in his first foray into politics, the son of former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft ran for the Missouri Senate against Democrat Jill Schupp. In that suburban St. Louis swing district, Ashcroft tried to come off as a moderate. It didn’t work. He lost.” (Tony Messenger, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 12/11/22)

## NOTABLE ISSUE POSITIONS

### Taxes

#### **During Ashcroft’s Failed 2014 State Senate Campaign, He Said He Would “Look At Ways To Trim The Government” Before He Supported A Gas Tax Hike**

**In October 2014, Ashcroft Said He Would “Look At Ways To Trim The Government” Before He Supported A Gas Tax Hike.** “On taxes, he said, he favors across-the-board cuts to help businesses grow rather than tax credits for special interests. He said he would ‘look at ways to trim the government’ before deciding whether a gas tax increase might be needed to fund highway construction. His father passed the last two fuel tax increases - in 1987 and 1992.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10/27/14)

#### **Ashcroft Opposed The Kehoe-Backed Gas Tax Hike That Was Enacted In 2021**

**Ashcroft Opposed The Kehoe-Backed Gas Tax Hike That Was Enacted In 2021.** “Ashcroft’s campaign said he opposes the gas tax increase legislators approved and Parson signed in 2021. That’s a break with Kehoe, who supported the gradual 12.5-cent increase.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 4/7/23)

#### **In 2023, Ashcroft Cited The Legislature’s Passage Of A 2019 Gas Tax Hike In His Push For A Constitutional Amendment To Require Any Tax Hike To Go To Voters**

**In May 2023, Ashcroft Cited The Legislature’s Passage Of A 2019 Gas Tax Hike In His Push For A Constitutional Amendment To Require Any Tax Hike To Go To Voters.** “Ashcroft said he wants to see a constitutional amendment that requires any tax increase to go to voters in response to lawmakers passing a gas tax in 2019 after a vote failed in 2018. He noted the state had a \$2 billion surplus before lawmakers enacted the tax and now the state sits on \$5 billion in surplus. ‘We don’t have a problem with a shortage of revenues, we have a problem with the allocation of revenue,’ Ashcroft said.” (*Mexico Ledger*, 5/4/23)



**In 2023, Ashcroft Supported The Eventual Elimination Of Personal Property Taxes And The State Income Tax**

In July 2023, Ashcroft Stated His Support For “Reducing, And Eventually Eliminating, Both Our Personal Property Tax And Our Income Tax Like Texas Just Did.” “JAY ASHCROFT CAMPAIGN: ‘I want Missouri to be to have the lowest tax burden of any state. I don’t think we should tax labor, and we should encourage people to work. I am in favor of reducing, and eventually eliminating, both our personal property tax and our income tax like Texas just did.’” (NBC-3 KYTV, 7/13/23)

**State Spending**

**In 2023, Ashcroft Has Criticized The Recent Growth Of Missouri’s State Budget**

In April 2023, Ashcroft Ripped Fellow Republicans For Growing The State Budget While “Everyday Families Are Struggling To Be Able To Pay For What They Want To Buy At The Store With Inflation.” “Ashcroft also criticized the state’s growing budget, which is set to top \$50 billion in the next fiscal year, up from \$28 billion in 2018. ‘The government has more money than ever, it’s spending more money than ever, and everyday families are struggling to be able to pay for what they want to buy at the store with inflation,’ Ashcroft said.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4/7/23)

In A May 2023 Op-Ed, Ashcroft Criticized The Recent Growth Of The State Budget As “Hard To Fathom.” ASHCROFT: “For starters, the explosion in government spending is hard to fathom in a Republican stronghold. In 2018, our state budget was \$28 billion dollars. Last week, the legislature closed the books on a jaw-dropping \$51 billion budget. Even as deep-blue Democratic states like Illinois grew just 25% over the same 5-year period, Missouri nearly doubled government spending.” (Jay Ashcroft, Springfield News-Leader, 5/15/23)

**While Ashcroft Has Criticized The Recent Growth Of Missouri’s Budget, His Own Office’s Budgets Have Grown**

During Ashcroft’s Time As Secretary Of State, His Office’s Appropriated Budgets Have Nearly Doubled, But Actual Expenditures Have Grown By A More Modest 15%. (Missouri Office of Administration, Executive Budgets-FY2017 To FY 2023, Accessed 10/22/23)

Fiscal Year	Total Appropriations	General Revenue	FTEs	Total Expenditures	General Revenue	FTEs
FY 2017 (Kander's Final Year)	\$45,023,774	\$22,536,514	269.3	\$30,137,231	\$17,951,543	214.14
FY 2018	\$43,973,775	\$19,236,515	269.3	\$28,778,023	\$18,286,331	218.12
FY 2019	\$53,017,992	\$24,683,951	269.3	\$34,743,871	\$24,605,836	217.83
FY 2020	\$64,240,811	\$26,647,187	267.3	\$48,571,107	\$25,144,829	216.31
FY 2021	\$73,799,853	\$20,840,832	267.3	\$34,486,370	\$19,624,342	209.77
FY 2022	\$60,926,754	\$21,450,129	267.3	\$37,251,817	\$20,942,073	205.96
FY 2023	\$77,685,660	\$38,023,259	267.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>% Change Since FY2018</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>-6%</b>

(Missouri Office of Administration, Executive Budgets-FY2017 To FY 2023, Accessed 10/22/23)

**NOTE:** The client should consult with a pro-Kehoe state budget expert before using the data in the chart above. In past campaigns, state budget debates have largely hinged on general revenue data.

**ObamaCare’s Medicaid Expansion**

In October 2014, Ashcroft Was Noncommittal On If He Would Support Medicaid Expansion, Saying He Wanted To Look At “All Potential Solutions.” “He was noncommittal about whether the state should accept federal money to expand Medicaid to cover 300,000 low-income adults. He said he would work to improve

access to quality medical care but hasn't signed on to any particular plan. 'I really want to work to be someone who says, 'Here's the problem, what are all the potential solutions?'" ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 10/27/14)

- **A St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial Stated That “Divining His [Ashcroft’s] Position [On Medicaid Expansion] Is Difficult.”** “We endorse Ms. Schupp to be the next state senator from the 24th District. ... Mr. Ashcroft has never held political office, and his inexperience shows in his lack of clarity on key issues. Most important is Medicaid expansion, where divining his position is difficult. ‘We have a problem and we need to fix it,’ Mr. Ashcroft told us when we asked if he supported attempts by Democrats and a few Republicans (including one of his chief advisers, former U.S. Sen. Christopher ‘Kit’ Bond) to expand Medicaid to cover people who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. But he wouldn’t commit to supporting legislation pushed by either state Rep. Jay Barnes, R-Jefferson City, or state Sen. Ryan Silvey, R-Kansas City, that would accomplish what needs to be done, a move that would be a boon to the health care-based economy of the 24th District.” (Editorial, [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 10/26/14)

## Foreign Ownership Of Missouri Land

### **In 2023, Ashcroft Supported Failed Legislation To Restrict, But Not Ban, The Foreign Ownership Of Land In Missouri**

**In January 2023, Ashcroft Testified In Support Of A Failed Bill (SB 55) To Restrict, But Not Ban, The Foreign Ownership Of Missouri Land.** “Witnesses disagreed about whether ‘alien or foreign businesses’ should be allowed to buy or transfer real estate and agricultural land in Missouri at a hearing Tuesday morning. The Senate Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee heard testimony about three bills regarding the foreign ownership of real estate and agricultural land in Missouri. ... The second bill, SB 55 sponsored by Sen. Jason Bean, R-Butler, would reduce the amount of foreign-owned agricultural land in the state from 1 percent to 0.5 percent. ‘Senate Bill 55 aims to set the record straight by making food security and national security a priority interest,’ Bean said. Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft testified in favor of the bill, stating he had been working closely with Bean to ensure it was successful in protecting Missouri’s security and protecting agricultural interests. ‘This bill would just bring down that 1 percent under what is classified under the Missouri law,’ he said. ‘The reason why we wanted to go down to half a percent, is we wanted to make a difference. But we also wanted to make sure that we didn’t do something that we regret two years later.’ While Bean said the bill sought to deter foreign encroachment on Missouri land and the potential for foreign threats on military bases in the state, he said he didn’t want to go as far as to deter foreign investment in the state that would benefit American farmers. ... Bean mentioned five nations that would be barred from owning any land in the state without exception: China, Russia, Iran, North Korea and Venezuela. ‘The approach is to move us in the right direction,’ Ashcroft said. ‘But also be cognizant about potential unforeseen consequences and to make sure that we do it in a measured manner.’” ([Jefferson City News Tribune](#), 1/25/23; Missouri Senate Agriculture, Food Production & Outdoor Resources Committee, Jay Ashcroft Testimony On SB 55, 1/24/23)

**The Ashcroft-Backed Bill Also Faced Questions About The Removal Of Language To Ban The Foreign Ownership Of Land Near Military Bases.** “Bean stated language in the bill prohibiting foreign ownership of land within 30 miles of military installations would be amended, given that it might restrict development in other industries like aerospace or pharmaceuticals. Sen. Barbara Washington, D-Jackson County, expressed concern over this, and asked Ashcroft and Bean what protections would be in place to protect American military bases in case new or different countries needed to be added to the list. ‘Who’s going to monitor that change if the feds come down the line and say, ‘We don’t trust Britain anymore’ or ‘We don’t trust Germany, and we don’t want them around,’ Washington said. ‘Who is going to monitor that to make sure that our military is protected?’ ‘Well, we’ve taken the military bases out of the bill. The reason we did that was when we realized, for example, our partners here in the state like Boeing, this would affect Boeing,’ Bean said in an interview with the *News Tribune* after the hearing. Bean did not mention if language in the bill that restricts purchasing or leasing land within 30 miles of agricultural land would be removed.” ([Jefferson City News Tribune](#), 1/25/23; Missouri Senate Agriculture, Food Production & Outdoor Resources Committee, Jay Ashcroft Testimony On SB 55, 1/24/23)

### **State Sen. Bill Eigel Ran Digital Ads That Criticized Ashcroft For Not Favoring A Total Ban On The Foreign Ownership Of Missouri Land**

**In February 2023, Ashcroft Defended His Support For The Bill After Eigel Ran Digital Ads Criticizing Him For Not Favoring A Total Ban On Foreign Ownership Of Land.** “Eigel, a two-term GOP legislator from St. Charles County, began running ads on Facebook this month criticizing two of his fellow Republicans — Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft. ... In four digital ads criticizing Ashcroft, Eigel argues the secretary of state is pushing legislation this year that doesn’t go far enough to restrict foreign entities from acquiring real estate in Missouri. ‘I am the only 2024 Missouri candidate that thinks there should be a 100% ban on foreign ownership of Missouri farmland,’ Eigel said in one of the ads. ... In an interview Friday, Ashcroft said he’s been working with Republican lawmakers to find a solution to an issue that’s lingered for far too long. ‘This has been something that hasn’t been dealt with for several years by the legislature,’ he said. Legislation sponsored by Sen. Jason Bean, R-Holcomb, and backed by Ashcroft would cut the limit on foreign-owned agriculture land from the current 1% to 0.5%. It would also bar ownership by individuals or businesses from certain countries, including China, Russia, North Korea and Venezuela. ‘I don’t think that what we’re trying to do is the ultimate answer to where we need to be,’ Ashcroft said. ‘But what I wanted to do was take a measured approach so that we can actually fix a problem.’ Eigel is sponsoring legislation that would ban all new foreign ownership of land in Missouri beginning Aug. 28. ... Ashcroft said he worries the more expansive legislation could have unintended consequences, such as interfering with companies like Boeing that work with foreign entities. ... ‘My concern is historically, we talk about issues and we don’t get stuff done,’ he said. ‘I don’t want to be someone that’s known for press conferences and press releases. I want to be someone that’s known for getting policy accomplished.’ ... Ashcroft said he worries the entire debate has become politicized. ‘This is just one more issue where we’re gonna sacrifice good policy on the altar of politics,’ he said, later adding: ‘I am going to continue to push to make progress on this issue. I don’t want in any way to insinuate that I’m not going to continue to try to move the issue forward. But I am also not optimistic. I think the odds of nothing happening this year are unfortunately now better than the odds of something good happening.’” ([Missouri Independent](#), 2/20/23)

- **Ashcroft Has Responded To Criticism By Knocking Eigel And Kehoe’s Past Votes On The Issue And The Inaction Of The State Legislature.** “...Kehoe was a state senator in 2013 and supported the veto override, but now backs new restrictions. Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and state Sen. Bill Eigel, neither of whom were in the legislature at the time, also support limits but have fought over who has staked out the most aggressive position. ... Ashcroft this spring has attacked both Kehoe and Eigel over the issue of foreign land ownership. Ashcroft began a late April column in *The Joplin Globe* by noting Kehoe’s 2013 vote. And in another column on Tuesday, he wrote that the Senate with Eigel’s help added a ‘loophole’ into legislation that would have allowed entities associated with China, Iran, Venezuela, Russia and North Korea to buy as much land as they want as long as it wasn’t used for farming. ‘Simply put there is one and only one reason why the legislature did not pass legislation prohibiting foreign ownership of Missouri land. They did not want to,’ Ashcroft said in a statement to *The Star* on Thursday. ‘They wanted to claim credit on Facebook and social media but not actually do anything about it and we know this because of what the senate did do.’” ([The Kansas City Star](#), 5/19/23)

## Crime

**In 2023, Ashcroft Testified In Support Of A Failed Omnibus Crime Bill (HB 301) That Included Provisions To Provide Taxpayer-Funded Health Care To Ex-Prisoners.** “A bill in the Missouri Legislature could provide formerly incarcerated people who do not have access to health insurance with up to six months of MO HealthNet benefits. Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins, D-St. Louis, supported provisions that allowed recently released convicts receive health services through the state’s Medicaid program during a House Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee meeting Thursday morning. She and others were behind some parts of the small public safety omnibus, but raised major concerns about other parts of the bill, namely a clause in the bill that would appoint a special prosecutor to serve in St. Louis. ... The Missouri House Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety heard testimony on House Bill 301, an omnibus bill to address policing concerns in Missouri during a hearing that lasted nearly four hours. ... The bill is sponsored by Rep. Lane Roberts, R-Joplin, and includes many provisions, including one that would allow for the appointment of a special prosecutor to handle special cases in St. Louis, an aspect of the bill that was criticized by many Democrats on the committee. Roberts said a special prosecutor was needed to address high crime rates in St. Louis. ... The bill also stipulates that former inmates would be provided with several forms of identification information upon release. It also establishes certain considerations for

allowing someone to post bail, like if they are a flight risk or had prior convictions. Other aspects of the bill would repeal minimum prison terms for certain crimes and change laws around the offense of 'unlawful possession of a firearm.' A clause in the bill would also provide a full tuition reimbursement for any police officer that trains to be a peace officer and gets full-time employment with a law enforcement agency for four years. ... Among others, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft testified in support of the bill." ([Jefferson City News Tribune](#), 1/27/23)

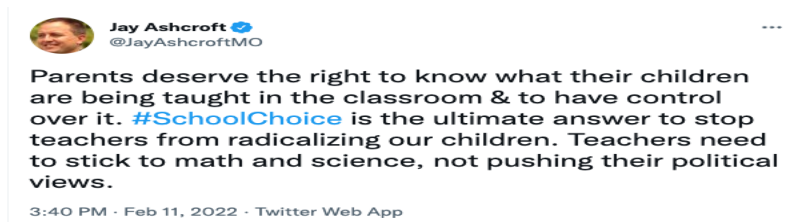
## School Choice

### **In 2014, Ashcroft Said He Would Support School Vouchers If There Was No Accredited Public-School Options Available**

**In October 2014, Ashcroft Said He Would Support School Vouchers "If There's No (Accredited) Public School, I Guess We Have To."** "Asked, for example, if he favors using public money to pay for children in unaccredited schools to attend private schools - a frequent flashpoint in education debates - Ashcroft said: 'That's one way. I tend to take an all-of-the-above approach. The focus ought to be on whether kids are learning.' Pressed on whether that means he supports vouchers, he sighed and said: 'If there's no (accredited) public school, I guess we have to. The state's budget is what, \$27 billion? If we can't create a way for kids to have a good education, that's reprehensible.'" ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 10/27/14)

### **Since 2022, Ashcroft Has Become An Outspoken Advocate For School Choice**

**In February 2022, Ashcroft Tweeted That School Choice "Is The Ultimate Answer To Stop Teachers From Radicalizing Our Children."** "Parents deserve the right to know what their children are being taught in the classroom & to have control over it. #SchoolChoice is the ultimate answer to stop teachers from radicalizing our children. Teachers need to stick to math and science, not pushing their political views." (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#) 2/11/22)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#) 2/11/22)

**In April 2023, Ashcroft Said School Choice Would Be Prioritized If He Was Elected Governor.** "In an interview with the *Post-Dispatch*, Ashcroft said school choice would be a priority of his administration. While Parson signed into law the state's limited tax credit education voucher program, school choice advocates want to go further with proposals for open enrollment and expansion of vouchers. 'Using that bully pulpit, I can affect the education issue,' Ashcroft said. 'Maybe for the first time in my lifetime, we'll be able to say that every child in this state actually does have an opportunity to get a challenging education.'" ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/7/23)

**In May 2023, Ashcroft Criticized The State Legislature For Failing To Pass An Open Enrollment Bill, And He Said School Choice Would Be A Top Priority If Was Elected Governor.** ASHCROFT: "The legislature also let our kids down by failing to pass an open education enrollment bill, giving parents more flexibility in putting their children in schools and academic settings that best serve them. The education bureaucracy is too focused on inputs and not enough on outputs, and it is time we gave parents more say in their kids' educational development. Republicans have long carried the banner of school choice advocates, but when push came to shove, it didn't get done. I've been a longtime advocate for school choice and will prioritize it in my administration." (Jay Ashcroft, [Springfield News-Leader](#), 5/15/23)

## Trade

**In January 2020, Ashcroft Praised The Signing Of The USMCA.** "The signing of the #USMCA is a win for North America, for fairness, and propels the U.S. and #MissouriForward. @WhiteHouse @MoAgriculture @realDonaldTrump" (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 1/29/20)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 1/29/20)

## Abortion

### **In 2023, Ashcroft, Who Has Been Endorsed By Missouri Right To Life, Opposed Adding Exceptions For Rape And Incest To Missouri’s Abortion Ban**

#### **In July 2023, Ashcroft Opposed Adding Exceptions For Rape And Incest To The State’s Abortion Ban.**

“...Kehoe is open to amending the state’s near-total abortion ban to include exceptions for rape and incest if elected governor in 2024. ... The lieutenant governor’s stance also contrasts with Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a Republican who jumped into the race in April. Jason Cabel Roe, an Ashcroft campaign spokesperson, said this week that Ashcroft supports the abortion ban as it’s written. Asked to clarify whether he would support additional changes to the law allowing exceptions for rape and incest, Roe reiterated that Ashcroft ‘supports the existing law.’ Last week, Missouri Right to Life, the state’s leading anti-abortion group, endorsed Ashcroft over Kehoe.” ([The Kansas City Star](#), 7/27/23)

- **Ashcroft Shared A Tweet In Which The Poster Stated That She Was “Disgusted” By Kehoe’s Position.**

“...Kehoe this week said he’d consider rape and incest exceptions to Missouri’s abortion ban if he receives such a bill as governor, setting him apart from his Republican rivals in the race, who quickly attacked him. Kehoe’s statement follows the Missouri Right to Life’s recent endorsement of Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, who this week shared a tweet by a woman who said she was born to a rape victim and that she was ‘disgusted’ by the Kehoe campaign statement.” ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 7/29/23)

### **In 2023, Ashcroft Implied He Would Resign As Governor If Missourians Voted In Favor Of Abortion Rights**

**VIDEO: In November 2023, Ashcroft Implied He Would Resign As Governor If Missourians Voted In Favor Of Abortion Rights.** “Following a hearing in the Western District Court of Appeals Monday, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, who is running for governor, was asked by reporters whether he, as governor, would be able to defend reproductive rights if Missouri voters enshrine them in the Missouri Constitution next fall. ‘Anytime a statewide official is sworn in, we swear an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri,’ Ashcroft replied. ‘If I cannot do that, then I would have to leave my position. I cannot swear an oath and then refuse to do what I’d said I would do.’ Reporters followed up, asking whether Ashcroft meant that he would resign or decline to take the oath of office if the initiative on abortion rights is approved on the 2024 ballot. ‘We’re getting into real hypotheticals,’ Ashcroft said. ‘What I’ve told you is that I would do what I said I would do. When I take an oath, I will follow it, and if it is incompatible with my moral beliefs, then I would have to quit.’” ([CBS-4 KMOV](#), 11/1/23)

### **In 2021, Ashcroft Supported The Effort Of State Senate Republicans To Shut Down Debate On A Medicaid Provider Tax Bill, If A Filibuster Blocked Them From Inserting A Pro-Life Provision**

**In May 2021, Ashcroft Supported State Senate Republicans Who Tried To Shut Down Debate, If A Filibuster Blocked Them From Inserting A Pro-Life Provision Into A Medicaid Provider Tax Bill.** “Republicans in the Missouri Senate should move to shut off debate if a filibuster blocks anti-abortion lawmakers from putting their stamp on provider taxes that fund Medicaid, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said in an interview with The Independent this week. The advice was not, however, well received by the Senate’s Republican or Democratic leaders. Lawmakers, who adjourned their annual session Friday, must return to Jefferson City sometime before Sept. 30 to extend a set of taxes on medical providers. Failure to do so would leave the state budget severely out of balance, with a shortage of more than \$2 billion for the state’s share of the \$12 billion program. Renewal of the taxes failed for the first time in 30 years when it became entangled in abortion politics. Sen. Paul Wieland, R-Imperial, sought language to bar Medicaid from paying for certain types of contraceptives and Sen. Bob Onder, R-Lake St. Louis, wanted a provision prohibiting Planned Parenthood from being a Medicaid provider. ‘You just have to have five people that are willing to sign a PQ form and then 18 people that are willing to vote for it,’ Ashcroft said. ‘And I think we saw that there were a clear majority of individuals that were in favor of the pro-life language. Now, it’s easy for me to say. I’m not in the legislature.’” (Rolla Daily News, 5/21/21)

**Senate Majority Leader Caleb Rowden Responded To Ashcroft’s Statement By Advising Him To Focus On His Own Job.** “Ashcroft believes the issue at hand with the provider taxes is worth the long-term aggravation for Senate leaders. ‘I think that people in this state would be very happy if the Republican supermajorities that they’ve elected passed Republican, supermajority type items,’ Ashcroft said. The advice from Senate leaders to Ashcroft is to stick to the duties of his office. ‘I appreciate the Secretary’s input, but the last time I checked, he doesn’t have a vote in the Missouri Senate,’ Majority Leader Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, wrote in a text message.” (Rolla Daily News, 5/21/21)

### **In 2021, Ashcroft Supported Adopting Strict Language To Block Federal Reimbursement Allowance Funds From Supporting Abortions**

**In May 2021, Ashcroft Supported Adopting Strict Language To Block Federal Reimbursement Allowance Funds From Supporting Abortions.** “Ashcroft first weighed in on the debate over the provider taxes shortly after noon on Friday, when the final efforts to pass the bill in any form had already failed. In a news release, Ashcroft said he is ‘a champion for human life’ and ‘encourages the Missouri legislature to adopt strict language - in legislation regarding the Federal Reimbursement Allowance - to ensure FRA monies would not be used to fund the killing of innocent human life.’ Ashcroft’s first political race was a failed bid for a state Senate seat, and in the interview, he said he was voicing the same abortion stance he promoted in that campaign. He said he’s not trying to tell lawmakers what to include in the bill but that it should be as strong as possible. ‘I don’t want to be in the middle of anybody’s bedroom,’ Ashcroft said. ‘All I want is to make sure that we’re protecting those human lives.’ The provider taxes became a target for the amendments because previous efforts to add language to budget bills barring Planned Parenthood from being a Medicaid provider were tossed out by the courts. ‘All they’re doing is taking language that’s been approved in budgets for I don’t know how many years and putting it off directly on the FRA,’ Ashcroft said. ‘So many of the same people that are complaining about it, voted for that same language in the budget last year.’” (Rolla Daily News, 5/21/21)

## **LGBTQ Issues**

### **In 2023, Ashcroft Opposed Attorney General Andrew Bailey’s Rule To Restrict Hormone Therapy And Gender Surgeries For Adults**

**In April 2023, Ashcroft Said He Opposed Hormone Therapy And Gender Surgeries For Children And Adults, But He Opposed Bailey’s Rule To Restrict Such Treatments For Adults.** “At least one top Missouri Republican isn’t defending Attorney General Andrew Bailey’s rules on transgender medical care, which advocates say would make Missouri the first state to restrict treatments for adults. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said in an interview he disagrees with Bailey’s regulation even though he doesn’t support hormone therapy and gender surgeries for children and adults. Ashcroft said adults should be able to make their own decisions and predicted the Republican attorney general’s regulation won’t actually take effect. ‘I wouldn’t want to be the attorney that was defending it,’ Ashcroft, an attorney and engineer elected secretary of state in 2016, told the *Post-Dispatch*. ‘If you’re an adult, you have the capacity to make your own decisions,’ Ashcroft said. ‘It’s a decision I would

disagree with, but I don't believe it's the role of government to forbid it.' He said the government had a responsibility to protect children who are too young to give consent, and supports legislation restricting gender-related care for children. But Ashcroft said he wasn't confident the attorney general had the authority to limit such care himself." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/20/23)

**Ashcroft Argued Adults Could Make Their Own Decisions Regarding Such Treatments.** "The most prominent Missouri Republican voicing skepticism about Bailey's rule has been Ashcroft, who launched his campaign for governor earlier this month. Ashcroft, who has promised to make the state 'the front line of freedom' if elected, has said adults can make their own decisions about treatment. But he has also maintained that gender-affirming care cannot fundamentally change whether someone is a man or woman. 'I don't think anyone should go through this process because it's a lie to say that you can change from a man to a woman or a woman to a man through surgery... But if you have someone who is an adult, they can make their own decision as to what they want to do, and I support them,' Ashcroft said during a Tuesday appearance on CNN. Ashcroft's office didn't make him available for an interview with *The Star*. But in a Friday appearance on NewsTalkSTL, Ashcroft voiced concern the legislature would use Bailey's rule as an excuse not to pass legislation on transgender care. He said rulemaking authority is limited and said there 'are real questions about whether or not that rule will survive in the courts.'" ([The Kansas City Star](#), 4/26/23)

### **In 2023, Ashcroft Stated His Opposition To The Missouri Nondiscrimination Act (MONA)**

**In April 2023, Ashcroft Stated His Opposition To MONA.** "The secretary of state said he doesn't support the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act, or MONA, which would outlaw discrimination in employment, housing, financial services and public accommodations because of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. 'We ought to be nice to everybody,' Ashcroft said. 'We're all discriminated against all the time. Do people have a reasonable belief that they're not welcome in this state if they're in the LGBT community? No,' Ashcroft said." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/7/23)

### **In 2022, Ashcroft Called On Then-Sen. Roy Blunt To Oppose Legislation To Protect Same-Sex Marriage**

**In November 2022, Ashcroft Called On Blunt To Oppose Legislation To Protect Same-Sex Marriage.** "The U.S. Senate is expected to vote on a bill that, if passed, could protect same-sex marriage. In the final hours before the vote, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft urged Senator Roy Blunt, R-Mo., to 'use whatever means possible to stop the passage' of the Respect for Marriage Act. Blunt is one of 12 Republicans who joined Democrats in a procedural vote to advance the legislation earlier this month. In a letter to the Senator, Ashcroft wrote that the act, 'Specifically runs afoul traditional principles of federalism,' and that it will 'embolden an already weaponized U.S. Department of Justice.' Ashcroft also said the federal law isn't needed because Missouri voters have already voiced what they believe. 'Missourians have overwhelmingly approved marriage as a bond between one man and one woman. Over seventy percent of Missourians amended the Missouri Constitution stipulating that to be valid and recognized in this state, a marriage shall exist only between a man and a woman,' Ashcroft wrote in the letter. Ashcroft also wrote he believes the act is bad policy. 'I believe marriage is the exclusive, lifelong, conjugal union between one man and one woman, and any departure from that design hurts the indispensable goal of having every child raised in a stable home by a mother and a father,' Ashcroft wrote." ([FOX-4 KC](#), 11/29/22)

## **Gambling**

**In 2023, Ashcroft Stated His Support For Regulating All Slot Machines In Missouri.** "On the unregulated slot machines that have flooded the state, Ashcroft said it seems like the games 'fall through a crack, and that doesn't seem like the best way to deal with them. 'I think if we're going to have those machines they should be regulated or else we shouldn't have the machines,' he said." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/7/23)

## **Paternity Leave**

**VIDEO: In A 2017 Video Interview, Ashcroft Criticized A Federal-Level Push For Paternity Leave Legislation.** ASHCROFT: "I think Alec understanding that making changes at the state level and having States work together is really the way to create change. We've seen how foreign governments, we broke away from a government like

that, that was top-down and this understanding that government, that is closest to the people knows how to create programs that are necessary, not unnecessary programs but tailor them to what is best and works the best, and to have a group of individuals that's working between states that sharing ideas collaboratively and saying what works best for you, instead of working at the federal side, that's going to say 'you have to do this regardless of whether it works well for you or not is ridiculous. Alec would never say that 44 year-old men need to have maternity coverage that's the federal government that's not Alec.'" ([American Legislative Exchange Council](#), 9/28/17)  
Minute 0:56 – 0:146

## FLAGGED TRAVEL

Time Period	Filing Date	Employment (Over \$1K Income)	Miscellaneous Income	Associations	Lodging & Travel
3/29/15/ to 3/29/16	4/11/16	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	Orchard Lakes Suidivision HOA	None
1/1/16 to 12/31/16	2/7/17	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None
1/1/17 to 12/31/17	4/30/18	Ashcroft Law Firm LLC	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	The Hunt Kean Institute paid \$1,672.67 for Ashcroft's 12/6 trip to DC related to a fellowship.
1/1/18 to 12/31/18	5/1/19	State Of Missouri	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	The Hunt Institute paid \$2,002.79 for Ashcroft's 8/8 to 8/10 trip to Seattle, WA related to a fellowship; Axios paid \$1,211.57 for Ashcroft's 10/24 to 10/25 trip to DC for an election security forum; the Bipartisan Policy Center paid \$882.74 for Ashcroft's 4/26 to 4/27 trip to DC for a voting forum; the Belfer Center paid \$623.87 for Ashcroft's 12/3 to 12/4 trip to Cambridge, MA for a cybersecurity conference.
1/1/19 to 3/31/20	4/13/20	Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None	The U.S. Election Assistance Commission paid \$506.68 for Ashcroft's 4/10 trip to Memphis for a board meeting; the Hunt Institute paid \$1,188.69 for Ashcroft's 3/6 trip to North Carolina for an education meeting; the RSLC paid \$2,680.35 for Ashcroft's 12/8 trip to Wyoming for a retreat.
1/1/20 to 12/31/20	5/3/21	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	River Oak Christian Academy (Spouse)	None
1/1/21 to 12/30/21	5/2/22	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse)	None	None	None
1/1/22 to 12/30/22	5/1/23	State Of Missouri; Cengage Learning (Spouse); Wendy's (Son)	None	River Oak Christian Academy (Spouse)	The Heritage Foundation paid \$1,216.37 for Ashcroft's April trip to DC to speak on elections; the Conservative Partnership Institute paid \$1,015.85 for Ashcroft's July trip to DC to speak on elections; the RNLA paid \$219 for Ashcroft's August trip to Phoenix, AZ to speak on elections; the Foundation for Government Accountability paid an undisclosed amount for Ashcroft's December trip to Naples, FL to speak on elections.

(MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

### The Left-Leaning Hunt Institute Paid \$4,864.15 For Ashcroft's Lodging And Travel

**From 2017 TO 2019, The Hunt Institute, Formerly The Hunt-Kean Institute, Paid \$4,864.15 For Ashcroft's Lodging And Travel To Attend Events In D.C., North Carolina And The State Of Washington.** (MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

**Ashcroft Was Also Member Of The Hunt Institute's 2017-2018 Class Of Fellows.** "Our fourth cohort of twenty high-ranking state officials and political leaders from across the country met in Seattle, Washington on August 8-10, 2018 to complete their second and final session of the Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows program, a nine-month immersion in state-level education policy. The fourth cohort convened for their first session, Setting a Vision for Education Success, on December 6-8, 2017, in Washington, D.C. The second session, Educator Effectiveness & School Leadership, explored the challenges of preparing, recruiting, and retaining highly effective teachers and



school leaders. Fellows studied how state policies related to educators can positively impact student outcomes and educational equity, including how to measure teacher and school leader quality and how to develop effective compensation systems. ... The 2017-2018 Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows include: Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft.” (Hunt Institute, [Press Release](#), 8/10/18)

- **The Hunt Institute Is A Bill Gates-Funded Education Group That Endorsed The Teaching Of Critical Race Theory And Advocated For Common Core.** “The James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy (Hunt Institute) is a left-of-center education advocacy organization based in Durham, North Carolina. Founded in 2001 by former North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt (D), the organization was an instrumental force in the creation of federal government-directed Common Core education standards. The institute endorses critical race theory-aligned is ‘unapologetic in its approach to equity.’ Its programming includes state legislator retreats, the Governors’ Education Symposium for state governors, and a fellowship program. The critical race theory-inspired concept of ‘educational equity,’ is foundational in all of the institute’s core programming. Since 2002, the Hunt Institute has received at least \$17,604,929 from the left-of-center Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, including a 2009 grant of \$5,549,352 in support nationwide advocacy for federal government-directed Common Core education standards.” (Influence Watch, [Hunt Institute Profile](#), Accessed 8/1/23)

### **The Left-Leaning News Website Axios Paid \$1,211.57 For An Ashcroft Trip**

**In 2018, Axios Paid \$1,211.57 For Ashcroft’s Lodging And Travel To Attend An Election Security Forum In D.C.** (MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

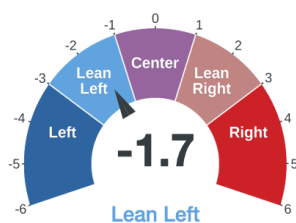
- **AllSides Has Rated Axios As A Left-Leaning News Website.** (AllSides, [Axios Rating](#), Accessed 8/1/23)

## Axios

AllSides Media Bias Rating™: **Lean Left**

✓ agree    ✗ disagree

828 Shares    



LLCRRR

What does this mean?


#### How we determined this rating:

- ✓ Independent Review
- ✓ Editorial Review: Feb 2023
- ✓ Community Feedback: 17,558 ratings
- ✓ Blind Survey: Feb 2023, May 2017

■ AllSides has **medium** confidence in this bias rating.

Unless otherwise noted, this bias rating refers only to online news coverage, not TV, print, or radio content.

[Learn about our bias rating methods](#) →



<b>Bias Rating</b>	Lean Left ⓘ
<b>Type</b>	News Media
<b>Region</b>	National
<b>Owner</b>	Axios Media, Inc.
<b>Established</b>	2016
<b>Website</b>	axios.com

(AllSides, [Axios Rating](#), Accessed 8/1/23)

### **The Center-Left Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) Paid \$882.74 For An Ashcroft Trip**

**In 2018, The BPC Paid \$882.74 For Ashcroft’s Lodging And Travel To Attend An Election Forum In D.C.** (MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

- **The BPC Advocated For “Woke” ESG Standards.** “The Bipartisan Policy Center is creating a new ESG Task Force comprised of industry leaders that bring real world experience and their shared commitment to advance and implement environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals. Investors are increasingly considering ESG factors in their investment decision-making, which has led to an increased need for ESG data, analysis, investment products, and standards bodies and in turn has led to a series of complex regulatory questions. ... The ESG Task Force will work to educate and engage policy makers on a variety of ESG-related topics, including climate concerns, ESG-related disclosures, ESG rating and ranking systems, and shareholder proposals. BPC is uniquely positioned to create the collaborative bipartisan forum required for

substantive discussion of these complex issues. ... 'There is a compelling national and global ambition to enable and in some cases require the investor community and private industry to pursue ESG goals. BPC is working to engage the detailed public policy issues that must be resolved to translate bold ambition into effective action,' said BPC President Jason Grumet." (Bipartisan Policy Center, Press Release, 3/30/21)

- **The BPC Backed Amnesty For Illegal Immigrants And Cautioned Against Mandating E-Verify.** "The study, *Assembling the Pieces: The Economics of Step-by-Step Immigration Reform*, finds that a combination of mandatory E-Verify, legalization, temporary worker programs, and expanded high-skill immigration could increase GDP by 0.5 percent and reduce the federal budget deficit by \$570 billion over 20 years. Conversely, focusing only on increased immigration enforcement by adopting mandatory E-Verify nationwide would reduce GDP by 1.5 percent and increase the budget deficit by \$110 billion over the same 20-year period, according to the study. Mandatory E-Verify would decrease tax revenue by causing millions of unauthorized immigrants to leave the economy, particularly those who work in 'above ground' jobs and pay federal taxes. 'Reforms that bring more workers into the American economy—and do so through legal pathways—create a greater boost to the economy than focusing solely on enforcement, which ultimately takes workers out of the economy,' said Theresa Cardinal Brown, BPC's director of immigration policy." (BPC, [Press Release](#), 5/21/15)
- **The BPC's Top Immigration Staffer, Theresa Cardinal Brown, Called Trump's Border Wall A "Boondoggle" And A "Waste Of Money."** "Brown, who worked at the Department of Homeland Security under Republican and Democratic administrations, had a slightly different analysis of the wall. 'I agree that it's a boondoggle, it's a waste of money, but I also know, having worked with DHS, they're not going to build the great wall of Mexico,' she said." ([Politico](#), 2/9/18)
- **The BPS Endorsed Voting By Mail.** "Mail voting, also referred to as absentee voting, has been in use since it helped soldiers cast ballots during the Civil War. Mail voting has been increasing in usage since the 1980s, with unprecedented expansions taking place since the COVID-19 pandemic. Mail voting is a safe, secure, and reliable voting method used by voters of all political parties." (BPC, [Report](#), 8/26/22)

### **The U.S. Election Administration Commission (EAC) Paid \$506.88 For An Ashcroft Trip**

**In 2019, The EAC Paid \$506.88 For Ashcroft's Trip To Attend A Board Meeting In Memphis, TN.** (MEC, Jay Ashcroft Personal Financial Disclosures, 2015-2022)

- **Republicans Have Questioned The Oversight Of The EAC After A California Democrat Awarded \$35 Million In Funds To A Pro-Biden Firm For A Voter Education Campaign.** "Three House Republican leaders on Thursday raised questions about oversight of federal election funds awarded by California to a firm linked to now-President Biden in the months ahead of the election. House Oversight and Reform Committee ranking member James Comer, House Administration Committee ranking member Rodney Davis and Rep. Jody Hice, the ranking member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee's government affairs panel, sent a letter to Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Chairman Donald Palmer questioning EAC's oversight of the funds, as part of a larger House investigation into the funding decision. The California Secretary of State's Office awarded \$35 million to SKDK for a voter education campaign last year. These funds were a portion of the \$825 million in federal grant funds distributed by the EAC to states in the lead up to the 2020 elections. According to *The Associated Press*, SKDK at one point included a note on its website stating it was 'proud to be a part of Team Biden,' and its managing director is a former senior strategist on the Biden campaign. Comer strongly criticized the EAC for its oversight of the funds in a statement provided to *The Hill* on Thursday." ([The Hill](#), 3/18/21)

## **GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING**

### **Ashcroft-Related Fundraising Since January 1, 2021**

**Since January 1, 2021, Ashcroft's Campaign Committee, Ashcroft for Missouri, And The Pro-Ashcroft Committee for Liberty Have Reported Raising Nearly \$2.3 Million In Their MEC Filings.** (MEC, Ashcroft For Missouri & Committee For Liberty-Analysis, Updated 11/1/23)

- A review of donors to Ashcroft For Missouri found that Businesses & Executives have accounted for \$356,658 (52%) of the committee's \$687,859 in reported donations since January 1, 2021.
- Ashcroft for Missouri has also received notable support from Lobbyists/Special Interests (\$48,865/7%), Retirees (\$108,035/16%), and Trial Lawyers (\$15,950/2%).
- The pro-Ashcroft Committee for Liberty, which has reported raising over \$1.6 million since January 1, 2021 in its MEC filings, has received \$1 million (65%) in donations from Trial Lawyers, including \$250,000 donations from the Holland Law Firm LLC and Ketchmark & McCreight PC. Partners with both firms have contributed in the past to liberal Democrats such as Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.
- The Committee for Liberty has also received notable support from Businesses & Executives (\$312,175/19%), Lobbyists/Special Interests (\$113,500/7%) and Retirees (\$79,500/5%).

### **Ashcroft Has Attacked Lobbyists, But He Enlisted A Lobbyist To Raise Money For His Gubernatorial Campaign, Which Has Received Nearly \$50,000 In Contributions From Lobbyists/Special Interests**

**In 2023, Ashcroft Enlisted Lobbyist Steve Tilley To Raise Money For His Gubernatorial Campaign. To Date, Ashcroft's Campaign Has Received Nearly \$50,000 From Lobbyists/Special Interests, And The Pro-Ashcroft Committee For Liberty Has Received Over \$113,500 In Such Contributions.** "In an announcement video, Ashcroft doesn't mention Kehoe by name, but comes close. Footage plays of Kehoe, before a crowd, slapping another man's back at a lectern. 'Politicians and lobbyists in Jefferson City slap each other on the back while they give our tax dollars to global corporations, sell our farmland to China, and raise gas taxes on hard-working Missourians,' Ashcroft says in the video. Kehoe has netted \$500,000 in large checks from retired St. Louis financier Rex Sinquefield, while former House speaker and current lobbyist Steve Tilley has help raise money for the Ashcroft camp. Lawyers and law firms gave at least \$920,000 in large donations to the Ashcroft's Committee for Liberty PAC last year, according to ethics commission records." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/7/23; MEC, Ashcroft For Missouri & Committee For Liberty-Analysis, Updated 11/1/23)

## **ISSUES AS SECRETARY OF STATE**

### **2020 ELECTION RESULTS**

*Despite Calling The 2020 Election A Success In Missouri, Ashcroft Questioned Its Legitimacy In Other States*

**In November 2020, Ashcroft Said The General Election In Missouri Was A Success, But He Assured Attendees At A Presidential Election Protest Rally The State's U.S. Senators Had Not Accepted The Election Results**

**In November 2020, Ashcroft Thanked Voters, Election Officials, And Poll Workers For Their Work To Make The General Election In Missouri A Success.** “Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft Wednesday thanked voters, election officials and poll workers for helping to make Tuesday’s general election a success. ‘The success of yesterday’s historic election is thanks to the tireless effort of Missouri’s voters, election authorities and poll workers,’ Ashcroft said. ‘Election officials and their staff work long hours under stressful conditions, and it’s their preparation in the weeks and months prior and their diligent effort on Election Day that made Missouri’s elections run smoothly. It was great to see so many Missourians participating in our democracy and making their voices heard.’” (*Democrat News*, 11/11/20)

**At A November 2020 Rally To Protest The Presidential Election, Ashcroft Assured Attendees Missouri’s U.S. Senators Did Not Accept The 2020 Election Results.** “At a rally Saturday protesting the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft assured a crowd of about 320 Trump supporters that Missouri senators didn’t accept the current election results. At the event, which was hosted by state Sen. Cindy O’Laughlin, R-Shelbina, Ashcroft expressed deep mistrust in mail-in voting and said other states should model their elections after Missouri. In an interview after his remarks to the crowd, Ashcroft said Missourians did not use mail-in ballots at high rates and typically dropped off absentee ballots themselves at their polling place. ‘The best way to make sure your vote counts is to vote in person,’ Ashcroft said. ‘I am continuing to push in Missouri for it to be safe to have people vote in person.’” (*The Griffon News*, 11/14/20)

**At The Rally, Ashcroft Also Expressed A Deep Mistrust In Mail-In Voting.** At the event, which was hosted by state Sen. Cindy O’Laughlin, R-Shelbina, Ashcroft expressed deep mistrust in mail-in voting and said other states should model their elections after Missouri. In an interview after his remarks to the crowd, Ashcroft said Missourians did not use mail-in ballots at high rates and typically dropped off absentee ballots themselves at their polling place. ‘The best way to make sure your vote counts is to vote in person,’ Ashcroft said. ‘I am continuing to push in Missouri for it to be safe to have people vote in person.’” (*The Griffon News*, 11/14/20)

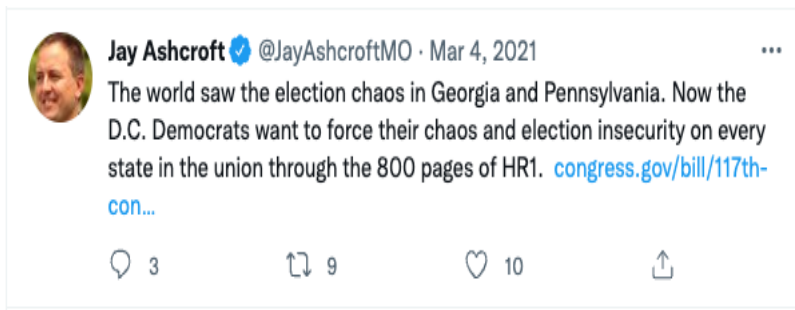
- **A Few Months Earlier, Ashcroft Encouraged Missouri Voters To Ignore Then-President Donald Trump’s Claim That Mail-In Ballots Would Lead To Fraud.** “... Ashcroft is encouraging voters to ignore national stories and trust their local election officials. On the same day President Donald Trump again claimed that mail-in ballots would lead to fraud and questionable election results, the fellow Republican was traveling around Missouri advocating a safe process. ‘What local election authorities have done and continue to do is run nonpartisan administration of elections. When it comes right down to it, elections are local,’ Ashcroft said on Thursday while meeting with election officials in Phelps County. ‘I had some unhappiness with the national post office sending out a letter telling people that their election mail would be taken care of in six or seven days,’ Ashcroft said. ‘Local Postal Service employees have been doing a good job of helping us.’” ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), 9/24/20)

### **In December 2020, A State Board Certified The 2020 Election Results In Missouri, Which Ashcroft Praised As A Success In Unprecedented Times**

**In December 2020, A State Board Certified The 2020 Election Results In Missouri, Which Ashcroft Praised As A Success In Unprecedented Times.** “The Board of State Canvassers announced Tuesday the certified results of the 2020 general election. President Donald Trump won Missouri’s 10 electoral votes over Joe Biden. The board said 3,026,028 Missourians, 70.07 percent of registered voters, voted in the general election. Trump won 56 percent of the vote to Biden’s 41 percent, with the remainder going to lesser-known candidates. The board said 70 percent of the state’s registered voters cast a ballot, compared to a 66 percent turnout for the 2016 election. ‘With November’s results official, we are pleased to have completed another successful election cycle in unprecedented times in Missouri,’ Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said. ‘The success of November’s election is thanks to the tireless effort of Missouri’s voters, election authorities, and poll workers.’” (FOX-2 KTVI, 12/8/20)

### **In March 2021, Ashcroft Tweeted That The 2020 Election Was “Chaos In Georgia And Pennsylvania”**

**In March 2021, Ashcroft Tweeted That The 2020 Election Was “Chaos In Georgia And Pennsylvania.”** “The world saw the election chaos in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Now the D.C. Democrats want to force their chaos and election insecurity on every state in the union through the 800 pages of HR1.” (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 3/4/21)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 3/4/21)

## *Ashcroft Refused To Say The 2020 Election Was Stolen From President Donald Trump, And He Acknowledged That Joe Biden Won*

### **In January 2021, Ashcroft Criticized The Way The 2020 Election Was Run In Several States, But He Did Not Claim It Was Stolen**

**On January 6, 2021, Ashcroft Condemned Several States For Failing “To Conduct Their Elections In Such A Manner That Neither Successful Nor Unsuccessful Candidates Can Demonstrably Verify The Results.”** “On a day when loyalists to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol during Congressional debate on certification of Electoral College results, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft condemned several states for their conduct of the 2020 elections. Ashcroft, a Republican and the state’s top election official, leveled the criticisms Wednesday in an address to the Missouri House on the first day of the General Assembly’s annual session. ‘Some government officials even in this chamber wish that Missouri would embrace and mimic election processes that we have seen in states like Georgia, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin,’ Ashcroft said. ‘These states failed to conduct their elections in such a manner that neither successful nor unsuccessful candidates can demonstrably verify the results.’ Ashcroft added: ‘More importantly the people of these jurisdictions are denied the confidence of knowing that their votes in fact determined the outcome.’” (*The Kansas City Star*, 1/6/21)

**Ashcroft Later Clarified His Remarks By Stating He Never Said The Election Was Stolen.** “Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft on Wednesday delivered a speech criticizing how a handful of states had administered their elections. The states mentioned by Ashcroft were several of the same ones in which Republicans had tried to block certification. ‘I didn’t say the election was stolen or anything of that sort,’ Ashcroft told a reporter on Monday. ‘What I said was the elections were not run in such a way that people could have confidence in them.’ Ashcroft said millions of people don’t have faith in the election. ‘I just said we don’t want to be like that,’ he added.” (*The Kansas City Star*, 1/11/21)

### **In October 2021, Ashcroft Said Trump “Has A Point” About The 2020 Election Results, But He Went On To Say That Biden Probably Won The Election**

**VIDEO: In October 2021, Ashcroft Said Trump “Has A Point” About The 2020 Election, But He Went On To Say That “The Right Person [Biden] Probably Won The Election.”** INTERVIEWER: “Do you think the right person is the president, do you think Trump has a point?” ASHCROFT: “It always looked to me like, maybe, Trump has a point but the right person probably won the election. Well, when it comes right down to it the election for president is done by the presidential electors and the presidential electors voted for President Joe Biden. There were concerns with how elections were operated in Pennsylvania and Georgia and other places in some of those states. We know, they didn’t follow their own laws, we know they violated their own.” ([This Week In Missouri Politics](#), 10/17/21) Minute: 09:30 – 10:01

- **VIDEO: ASHCROFT: “Well, When It Comes Right Down To It The Election For President Is Done By The Presidential Electors And The Presidential Electors Voted For President Joe Biden.”** ([This Week In Missouri Politics](#), 10/17/21) Minute: 09:30 – 10:01
- **VIDEO: In October 2021, Ashcroft Said, “I Believe That The Presidential Electors Elected Joe Biden.”** ASHCROFT: “I believe that the presidential electors elected Joe Biden.” ([This Week In Missouri Politics](#), 10/17/21; 10:45 Mark)

## **In November 2021, Ashcroft Said Biden Was Duly Elected, But He Supported An Audit To Prove The Election “Was Done Well”**

**In November 2021, Ashcroft Said Biden Was Duly Elected, But He Supported An Audit To Prove The Election “Was Done Well.”** “Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft is confident Missouri’s 2020 election was safe and secure. And while he has concerns about things that transpired in other states last year, he dismisses the idea that fraud cost Donald Trump the presidential election. ‘Under our Constitution, Joe Biden was duly elected by our presidential electors. End of story,’ Ashcroft said, later adding: ‘I have tried to be very consistent in saying that laws were not followed in different states, but I have not seen evidence that shows that the winners were changed by that.’ At the same time, Ashcroft is on board with the push for Missouri lawmakers to create a new system for post-election audits a cause that has become the rallying cry for conspiracy theorists peddling the lie of a stolen 2020 election. Ashcroft doesn’t buy into the conspiracies, but says he supports the push for audits because they could bolster voter confidence. ‘When I say that I believe our election was run securely, I do,’ Ashcroft said. ‘But I have not gone back through and done a massive audit to prove that it was done well. And that’s how you know.’” (*The Examiner*, 11/23/21)

## ***Ashcroft Cleared St. Charles County Election Director Kurt Bahr Of Accusations By Trump Supporters That He Interfered In 2020 Elections***

**In August 2023, Ashcroft Cleared Bahr Of Accusations By Trump Supporters That He Interfered In 2020 Elections, Causing Trump To Get Fewer Votes In St. Charles County.** “The top county election official here has been under fire for months, accused by residents — and a county councilman — of interfering in the 2020 election and causing former President Donald Trump and other Republicans to win the county by less than they should have. Now the state’s top election official, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, is saying the accusations have no merit. In a letter obtained by the *Post-Dispatch*, Ashcroft last month cleared St. Charles County Election Authority Kurt Bahr of any wrongdoing, saying there was no violation of Missouri law and that Bahr’s actions were, as Bahr claimed, inconsequential to the outcome of the election. ... In St. Charles County, criticism of Bahr reached a fever pitch in recent months after a video showed Bahr and a deputy election clerk suggesting during a meeting with residents that they had ‘cut wires’ on ballot tabulation machines in 2020 when they disabled the machines’ ethernet port. Bahr later said that he used a ‘poor choice of words,’ and Ashcroft’s office confirmed no wires had been cut. Bahr said disabling the ports was intended to give the machines additional security, and it did not impair the machines’ ability to count ballots. But for residents who question the integrity of elections in St. Charles County — largely Republicans, like Bahr — the video was a smoking gun. Residents argued for months at County Council meetings that Bahr had tampered with the election and jeopardized the outcome of county, state and federal elections.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8/23/23)

## ***In 2023, Ashcroft Met With Election Conspiracist Mike Lindell And Groups That Have Pushed Trump’s Election Integrity Measures***

**In January 2023, Ashcroft Met With Lindell In Jefferson City. Lindell Said It Was Not His First Meeting With Ashcroft.** “Conspiracy theorist and MyPillow founder Mike Lindell Thursday was in Jefferson City with Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, the state’s top election official and a likely candidate for governor in 2024. Lindell played a major role in promoting baseless election conspiracies in the wake of the 2020 election and met with former President Donald Trump days after the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. Lindell has continued to elevate debunked claims about the election in the years that have followed. JoDonn Chaney, Ashcroft’s spokesperson, confirmed to *The Star* that Lindell and several other people met with Ashcroft Thursday inside the James C. Kirkpatrick Information Center, where Ashcroft’s office is located. Lindell, reached by phone Thursday, said he was invited to the meeting by a group of people who wanted to talk with Ashcroft about election concerns. ... Lindell said he had met with Ashcroft before and hadn’t seen him in awhile.” (*The Kansas City Star*, 1/5/23)

**In February 2023, Ashcroft Attended A Secret Meeting Hosted By Groups That Pushed Trump’s Election Integrity Measures.** “Ashcroft, who is in charge of the state’s elections, has also stirred controversy for meeting with election conspiracy theorist Mike Lindell in January. *The Guardian* reported Wednesday that Ashcroft was among state election chiefs to attend a secret February event hosted by three groups that push ‘election

integrity' measures backed by former President Donald Trump, who has falsely claimed he won the 2020 presidential election." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/7/23)

## TRUMP-ERA VOTER FRAUD INVESTIGATION PANEL

**In June 2017, Ashcroft Said He Would Partially Comply With A Voter Data Request From The Trump Administration's Voter Fraud Investigation Panel.** "...Ashcroft is countering voters who are upset about how much information he'll divulge to the Trump administration's voter-fraud investigation panel. Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft is responding to angry voters throughout the state after he said June 30 that he'd partially comply with a data request from a White House panel investigating voter fraud. His reasoning, as explained Thursday: He wants fair elections. 'There are smart bright people that are on both sides of the issue about vote fraud and how common it is,' the Republican said in an interview in St. Louis. 'Why shouldn't we want to put that to rest?' ... Trump's new Advisory Commission on Election Integrity sent out its request late last month for voter information. Ashcroft has said he's handing over voters' names, addresses, birthdates, where they voted and when. He has repeatedly emphasized that no private details, especially Social Security numbers, will be provided. *The Columbia Daily Tribune* reported Ashcroft's office got an earful from Missouri residents, with office spokeswoman Maura Browning saying it had received 'literally hundreds of calls' as of Thursday." ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), 7/8/17)

## PHOTO ID FAILURES

### **In 2015, Then-SOS Candidate Ashcroft Led An Amendment Petition To Implement Photo ID Requirements In Missouri, But He Did Not Submit Any Signatures**

**In May 2015, Ashcroft Led An Amendment Petition To Require Photo ID In Missouri.** "A Republican candidate for Missouri secretary of state on Thursday filed an initiative petition that would allow the Legislature to require voters to present photo identification at the polls. St. Louis attorney Jay Ashcroft filed the proposed constitutional amendment with the secretary of state's office. Republican supporters, including Ashcroft's opponent in the GOP primary Sen. Will Kraus, have pushed to amend the state's constitution since the Missouri Supreme Court declared photo ID requirements unconstitutional in 2006." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 5/22/15)

**In July 2016, Ashcroft Did Not Submit "Stacks Of Petitions" He Had Allegedly Gathered, Claiming The Legislature Had Advanced A Separate Photo ID Amendment To The Ballot.** "Ashcroft, a lawyer living in west St. Louis County, says he didn't submit the 'stacks of petitions' gathered because it was clear by the May 8 deadline that the Legislature would advance its own amendment to the ballot. That happened four days later, on May 12. The implementation bill passed May 4. 'Because of our efforts, the Legislature finally listened,' Ashcroft says, a point disputed by Kraus." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 7/11/16)

- **The Missouri Times Reported Ashcroft Said He Would Collect 300,000 Signatures, But He Turned In Zero Signatures.** "Ashcroft had said he would collect 300,000 signatures for his IP, but no signatures for that petition were turned into the secretary of state's office by Sunday's deadline." ([The Missouri Times](#), 5/13/16)

**Ashcroft Claimed His Photo ID Effort Pushed The Legislature To Advance Its Own Amendment, Which Missouri Voters Approved In 2016.** "Ashcroft, a lawyer living in west St. Louis County, says he didn't submit the 'stacks of petitions' gathered because it was clear by the May 8 deadline that the Legislature would advance its own amendment to the ballot. That happened four days later, on May 12. The implementation bill passed May 4. 'Because of our efforts, the Legislature finally listened,' Ashcroft says, a point disputed by Kraus." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 7/11/16)

### **In 2018, A Judge Scolded Ashcroft For Misleading Voters About Photo ID And Ruled His Office Could Not Tell Voters A Photo ID Was Required To Vote**

**In October 2018, A Judge Scolded Ashcroft For Circulating Misleading Ads Claiming A Photo ID Was Required To Vote. The Judge Also Ruled Ashcroft's Office Could Not Tell Voters A Photo ID Was Required To Vote.** "A Cole County judge ruled Tuesday that Missouri election officials can no longer tell voters that a photo ID is required to cast a ballot. With the Nov. 6 election less than a month away, Senior Judge Richard

Callahan scolded Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office for circulating misleading advertisements about the law. Callahan ordered Ashcroft to revamp how the office explains voting law requirements, because voters have other options they can use to vote without a picture ID. He said not only were voters confused, but also local election authorities offered voters differing interpretations of the law. 'No compelling state interest is served by misleading local election authorities and voters into believing a photo ID card is a requirement for voting,' Callahan said." (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10/10/08)

### **In January 2020, Ashcroft Criticized A Missouri Supreme Court Ruling That Prohibited His Office From Stating A Photo ID Was Required To Vote**

**In January 2020, The Missouri Supreme Court Prohibited Ashcroft's Office From Publishing Info That Stated A Photo ID Was Required To Vote.** "The Missouri Supreme Court on Tuesday delivered a blow to long-running Republican efforts to require photo identification at the polls. In a 5-2 opinion written by Judge Mary R. Russell, the high court upheld a lower court's decision that forbade the secretary of state from publishing information indicating photo identification is required to vote. It also said Senior Cole County Judge Richard Callahan made the right decision in 2018 when he jettisoned a requirement that voters without photo IDs sign an affidavit attesting to their identities. At issue is a 2016 decision by Missouri voters to amend the state constitution to allow lawmakers to create requirements for voters to identify themselves at their polling place, including using photo IDs. The resulting law directed voters to present a valid photo ID, or to sign a sworn statement and present some other form of identification in order to cast a regular ballot." (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1/15/20)

**Ashcroft Criticized The Court's Decision, Saying It "Eviscerated" The 2016 Photo ID Ballot Question Approved By Voters.** "A statement from Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office said the Supreme Court's decision 'eviscerated' the 2016 ballot question, which 63% of voters approved, and that 'opponents have failed to bring forth a single voter who was unable to vote as a result of the voter ID requirements.' 'The people of Missouri made it clear in November of 2016 that it is reasonable to require a photo ID to vote,' Ashcroft, a Republican, said in a statement. 'That voter ID law strengthened protections at the ballot box and, just as importantly, expanded access to the ballot ensuring registered voters would no longer be turned away on Election Day.'" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1/15/20)

### **In 2020, Ashcroft Said His Priority During His Second Term As Secretary Of State Would Be To Revive And Defend The Photo ID Law**

**In February 2020, Ashcroft Announced He Would Run For Re-Election And Said His Priority Would Be To Revive And Defend The Photo ID Law.** "At the same banquet, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft announced he's running for four more years, too. 'We aren't done,' Ashcroft said, 'and there's so much more to do.' One thing, he said, will be reviving and defending a voter ID law he championed in 2016 -- and which the Missouri Supreme Court gutted last month. The court said the additional burden on people with non-photo IDs like voting cards was 'misleading,' 'contradictory' and unconstitutional. But Ashcroft said the decision ignored a constitutional amendment passed with 63 percent of the vote in 2016, and he told Republicans he's already backing a bill in the House to fix things this year. 'I don't care what the Supreme Court says,' Ashcroft said. 'You all should make the decision, the people of the state.'" (Columbia Daily Tribune, 2/22/20)

## **"ZUCKERBUCKS"**

### **Ashcroft & "Zuckerbucks"**

**In 2020, Ashcroft's Office Accepted A \$1.4 Million Grant From The Mark Zuckerberg-Funded Center For Election Innovation & Research (CEIR). Most Of The Grant Was Used To Mail Information To Registered Voters In Missouri.** "Election agencies in St. Charles and Lincoln counties have received grants from a national nonprofit group to help cover coronavirus-related expenses, officials said Friday. The grants from the Chicago-based Center for Tech and Civic Life, funded largely by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, are similar to those facing legal challenges from conservative groups in four other states. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Jay



Ashcroft, Missouri's chief election official, has accepted a \$1.4 million grant from a separate nonprofit that also got a big donation from Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan. ... The separate grant of \$1.4 million to Ashcroft's office came from the Washington-based Center for Election Innovation and Research, which got a \$50 million contribution from Zuckerberg and Chan. Nationally, that group's grants are going for public information campaigns explaining mail voting and logistics. Maura Browning, a spokeswoman for Ashcroft, said about \$1 million from the grant was used to mail information on voting options during the pandemic to every household in the state with a registered voter. She said the remainder will pay for television and radio ads and social media announcements." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 10/10/20)

- **CEIR Was 1 Of 2 Groups Through Which Zuckerberg Directed Over \$400 Million To Election Agencies During The 2020 Election Cycle. Top Republicans, Including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Have Condemned "Zuckerbucks" As A Partisan Scheme To Help Democrats.** "A bombshell report that suggests Mark Zuckerberg effectively 'bought' the 2020 presidential election by funneling more than \$400 million to local boards of election under the guise of a 'non-partisan' effort has prompted outrage and calls from officials for reform. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis blasted the billionaire Facebook founder during a news conference at which he said a recent election reform law had 'banned Zuckerbucks' in the Sunshine State. 'So, Zuckerberg, he spent over \$400 million through these, quote, nonprofits to, quote, help with election administration,' DeSantis said Tuesday. 'But what they would do is they would require certain things to be done like mass mail balloting, ballot harvesting, and they would focus on partisan voter turnout, basically. That was totally unacceptable.' Sen. Ron Johnson told *The Post*, 'I continue to question whether Mark Zuckerberg's highly partisan 2020 election spending was even legal.' ... On Wednesday, Sen. Rand Paul retweeted a report about the investigation, adding: 'Are our elections for sale? Did Mark Zuckerberg purchase the Wisconsin Presidential election?' Zuckerberg's money was supposed to augment government funding and 'promote safe and reliable voting' amid the COVID-19 pandemic so that 'every eligible voter can participate in a safe and timely way and that their vote is counted,' according to a September 2020 press release announcing the plan. ... Earlier this year, an analysis by the conservative Foundation for Government Accountability found that in the battleground state of Georgia, about \$29 million of Zuckerberg's money went to counties that President Biden later won, at a rate of \$7.13 per registered voter. By contrast, the Peach State counties that former President Donald Trump carried received a total of \$2.3 million — at a rate of just \$1.91 per voter, the FGA said. In a prepared statement, a Zuckerberg-Chan spokesman acknowledged the donations to the tune of \$350 million to the Center for Tech and Civic Life and \$69.5 million to the Center for Election Innovation and Research." ([The New York Post](#), 10/13/21)

**AUDIO: During An October 2020 Interview, Ashcroft Appeared To State His Appreciation For The 7-Figure Grant From CEIR.** Q: "I don't know if you've been following this issue, but there's like a non-profit group that's been giving local jurisdictions money, and some conservatives have said, well, this is a scheme for ballot harvesting or whatever. But I think that there is an issue about whether like local election authorities can accept money from non-profit groups to do election-related things. What do you know about that issue, or am I telling you something that you can't talk about?" Ashcroft: "Unfortunately, everything has become politicized. And, I think, anytime you're dealing with elections, it becomes even more politicized, and the fact that we're 19 days out of the election right now. I'm watching that very closely, but, as you know, local election authorities do not report to me, and I actually have no authority over them with regard to how they operate. ... Ashcroft: "You know, I think transparency of how those funds are used or accepted will really help people with the fact that private funds are going to elections. Our office received about \$1.2 million from a very similar group – I think an offshoot – of that same group, and we used that to send out a mailing to every household where there was identified that there had been a registered voter in the last 10 years. ... And we appreciated being able to use the private foundation's money instead of the taxpayer's dollars." ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), [Politically Speaking](#), 10/20/20; 13:10 Mark)

**In 2022, A Pro-Trump Group Filed IRS Complaints Against Zuckerberg, CEIR And Other Zuckerberg-Funded Groups Accusing Them Of Spending \$500 Million To Help Elect Joe Biden President**

**In September 2022, The Pro-Trump Center For Renewing America Filed IRS Complaints Against Zuckerberg, CEIR And Other Zuckerberg-Funded Groups Accusing Them Of Spending Nearly \$500 Million To Help Elect Joe Biden President.** "Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, his wife and three voting rights groups were hit

Thursday with legal complaints alleging malfeasance related to activities surrounding the 2020 election. The Center for Renewing America (CRA) filed two complaints — the first against Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan and the second against the groups Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR) and National Vote at Home Institute (NVAHI) — Thursday morning with the Internal Revenue Service. The complaints, obtained by FOX Business, allege that Zuckerberg and the three groups were involved in a scheme to inject nearly \$500 million into the 2020 election in order to ‘throw it’ to President Biden. ... Zuckerberg hired former Obama campaign manager David Plouffe to spearhead the effort, according to the CRA. Plouffe allegedly funneled most of the hundred-million-dollar grants from the couple to Democratic-leaning jurisdictions in swing states via the three tax-exempt voting rights groups ahead of the November 2020 election. ‘It is beyond disgraceful to imagine federal taxpayers subsidizing the partisan preferences of billionaires who easily could have given to a Democrat super PAC in 2020,’ the CRA said in a statement shared with FOX Business. ‘But, of course, then they would not have been able to take a tax deduction, so they disguised the political nature of their donations and shuffled them through ‘charitable’ intermediaries, making ordinary Americans foot the bill,’ the CRA continued. The CRA noted that federal law prohibits individuals from making donations intended to illegitimately aid one political party over another. The complaints said the IRS must deny any personal income tax exemptions collected by Zuckerberg and Chan for their donations to the CTCL, CEIR, and NVAHI during the 2020 election cycle. The CRA also requested that the IRS terminate the tax exemptions of the three groups. ... The CRA is a conservative policy group headed by former senior Trump administration official Russ Vought.” ([Fox Business](#), 9/22/22)

## ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

### **In 2018, Ashcroft Touted Missouri’s Entry Into ERIC, A Multi-State Program That Works To Ensure The Accuracy Of Voter Rolls**

**In 2018, Ashcroft Touted Missouri’s Entry Into ERIC, Which He Said Would Help “Safeguard Our Elections.”** “To facilitate more accurate rolls and to continue the march toward modernizing voter registration for all Americans, the states themselves have created a cooperative organization to share voter registration data, to compare with state driver’s license systems, and to identify and reach out to eligible but unregistered voters in their states. That cooperative—the ERIC program, which now boasts 23 members including the District of Columbia—is a bipartisan success that includes very Democratic, very Republican, and traditionally toss-up states as members. In an exciting end to 2017 and beginning of 2018, Missouri and Arizona joined the ERIC program. So why did the most recent of new members join? ‘Every vote matters,’ said Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft. ‘It’s imperative that we as election officials do all we can to safeguard our elections, and to make certain that every registered voter can have their say on election day.’ Ashcroft added, ‘We commend the Bipartisan Policy Center for their continued advocacy of states’ participation with ERIC, commitment to stopping voter fraud, increasing voter participation, and lowering the cost of election administration for taxpayers.’” ([Bipartisan Policy Center, Blog Post](#), 2/1/18)

- **AUDIO: ASHCROFT: “We Looked At ERIC As A Great Way To Reach Out.”** ASHCROFT: “We looked at ERIC as a great way to reach out.” ([Bipartisan Policy Center, Podcast](#), 2/22/18; 3:50 Mark)
- **Additional Ashcroft Praise For ERIC:** “Ashcroft brought Missouri into the system in 2018 during his first term in office. ‘This agreement with ERIC, in conjunction with the work we do alongside local election officials, will help affirm voters are eligible and registered in the right location, identify potential duplicate registrations and identify unregistered voters so we can help them get registered,’ Ashcroft said in his 2018 announcement.” ([CBS-4 KMOV](#), 10/16/23)

### **Five Years Later, Ashcroft Pulled Missouri Out Of ERIC Following Increased Criticism Of The Program By Former President Donald Trump And His Supporters**

**In March 2023, Ashcroft Pulled Missouri Out Of ERIC Following Increased Criticism Of The Program By Trump And His Supporters.** “Missouri will no longer participate in a voluntary system aimed at helping states combat voter fraud by maintaining accurate lists of registered voters. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft announced Monday afternoon that Missouri, along with Florida and West Virginia, were withdrawing from the Electronic

Registration Information Center, or ERIC. The system was established in 2012 by a bipartisan group of election officials in seven states. It is designed to help identify and remove people from voter rolls who have died or moved to other states and prosecute people who vote in multiple states. Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia are members. In a letter to ERIC's executive director, Ashcroft noted Missouri joined 5 years ago 'to make elections better, voter rolls more accurate and bring greater trust to the election process.' Ashcroft cited several reasons pulling Missouri out of the group, including a requirement that member states send mailings to eligible but unregistered voters. 'ERIC focuses on adding names to voters rolls,' Ashcroft wrote, 'by requiring a solicitation to individuals who already had an opportunity to register to vote and made the conscious decision not to be registered.' Ashcroft questioned the value of the system for Missouri, writing that 'only 3 of the 8 states that border Missouri are members.' He also alleged ERIC 'refuses to require member states to participate in addressing multi-state voter fraud.' ... *The Associated Press* reported last week that ERIC has faced increasing scrutiny of late, especially from allies of former President Donald Trump who worked to overturn the 2020 presidential election. Among the complaints is that ERIC was founded with help from the nonpartisan Pew Charitable Trusts, which receives money from liberal donor George Soros' organization. ERIC's leadership told the AP that it is funded through annual dues by member states and has never received funding from Soros. Critics have also complained about the involvement of David Becker, who helped found ERIC and now serves as a non-voting member of the group's governing board while working for a nonprofit called Center for Election Innovation & Research. ... Ashcroft didn't name Becker in his letter, but did say a 'hyper-partisan individual' serving as a non-voting member of the governing board was part of his motivation for pulling Missouri out of the group." ([Missouri Independent](#), 3/7/23)

- **Synopsis Of Trump-Related Criticism:** "In late February, Freedom Principle Missouri, which describes itself as promoting a 'Make America Great Again' agenda, urged Ashcroft to leave ERIC. ... Without offering evidence, Trump last week urged state officials to pull out of ERIC. Trump, writing on his social media site Truth Social, called the organization a 'terrible Voter Registration System that 'pumps the rolls' for Democrats and does nothing to clean them up. It is a fools game for Republicans.'" ([The Kansas City Star](#), 3/13/23)

**Ashcroft Downplayed The Fact There Was No Substitute For ERIC, Which Works To Ensure The Accuracy Of Voter Rolls.** "When Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and officials in a handful of other Republican-leaning states left a national system designed to improve the accuracy of voting rolls last week, the likely GOP candidate for governor outlined his grievances. Ashcroft alleged the Electronic Information Registration Information Center, commonly called ERIC, had refused to require member states to participate in multi-state efforts to address voter fraud and had focused on adding names to voter rolls by requiring solicitations to individuals who had already had the opportunity to register, among other complaints. He has faced criticism from Democrats and election experts for his decision. But what comes after ERIC is less clear. In an interview with *The Star*, Ashcroft downplayed the possibility that he or election officials from the other breakaway states ... would move quickly to form an alternative program. He instead spoke broadly about how Missouri and other states are likely to focus on their own efforts while remaining in communication. ... ERIC, which until recently counted more than 30 states as members, is a nonprofit organization formed in 2012 that analyzes voter registration, motor vehicle department and other data to help maintain accurate data rolls and eliminate duplicate registrations. The data is also used to identify individuals who are potentially eligible to vote but haven't registered. States retain control of their voter rolls, which are not connected to ERIC. ... Asked whether leaving ERIC increases the risk of voter fraud going undetected, Ashcroft said the risk already exists. He blamed the fact that five of eight states bordering Missouri aren't members and accused some member states of refusing to provide information needed to search for fraud. 'It was more aspirational to be able to do that well with ERIC,' Ashcroft said. 'And I had hoped to make that what it could be and states that were supposedly about running good, clean elections didn't want to be part of allowing us to find people that were intentionally cheating.' ... In the interview, Ashcroft questioned the viability of the Crosscheck model. 'It was free and when you're not paying for a service that's generally going to affect the level of service that you get,' Ashcroft said." ([The Kansas City Star](#), 3/13/23)

**Ashcroft Defended His Decision To Withdraw From ERIC After A St. Louis County Election Official Said The Program Helped Catch People Who Voted In Different States**

**VIDEO: In October 2023, Ashcroft Defended His Decision To Withdraw From ERIC After A St. Louis County Election Official Said The Program Helped Catch People Who Voted In Different States.** “The [ERIC] withdrawal in March came as unwelcome news to Eric Fey, who oversees elections in St. Louis County, the state’s most-populated election jurisdiction. Fey also leads the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities and said over the past two election cycles, the ERIC system actually helped catch multiple people who voted in two different states. ‘We removed several thousand dead voters and people who had moved to other states,’ Fey said. ‘These are folks that we would not have caught as quickly had it not been for ERIC - and we also found a few folks that voted in St. Louis County and in another state in the same election and we were able to send that information to law enforcement. So, for us, it was a very good tool.’ ... On Monday, Ashcroft defended his decision, saying it was due to requirements that ERIC had failed to demand of member states. ‘It’s just that there were certain things that were required,’ Ashcroft said. ‘It was not required that member states shared the data so that you could look for multiple people voting and multiple states in one.’ Ashcroft was also critical of the center’s requirement that member states send mailers to voters who are eligible, but not registered to vote, arguing that it’s not the role of the state government. ‘I really feel like it’s best if we just make sure the administration runs well, and leave the rest of it to the partisans,’ Ashcroft said. ... The bureau asked Ashcroft Monday if there is any alternative system that helps state election officials cooperate like ERIC does. The secretary said the state’s offices are operating in the same way it did before adopting ERIC.” (CBS-4 KMOV, 10/16/23)

## MARIJUANA BALLOT INITIATIVE

**In August 2022, Ashcroft Certified The Recreational Marijuana Ballot Initiative Petition, Allowing It To Be Placed On The November Ballot**

**In August 2022, Ashcroft Certified That The Recreational Marijuana Ballot Initiative Petition Had Enough Votes To Be Placed On The November Ballot.** “...Ashcroft certified that a recreational marijuana initiative has enough votes to be placed on the Nov. 8 ballot. Legal Missouri 2022 faced a challenge over the validity of some of the 400,000 signatures it submitted in May. However, Ashcroft’s investigation found enough were valid to meet the requirements and join the ballot. ‘Marijuana is a \$400 million-a-year industry in Missouri this year, and if this measure passes, it’s projected to grow to \$1.5 billion in the next five years,’ said Michael Wilson, founder and CEO of Franklin’s Stash House. ‘So it’s a really fast, upward-moving trajectory. That will generate a lot more taxes, and it will also provide revenue to better build out the industry infrastructure in the state, which at the end of the day allows patients to get a more affordable product.’” (Kansas City Business Journal, 8/9/22)

**Ashcroft’s Office, In Coordination With The Campaign Behind The Petition, Approved The Petition Via A Secretive Process, Whereby It Overruled The Decisions Of Local Election Officials That Had Disqualified Thousands Of Signatures**

**In August 2022, The Missouri Independent Reported Ashcroft’s Office, In Coordination With The Campaign Behind The Petition, Approved The Petition Via A Secretive Process, Whereby It Overruled The Decisions Of Local Election Officials That Had Disqualified Thousands Of Signatures.** “In a span of a little over two weeks, an initiative petition to legalize recreational marijuana in Missouri made an unexpected comeback. In late July, unofficial tallies showed the Legal Missouri campaign 2,275 signatures short of the threshold for getting on the ballot, leading many to believe its hopes were dashed. By Aug. 9, the deficit was gone, and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft announced he had certified the marijuana petition to appear on the November ballot. During that window, the campaign behind the initiative petition deployed a novel strategy. Instead of waiting for certification and turning to the courts, as outlined in state law, it asked the Secretary of State’s Office to do its own review of signatures. The campaign even provided a list of signatures it felt were incorrectly disqualified. And the maneuver, which surprised veterans of the initiative petition process, worked. ... But even those who agree with the outcome say the process wasn’t transparent and risks undermining confidence in the system. ... In an Aug. 1 letter obtained by The Independent through an open records request, Marc Ellinger, an attorney for Legal Missouri, detailed errors the campaign believed local election authorities had made in their certification of signatures. Altogether across Congressional Districts 6 and 7, there were over 4,800 signatures that the campaign believed had been denied in error, and that if certified, would give the campaign a surplus of signatures it needed to be listed on the Nov. 8 ballot. Ellinger requested Ashcroft’s director of elections conduct

an independent review, noting that the campaign had discussed the alleged issues with the Secretary of State's Office on July 25. Details on how the review was conducted are scarce. The Secretary of State's Office declined to answer a list of questions about the steps it took and the review's scope. Reports detailing counties' final totals for the marijuana initiative petition obtained by The Independent indicate that the Secretary of State's Office signed off on over 50 counties' reports, rather than the local election official — suggesting a review that was not limited to just the 14 counties identified in Legal Missouri's Aug. 1 letter. Over 40 counties' reports were signed off on by the Secretary of State's Office for county totals for a ranked-choice voting initiative petition that was also aiming to make the ballot this year. A majority of the reports signed 'SOS-CP' were dated Aug. 5. In a statement, JoDonn Chaney, a spokesman for the Secretary of State, said the office 'certified the marijuana petition based on signature verification numbers compiled from local election authorities and from further review by his office in the timeframe and by the process allowed by state statute. 'The process and resulting figures speak for themselves,' he said. John Payne, a spokesman for the Legal Missouri campaign behind the initiative petition, also declined to answer specific questions. ... Staff from eight local election authorities in Congressional Districts 6 and 7 told The Independent they were not contacted by the Secretary of State's Office to reverify signatures they had reviewed." ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)

- **Steve Tilley, An Ashcroft Fundraiser, Has Been A Registered Lobbyist For Legal Missouri, The Group Behind The Petition, Since January 2022.** (MEC, [Lobbyist Database](#), Accessed 11/1/23)

## Legal Missouri 2022 - Active

2008 S 8th St  
St Louis, MO 63104

Industry:

Food/Agriculture  
/Beverages

(314) 422-3617

Associated Lobbyists		Expenditures	
Active		Inactive	
Lobbyist	From	To	
<a href="#">Berry, Ron</a>	11/01/2023	Present	
<a href="#">Robbins, Brittany Hyatt</a>	01/18/2022	Present	
<a href="#">Robbins, Thomas</a>	01/18/2022	Present	
<a href="#">Schoeman, Christopher</a>	01/18/2022	Present	
<a href="#">Tilley, Steven</a>	01/18/2022	Present	
<a href="#">Webb, Garrett M</a>	01/30/2022	Present	

(MEC, [Lobbyist Database](#), Accessed 11/1/23)

## Anti-Drug Legalization Activist Joy Sweeney Filed A Failed Lawsuit Claiming The Ashcroft-Approved Petition Was Improperly Certified

**In August 2022, Sweeney Filed A Lawsuit Claiming The Recreational Marijuana Petition Was Improperly Certified By Ashcroft.** "An anti-drug legalization activist has filed a lawsuit arguing a recreational marijuana initiative petition was improperly certified by Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and should not appear on the November ballot. The lawsuit was filed Friday in Cole County Circuit Court — the final day within the 10-day window outlined under state law for challenges to be brought to initiative petitions once they're certified. It did not appear in the online court docket until Monday morning. It argues that the petition changes multiple sections of the Missouri Constitution in violation of single-subject rules and its backers did not secure the minimum number of signatures to warrant its inclusion on the November ballot. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Joy Sweeney, a Jefferson City resident, who also serves as the deputy director of training, technical assistance and

community outreach for Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, a group of community coalitions that aim to prevent substance use and abuse.” ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)

**In Her Suit, Sweeney Claimed Ashcroft “Certified And Counted Signatures That Were Marked Through By The Local Election Authorities And, Absent This Action, The Marijuana Initiative Petition Would Not Have Had A Sufficient Number Of Valid Signatures In Six Of Eight Congressional Districts.”** “If the petition’s certification had been based on just the signatures that were verified by local election authorities, then it would not have had enough valid signatures to make the ballot, the lawsuit argues. The lawsuit asserts that Ashcroft ‘certified and counted signatures that were marked through by the local election authorities and, absent this action, the marijuana initiative petition would not have had a sufficient number of valid signatures in six of eight congressional districts.’ In order to qualify for the ballot, proposed constitutional amendments need to gather enough registered voters’ signatures to equal 8% of the vote from the 2020 gubernatorial election in each of six of the state’s eight congressional districts.” ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)

**Protect Our Kids, A Super PAC Opposed To Legalizing Drugs, Claimed The Ashcroft-Approved Petition Was “A Scam.”** “Protect Our Kids PAC, a Colorado-based super PAC launched earlier this year that opposes the legalization of drugs, is helping support the lawsuit. Luke Niforatos, the group’s CEO, called the initiative petition ‘a scam.’ ‘Not only does the language deceive voters about the harms of legalization, it is in violation of state law and the Missouri Constitution,’ Niforatos said in a statement. ‘...We hope the courts will rule on this issue expeditiously and spare Missouri’s children from targeting by Big Marijuana.’” ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)

- **Protect Our Kids CEO Luke Niforatos: “We Hope The Courts Will Rule On This Issue Expeditiously And Spare Missouri’s Children From Targeting By Big Marijuana.”** ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)

**Sweeney’s Suit Also Claimed The Ashcroft-Approved Petition Amended Multiple Subjects In Violation Of State Law.** “Additionally, the lawsuit contends the marijuana petition violates the single-subject rule by containing multiple subjects and unrelated matters. Under the Missouri Constitution, initiative petitions amending the constitution, ‘shall not contain more than one amended and revised article of this constitution, or one new article which shall not contain more than one subject and matters properly connected therewith...’ The lawsuit argues the measure not only would legalize recreational marijuana, but it would also criminalize possession of certain amounts, create a process for licensing and growing marijuana, establish taxing guidelines, create a new position to oversee licensure ‘on a preferential basis,’ and create a system to expunge nonviolent marijuana offenses from criminal records.” ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)

- **JoDonn Chaney, A Spokesperson For Ashcroft’s Office, Said The Petition Met The Constitutional Requirements To Be Included On The Ballot.** “JoDonn Chaney, a spokesman for the Secretary of State’s Office, said the office had not been officially served and could not comment on the lawsuit’s specifics, but that the signature totals and process ‘speak for themselves.’ ‘The individuals responsible for submitting this (initiative petition) met the constitutional requirements as required by statute, therefore Secretary Ashcroft certified Amendment 3 to the ballot,’ Chaney said. ‘The secretary followed the law and fulfilled his statutory duty and stands behind his certification.’” ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)
- **CHANEY: “The Secretary [Ashcroft] Followed The Law And Fulfilled His Statutory Duty And Stands Behind His Certification.”** ([Missouri Independent](#), 8/22/22)

**In September 2022, A Judge Dismissed Sweeney’s Lawsuit.** “A Missouri judge on Friday tossed out a lawsuit that sought to knock a recreational marijuana proposal off the Nov. 8 ballot. ... Cole County Circuit Judge Cotton Walker ruled that the plaintiff, Joy Sweeney, did not prove she’s a Missouri resident, which would have been required for her lawsuit to continue. Sweeney on Thursday testified remotely from her second home in Alexandria, Virginia, that she still owns property in Missouri and is registered to vote in Missouri. Walker said her testimony came too late because her lawyers had already finished submitting evidence in the case. But Walker noted that he would have ruled against Sweeney’s lawsuit even if she had proven her Missouri residency. ... Sweeney claimed that the secretary of state’s office overstepped its bounds by re-checking voter signatures, which is typically done by local election officials to make sure signees are properly registered to vote. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft’s office re-checked petition signatures for the recreational marijuana proposal last month

after a lawyer for the pro-pot campaign raised concerns that some signatures from registered voters had been incorrectly tossed out as invalid, which the office confirmed after a review. In his ruling, Walker wrote that Ashcroft's review of the signatures was legal and that he was right to confirm that the campaign gathered enough valid signatures for the measure to be put on the ballot." ([The Associated Press, 9/9/22](#))

**A Few Days Later, An Appellate Court Rejected Sweeney's Appeal.** "An initiative petition to legalize recreational marijuana in Missouri will remain on the ballot after a panel of judges on the Missouri Western District Court of Appeals affirmed that the steps Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft took to certify the petition were proper. A three-judge panel heard arguments Monday afternoon in Kansas City and ruled shortly after that the lower court committed a legal error by refusing to reopen evidence regarding whether Joy Sweeney, an anti-drug legalization activist, had standing to pursue the case. However, the court of appeals said the lower court was correct in finding that Ashcroft properly certified the initiative petition to appear on the November ballot and that it does not violate the Missouri Constitution's single-subject rules. ... Luke Niforatos, the CEO of Protect Our Kids PAC, a Colorado-based super PAC launched earlier this year that opposes the legalization of drugs and is supporting Sweeney's lawsuit, said they are requesting the case be transferred to the Missouri Supreme Court for review. 'We feel like it's a very cut-and-dry point of law,' Niforatos said, 'where these clerks have a statutory authority to disqualify these signatures, but they do not have the authority to requalify them. That's just a matter of law.' ... A spokesman for Ashcroft did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday afternoon." ([Missouri Independent, 9/12/22](#))

### **In September 2022, The Missouri Supreme Court Declined To Take Up Sweeney's Suit**

**In September 2022, The Missouri Supreme Court Declined To Take Up Sweeney's Suit, Allowing The Initiative Onto The Ballot.** "Voters will still have the chance to weigh in on recreational marijuana use in November after a legal challenge seeking to remove it from the ballot ended Tuesday. The Missouri Supreme Court declined to take up a case brought by an anti-drug legalization activist, after an appeals court ruled Monday that the secretary of state's office properly certified the ballot measure's petition. The high court's decision came on the final day for the judiciary to weigh in on ballot measures ahead of the November general election. Amendment 3, which was certified last month, would legalize recreational marijuana use in Missouri for adults over 21, impose a 6% tax on the retail price of marijuana, and allows those convicted of certain non-violent marijuana offenses to petition for parole or release." ([Springfield News-Leader, 9/14/22](#))

- **Ashcroft Said, "Regardless Of How I Personally Feel About A Ballot Measure, My Job Is To Follow The Law And That's What I Did."** "Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a Republican, said in a statement that 'regardless of how I personally feel about a ballot measure, my job is to follow the law and that's what I did.' The campaign has earned the support of the ACLU of Missouri and the state chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws; it garnered over 214,000 signatures across all eight congressional districts." ([Springfield News-Leader, 9/14/22](#))

### **In October 2022, Ashcroft Stated His Personal Opposition To The Marijuana Ballot Measure**

**In October 2022, Ashcroft Stated His Personal Opposition To The Marijuana Ballot Measure.** "The Missouri Baptist Convention and Pro-Choice Missouri don't often find themselves on the same team. Same for the Missouri NAACP and Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. But this year, each is part of an ideologically scattershot constellation of organizations and elected officials that have come out of the woodwork in recent weeks to urge Missourians to reject a marijuana legalization proposal appearing on the Nov. 8 ballot as Amendment 3. ... The latest to join the fray is Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a Republican who told KSDK-TV this week that the 39-page amendment is 'way too much to put into the constitution.' He also hinted at allegations of corruption that have dogged the marijuana industry in Missouri almost from the moment voters created the medical cannabis program in 2018. 'It's my understanding that there are at least serious allegations that the people behind this amendment wrote this amendment as a way to enrich themselves,' he said. Asked if he finds those allegations credible, Ashcroft said: 'They're credible. Doesn't mean they're true.'" ([Missouri Independent, 10/27/22](#))

## *Ashcroft's Father Was Noted As Supporting The War on Drugs, While Ashcroft's Nephew And Attorney Had Issues With Illicit Substances*

### **In 2001, While Serving As Attorney General, John Ashcroft Said He Wanted To Renew, Refresh And Relaunch The War On Drugs**

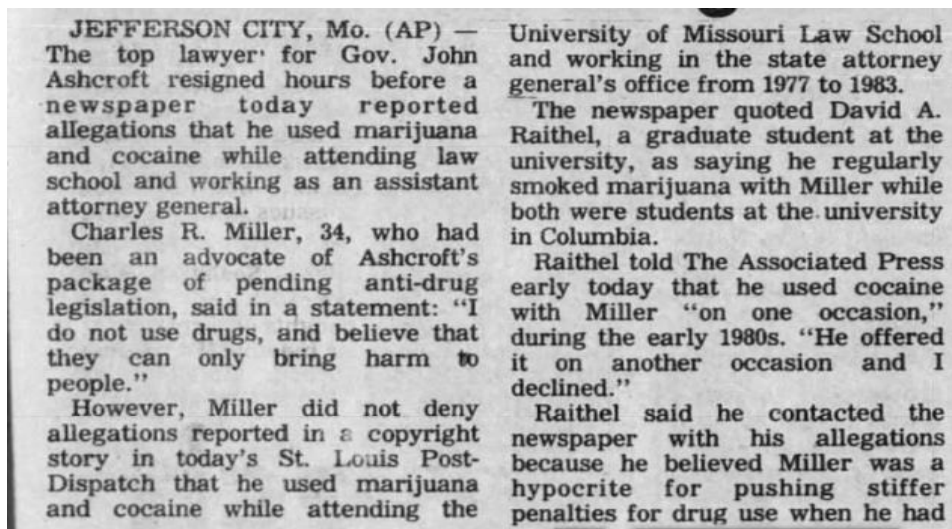
**In August 2001, While Serving As Attorney General, John Ashcroft Said He Wanted To Renew, Refresh And Relaunch The War On Drugs.** “Despite the growing public feeling that the drug war has failed, Attorney General John Ashcroft has declared that he wants to escalate it.<sup>1</sup> ‘I want to renew it,’ he told CNN’s Larry King. ‘I want to refresh it, relaunch it if you will.’<sup>2</sup> And Bush’s nominees to fight the drug war have joined in Ashcroft’s chorus. John Walters, the new drug czar, and Asa Hutchinson, the choice to head the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), are promising ever more interdiction, incarceration and arrests.” (“The Drug War Is The New Jim Crow,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 9/14/22)

### **In 1992, Then-Gov. John Ashcroft's Nephew Received Probation After A Felony Conviction For Growing Marijuana With Intent To Distribute**

**In 1992, The Nephew Of Ashcroft Received Probation After A Felony Conviction For Growing Marijuana With Intent To Distribute.** “The nephew of Attorney General-designate John Ashcroft received probation after a felony conviction in state court for growing 60 marijuana plants with intent to distribute the drug in 1992 -- a lenient sentence, given that the charges against him often trigger much tougher federal penalties and jail time. Ashcroft was the tough-on-drugs Missouri governor at the time. Alex Ashcroft, then 25, and his brother Adam, 19, were arrested and charged with production and possession of marijuana after police raided their home in January, 1992. A housemate, Kevin Sheely, then 24, was also arrested. Officials said approximately 60 marijuana plants were found growing in a basement crawl space, and a lighting, irrigation and security system was also discovered.” ([Salon](#), 1/13/01)

### **In 1990, Charles Miller, A Lawyer For Then-Gov. Ashcroft, Resigned After Allegations That He Used Marijuana And Cocaine While Working As An Assistant Attorney General**

**In 1990, Charles Miller, A Lawyer For Ashcroft, Resigned After Allegations That He Used Marijuana And Cocaine While Working As An Assistant Attorney General.** ([The Daily Journal](#), 2/8/90)



([The Daily Journal](#), 2/8/90)

## *Marijuana Legalization Has Caused A Surge Of Criminal Activity And Overwhelmed Police In States Such As California*

### **Legalization Of Marijuana In California Has Increased Demand For Illegal Marijuana, Leading To The Death Of A Dozen Workers From Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**



**After California Legalized Marijuana, The State Saw A Surge Of Illegal Cannabis “On A Scale California Has Never Before Witnessed.** “Proposition 64, California’s 2016 landmark cannabis initiative, sold voters on the promise a legal market would cripple the drug’s outlaw trade, with its associated violence and environmental wreckage. Instead, a Los Angeles Times investigation finds, the law triggered a surge in illegal cannabis on a scale California has never before witnessed. Rogue cultivation centers like Mount Shasta Vista now engulf rural communities scattered across the state, as far afield as the Mojave Desert, the steep mountains on the North Coast, and the high desert and timberlands of the Sierra Nevada.” ([The Los Angeles Times](#), 9/8/22)

**The Illegal Demand For Marijuana In California Led To The Death Of More Than A Dozen Workers Poisoned By Carbon Monoxide.** “Labor exploitation is common, and conditions are sometimes lethal. The Times documented more than a dozen deaths of growers and workers poisoned by carbon monoxide. The scale of the crisis is immense. A Times analysis of satellite imagery covering thousands of square miles of the state showed dramatic expansion in cannabis cultivation where land is cheap and law enforcement spread thin, regardless of whether those communities permitted commercial cultivation.” ([The Los Angeles Times](#), 9/8/22)

### **Residents Of California Claim Criminals Can Operate With Near Impunity, Increasing Violence And Overwhelming Police**

**Residents Of California Claim Criminal Enterprises Operate With Near Impunity, Leaving Police Overwhelmed To Deal With The Illegal Marijuana Production.** “Residents in these places describe living in fear next to heavily armed camps. Criminal enterprises operate with near impunity, leasing private land and rapidly building out complexes of as many as 100 greenhouses. Police are overwhelmed, able to raid only a fraction of the farms, and even those are often back in business in days. The raids rip out plants and snare low-wage laborers while those responsible, some operating with money from overseas, remain untouched by the law, hidden behind straw buyers and fake names on leases.” ([The Los Angeles Times](#), 9/8/22)

**The Los Angeles Times: “Outlaw Grows Have Exacerbated Cannabis-Related Violence, Bringing Shootouts, Robberies, Kidnappings And, Occasionally, Killings.”** “Outlaw grows have exacerbated cannabis-related violence, bringing shootouts, robberies, kidnappings and, occasionally, killings. Some surrounded residents say they are afraid to venture onto their own properties. Laborers often toil in squalid, dangerous conditions and frequently are cheated of wages. In four counties alone since legalization, carbon monoxide from generators and charcoal braziers has killed seven workers as they labored or tried to stay warm in sealed greenhouses on illegal farms, and eight more inside uninhabitable buildings, coroner records show.” ([The Los Angeles Times](#), 9/8/22)

## **BALLOT LANGUAGE CHALLENGES TO ABORTION-RELATED INITIATIVE PETITIONS**

**In 2023, Missouri Judges Rewrote Ashcroft’s Ballot Language For Six Pro-Abortion Initiative Petitions, Stating They Were Biased, “Misleading,” And “Replete With Politically Partisan Language”**

**In September 2023, A Cole County Judge Rewrote Ashcroft’s Ballot Language For Six Pro-Abortion Initiative Petitions, Ruling They Were Biased.** “A Cole County judge rewrote the ballot titles for six initiative petitions seeking to enshrine the right to abortion in the Missouri Constitution, ruling that 13 phrases in the summaries written by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft are ‘argumentative’ or unfairly biased. In a ruling issued Monday morning, Circuit Judge Jon Beetem wrote that the summaries crafted by Ashcroft completely ignored the initiative proposals’ protections for contraceptives and other reproductive health needs. ... Beetem’s ruling comes two weeks after he heard arguments from ACLU of Missouri attorneys representing Dr. Anna Fitz-James, the physician who is the named sponsor of the initiatives, challenging Ashcroft’s ballot titles. ‘The court finds that certain phrases included in the secretary’s summary are problematic in that they are argumentative or do not fairly describe the purposes or probable effect of the initiative,’ Beetem wrote. ... In his ruling, Beetem wrote that the problematic phrases Ashcroft used in his summary, which must be 100 words or less, include statements that the initiatives would allow ‘dangerous, unregulated and unrestricted abortions,’ that abortion would be allowed ‘from conception to live birth’ and could be performed by anyone ‘without requiring a medical license’

or 'potentially being subject to medical malpractice.' ... Beetem rewrote each of six ballot summaries, making them different based on the contents." ([The Joplin Globe](#), 9/25/23)

**In October 2023, Ashcroft Joined His Office's Legal Team Defending The Ballot Language In An Appeal Of The Lower Court Ruling.** "There is a new member of the legal team defending the ballot language Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft wrote for proposed initiatives that would add abortion rights to the Missouri Constitution - Ashcroft himself. Ashcroft, who was an engineer by trade until earning his law degree in 2008, rarely appeared in court on behalf of clients, he said in an interview Wednesday with the Independent. He will be in court Oct. 30, when the Western District Court of Appeals in Kansas City hears arguments in the case, but said he won't disclose whether he will take an active role in the hearing. ... Ashcroft is appealing the Sept. 25 ruling that the ballot language he wrote for six proposed constitutional amendments was biased. ... In the decision that rewrote the ballot language, Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem concluded 'certain phrases included in the secretary's summary are problematic in that they are argumentative or do not fairly describe the purposes or probable effect of the initiative.'" ([Missouri Independent](#), 10/20/23)

**Later In October 2023, The Appellate Court Upheld The Lower Court Ruling And Found Ashcroft's Ballot Language For The Six Pro-Abortion Initiative Petitions Were "Misleading" And "Replete With Politically Partisan Language." Ashcroft Responded By Appealing To The Missouri Supreme Court.** "...Ashcroft wrote ballot titles for six proposals to restore abortion rights that were 'replete with politically partisan language,' a Missouri appeals court unanimously ruled Tuesday. In an expedited decision issued a day after hearing arguments, a 3-judge panel of the Western District Court of Appeals upheld, with only minor revisions, the revised ballot titles written by Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem. ... Ashcroft issued a statement that he would appeal the decision to the Missouri Supreme Court, a process likely to take several weeks. ... A key error in Ashcroft's ballot titles, states the opinion signed by Judge Thomas Chapman, was its single-minded focus on how it would affect the legality of abortion. The proposed constitutional amendments, he wrote, cover all aspects of reproductive health care. 'The absence of any reference to a right to reproductive health care beyond abortion in the summary statements is misleading,' Chapman wrote. There was little to be saved from Ashcroft's summaries, he wrote. 'The secretary's summary statements do not fairly describe the purposes and probable effects of the initiatives,' he wrote. 'The secretary's summary statements are replete with politically partisan language.' ... In its ruling, the court of appeals upheld only one aspect of Ashcroft's original ballot title — that the proposals would bar the government from discriminating against individuals or organizations that support reproductive rights or provide reproductive services. The court restored the language, substituting 'reproductive services' for 'abortion' in Ashcroft's sentence because 'the secretary's singular focus on abortion in addressing the nondiscrimination provisions is, as previously noted, misleading.' In upholding Beetem's decision to rewrite all the ballot titles, Chapman said he had no choice. 'After removal of the inaccurate and partisan language of the secretary's summary statements, the circuit court was left with largely unworkable summary statements,' Chapman wrote. 'The circuit court was authorized to write alternative language to fulfill its responsibility that a fair and sufficient summary statement be certified.'" ([Missouri Independent](#), 10/31/23)

**In 2023, A Group Behind An Initiative Petition To Add Exceptions For Rape And Incest To The State's Abortion Ban Filed A Pending Lawsuit Against Ashcroft For Writing Unfair And Inaccurate Ballot Language**

**In October 2023, A Group Behind An Initiative Petition To Add Exceptions For Rape And Incest To The State's Abortion Ban Sued Ashcroft For Writing Unfair And Inaccurate Ballot Language.** "A group seeking to add exceptions to the state's abortion ban for rape and incest filed a lawsuit Thursday arguing the ballot summary and fiscal note are unfair and inaccurate. Filed in August by Republican political operative Jamie Corley with assistance from Democratic attorney Chuck Hatfield, the initiative petitions are being pitched as a middle ground between the ban currently in place and more expansive proposals filed earlier this year by abortion-rights supporters. Last week, ... Ashcroft released his summary of the proposals that will appear on the ballot, writing that the petitions would either 'allow no-excuse abortions' for up to 12 weeks or 'nullify Missouri laws protecting the right to life.' ... Corley argues Ashcroft used 'blatantly false information' in the summaries, as well as phrases like 'until live birth,' making the summaries 'intentionally argumentative, insufficient and unfair.' Ashcroft described certain provisions of the initiative petitions in 'antagonistic and blatantly incorrect terms likely to prejudice voters against the measures,' the lawsuit states. 'Voters should heed these political moves as a

canary in the coal mine for the lengths some politicians will take to keep the government involved in a woman — or child's — pregnancy, even if that pregnancy is a result of rape,' Corley said. In a statement released by his office, Ashcroft said Corley's lawsuit is 'another example of individuals trying to mask the truth to mislead voters. The secretary of state's office will always fight to protect the right of Missourians to make their own decision on how to vote.' ... All versions of the amendments Corley submitted enshrine 'exceptions and immunity' clauses into Missouri's abortion law, and three versions include language prohibiting the government from interfering with a woman's access to an abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The rape exception would only apply to victims who have reported the rape or sexual assault to a crisis hotline. Three of the six initiative petitions would also legalize abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Each version also states that the rights guaranteed in the amendment 'are subject to strict scrutiny,' meaning any restrictions to abortion enacted by the Legislature must further a 'compelling governmental interest' and must be narrowly tailored to achieve that interest. Anyone seeking an abortion outside of Missouri could not be subject to criminal prosecution or civil penalty. The same immunity applies to health professionals or anyone assisting in seeking an abortion. Some versions also contain provisions prohibiting use of taxpayer funds to be used 'in support of the provision of abortion in this state.' However, in those versions, the Legislature would not be permitted to cut off funding for health care providers who perform abortions." ([Missouri Independent](#), 10/27/23)

## POLITICIZING LOCAL ELECTIONS

**In September 2021, Ashcroft Said He Was Considering A Measure To Make Local Elections Partisan In Missouri.** "... Ashcroft thinks voter turnout in Missouri's local elections would be better if they were partisan. In the 2020 presidential election, voter turnout in Missouri was 70%, a stark contrast to nonpartisan municipal elections in the state that can see as few as 10% of voters going to the polls. That's why Ashcroft is considering a measure to narrow that gap, by having candidates for local offices pick a party. 'Local government may be more important to people's day-to-day lives than at the state and federal levels,' Ashcroft said, adding that it's not good for big decisions about people's everyday lives to be determined by the outcome of elections with so few people showing up to the polls. 'If we were to make some of those partisan, we're not trying to make them more combative, would that help more people to come out? Does calling them nonpartisan make people think they are not important?' Such a move would require legislation and likely be the subject of fierce debate. ... Rolla City Councilwoman Jody Eberly is an example of a candidate who would be turned off by the prospect of being forced to choose a party. 'I can tell you that I would probably not be running,' Eberly said. 'With the last couple of years, things have become so rancorous and so bitter and polarized that I think there are a lot of good people out there who just would not want to be involved in that.' ... Ashcroft's idea is far from reality, as it can't even be introduced as a possible law change until the legislature convenes in January. He said that it's worth considering, and that it could be a way to encourage diversity of political thought instead of just another race between Republicans and Democrats. 'You can run as a Green candidate, a Libertarian, you can be a Constitutional Candidate. People of all of those have run. Especially in local races, individuals and smaller parties have a greater chance of being successful,' Ashcroft said." ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), 9/17/21)

## "INDEPENDENT STATE LEGISLATURE" DOCTRINE

**In September 2022, Ashcroft Said His Amicus Brief In A U.S. Supreme Court Case (*Moore v. Harper*) Was Not An Endorsement Of The Controversial "Independent State Legislature" Theory. He Also Refused To Denounce The Theory.** "... Ashcroft wants to be clear that his amicus brief in a high-profile U.S. Supreme Court case is not an endorsement of the so-called 'independent state legislature' doctrine. He's not denouncing it, either. Instead, Ashcroft is floating a theory of his own: That Congressional redistricting is a duty reserved solely for the states under the 10th Amendment, with no role whatsoever for Congress. Ashcroft says many, including The Independent, initially misinterpreted his position when he filed the amicus brief. His brief dovetails with the issues at the heart of the Supreme Court case — whether state legislatures alone have authority over redistricting. But Ashcroft says his take is more nuanced. The state legislature controls redistricting in Missouri, Ashcroft said, but that doesn't mean it has to in every state. 'It's reserved to the states, and the states themselves, in their constitution,' he said, 'and laws should define it. So it could be different in Missouri than Kansas than Oklahoma than Nebraska.' ... Most of the briefs filed in the Supreme Court case 'assume that Congress could

override state legislatures on setting rules for congressional redistricting,' Hasen said. But Missouri contends Congress can't say anything about how states redistrict for congressional elections. 'We need to keep the federal government out of Missouri elections,' Ashcroft said. ... Proponents of the independent state legislature doctrine argue the Election Clause gives legislatures sole responsibility for drawing congressional districts — and state courts have no role to play. Ashcroft contends redistricting doesn't fall under the Elections Clause at all. Drawing new congressional districts doesn't fall under 'time, places and manner,' Ashcroft says. Therefore, redistricting is a power of the states under Tenth Amendment, which says 'powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.' 'I'm not saying that means the legislature controls redistricting in every state,' Ashcroft said. 'We're saying that whatever the state Constitution says should control how that state does congressional redistricting since it's through the 10th Amendment.' ... As to the question of whether state courts could review a map considered a partisan gerrymander, Ashcroft said if Missourians were concerned that the legislature was engaging in partisan gerrymandering they could turn to the initiative petition process to change the state Constitution and outlaw it. 'The state could have restrictions on partisan gerrymandering if the state wants to,' Ashcroft said. 'The people would have to make that decision. The crux is, it goes back to the people. The people are supposed to make that decision.'" ([Missouri Independent](#), 9/9/22)

- **In June 2023, The U.S. Supreme Court Rejected The Theory By A 6-To-3 Vote.** "The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday repudiated the most extreme form of a controversial legal theory that, if adopted, would have radically reshaped the way elections are conducted, giving state legislatures virtually unchecked power to decide election rules. By a 6-to-3 vote, the court rejected the so-called Independent State Legislature theory advanced by the Republican-dominated North Carolina state legislature. Writing for the court majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said that the U.S. Constitution does not, as the lawmakers had claimed, insulate their actions from review by the state courts. To the contrary, he said, state legislative power is constrained by the federal and state constitutions, as well as ordinary state laws. At the same time, however, Roberts said that in overseeing election provisions, state courts 'do not have free rein' to exceed "the ordinary bounds of judicial review.' How to know when courts do exceed that power? The court majority didn't say, leaving for another day the task of articulating a standard for determining when federal courts may tell a state court that it has gone too far in interpreting state law. Joining Roberts in the majority were conservative Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett and the court's three liberals, Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson." ([NPR](#), 6/27/23)

## POTENTIALLY EXPENSIVE ANTI-ESG RULE

### In 2023, Ashcroft Clashed With Business And Trade Groups Over His Issuance Of An ESG Rule, Which Critics Fear Will Increase Fees On Missouri Investors And Financial Firms

**In 2023, Ashcroft Clashed With The Missouri Chamber Of Commerce Over His Issuance Of An ESG Rule, Which Critics Fear Will Increase Fees On Missouri Investors And Financial Firms.** "After the General Assembly failed to pass any legislation related to reining in ESG practices, Ashcroft said, he used his authority to set the new rule. But the business groups that opposed the legislature's moves in the 2023 session voice the same objections to Ashcroft's rule. They say it will create an unneeded burden on banks that operate in Missouri. The rule, which took effect at the end of July, requires financial advisers and institutions to have clients sign disclosure forms when an investment may consider ESG scores or prioritize elements that may not yield maximum profit. Ashcroft, a Republican running for governor, said his rule is directed at investors who are 'going to make a discretionary trade recommendation, and that recommendation is wholly or in part based on something other than getting the maximum financial return. They need to disclose that and get approval,' he told The Beacon. ... Ashcroft said his rule gives people a choice of pursuing investments for maximum profit, or potentially compromising some of that profit to invest in companies that align with their values. ... But the state Chamber of Commerce says the language is vague and its attempts to address it with Ashcroft's office seemed to go unheard. 'We've had pretty extensive conversations with the secretary of state's office,' said Phillip Arzen, head of governmental affairs for the chamber. 'And they did a slight revision, but it did not address the concerns.' 'This rule, it's so vague that you could look at it and almost every single transaction, you could say, theoretically,

you're going to need this consent form,' he said. Fischer, the former SEC prosecutor, said part of the complication is that securities rules are most often set at the federal level. For financial institutions, which are typically risk-averse, Ashcroft's rule could lead to higher fees and labor costs if disclosures are required on many transactions, or if they have different requirements to meet for different states. 'It's a lot easier for firms to operate with a federal standard,' Fischer said. 'It could mean putting additional expenses on companies' backs.' The Missouri Chamber of Commerce made the same criticism. 'This is more burdensome than federal regulations,' Arnzen said. 'And then it puts Missouri in a different standard than every other state.'" ([The Kansas City Beacon](#), 8/3/23)

**In August 2023, A Financial Industry Trade Group Sued Ashcroft Over The ESG Rule. The Suit Is Pending.** "The change caught the attention of the Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association, the trade association representing broker-dealers nationwide. The group filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the rule, saying Missouri's rules 'directly conflict' with federal securities laws.'" ([The Kansas City Beacon](#), 8/3/23)

## CONTROVERSIAL HIRES

### *Taxpayer-Funded Work For A Campaign Donor*

**In September 2023, Ashcroft Used Tax Dollars To Hire A Campaign Donor To Represent Him In A Legal Challenge To His ESG Rule.** "...Ashcroft, who is running for governor, is using taxpayer funds to pay a campaign donor to represent him in a high-profile lawsuit. Instead of using the Missouri attorney general's office to fight a challenge to new investment rules being pushed by Ashcroft, the Republican hired the politically connected Kansas City law firm of Graves Garrett to represent his office. Among a trio of Graves Garrett lawyers on the case is Edward Greim, who contributed the maximum amount of \$2,825 to Ashcroft's gubernatorial campaign in June. The Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association sued Ashcroft in August arguing that a new state rule designed to limit the impact of environmental, social and governance factors in investment decisions conflicts with federal securities laws. ... Ashcroft issued the rules — the first in the nation — after a similar 'anti-woke' investing proposal died in the Legislature this spring. Ashcroft, who is facing Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe and Sen. Bill Eigel in the August 2024 GOP primary, is using the lawsuit to raise money for his gubernatorial campaign. 'I implemented new rules requiring Wall Street bankers and money managers to notify their customers when they choose to invest their retirement savings in woke ESG investments, rather than investments that generate the best return,' Ashcroft said in a campaign memo to supporters earlier this month." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 9/9/23)

- **Ashcroft's Campaign Defended His Hiring Of The Donor.** "Ashcroft's office spokesman JoDonn Chaney referred questions about the fundraising scheme to the secretary's campaign team. Campaign spokesman Jason Cabel Roe said in an email, 'This case requires specialized understanding of securities law. After conferring with several law firms, we chose Graves Garrett, because they have attorneys with the necessary technical knowledge and experience with the Western District of Missouri.' ... Ashcroft's campaign committee paid Graves Garrett \$1,190 in 2022 for legal consultations." ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 9/9/23)

### *Flagged Securities Commissioner Hire*

**In 2017, Ashcroft Named David Minnick As His Securities Commissioner, Despite Minnick's Past Work For A Firm That Was Investigated By The State And Accused Of Selling Bad Investments To Schools**

**In January 2017, Ashcroft Named Minnick As His Commissioner Of Securities For The Secretary Of State's Office.** "The man chosen by Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft to lead the agency that protects consumers from securities fraud is a former executive of a company currently under investigation by the state. David Minnick served as general counsel and senior vice president of St. Louis-based Stifel Financial Corp. from 2004 until this week, when Jay Ashcroft took over for outgoing Secretary of State Jason Kander. Now, Minnick is the commissioner of securities, a job that puts him in charge of the division responsible for protecting Missouri investors from fraud and ensuring that companies comply with state securities law." ([The Kansas City Star](#), 1/13/17)

**Minnick Previously Worked As Senior Vice President Of Stifel Financial, Which Had Been Repeatedly Investigated By The State For Securities Issues.** "A spokeswoman for Kander told *The Star* last week that Stifel

is under investigation by the securities division, although she couldn't provide details because the investigation is ongoing. Since 2010, Stifel Financial has been investigated by the securities division at least three other times. Minnick's long ties to the industry he's now responsible for regulating, as well as to a company currently under investigation by the agency he now leads, have raised concerns about the division's commitment to protecting Missouri investors. 'The fox is guarding the henhouse,' said Rep. Tracy McCreery, a St. Louis County Democrat who sits on the board of the Consumers Council of Missouri. 'And that should be alarming.' A spokesman for Ashcroft said Minnick has severed all formal ties with his former company. Two weeks before his hire became public, Minnick sold 10,000 shares of Stifel Financial stock, valued at more than \$500,000. He sold an additional 3,400 shares, valued at \$174,000, two weeks after his new job was announced. He appears to have sold his remaining \$90,000 in stock shortly before the new year." (*The Kansas City Star*, 1/13/17)

- **In 2011, The SEC Sued Stifel Financial For Duping Five Wisconsin School Districts Into Buying \$200 Million In Bad Investments.** "The Securities and Exchange Commission sued Stifel, Nicolaus & Company on Wednesday, accusing the Midwestern brokerage firm of duping five Wisconsin school districts into buying \$200 million in dubious investments. The firm in 2006 sold the school districts 'unsuitable' securities tied to synthetic collateralized debt obligations that were 'far more risky' than advertised and mostly purchased with borrowed funds, according to a complaint filed in federal court in Milwaukee. Stifel and one of its former top executives, David W. Noack, concealed the perils of investing 'through a series of falsehoods and misrepresentations,' the S.E.C. said." (*The New York Times*, 8/10/11)

### **In 2022, A Pro-Ashcroft PAC Hired Lobbyist Steve Tilley, Who Has Been The Subject Of FBI Scrutiny**

**In April 2022, The Missouri Independent Reported That Tilley, "Whose Activity Over The Years Has Drawn Scrutiny From The FBI," Was Raising Money For A Pro-Ashcroft PAC.** "Ashcroft reported roughly \$515,000 cash on hand in January. The PAC supporting his candidacy had nearly \$200,000 cash on hand. But in the intervening months, the pro-Ashcroft PAC has raised \$750,000 in large checks. It is being aided in fundraising by lobbyist Steve Tilley, a former lawmaker whose activity over the years has drawn scrutiny from the FBI. The law firm of Michael Ketchmark, a personal injury attorney from Leawood, Kansas, who is close to Tilley, cut a \$250,000 check to support Ashcroft last month." (*Missouri Independent*, 4/7/22)

## **INVESTIGATIONS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

*Ashcroft Was Criticized For His Office's Investigation Of Then-AG Josh Hawley's Use Of State Funds To Pursue His Political Ambitions*

### **In 2018, Ashcroft Began Investigating If Then-AG Josh Hawley Used State Resources To Pay Consultants And To Support His 2018 U.S. Senate Campaign**

**In 2018, Hawley Was Accused Of Using State Resources To Push His Personal Ambitions Via Political Consultants. As A Result, Lawyers Left Hawley's Office, Which Resulted In Court Losses That Cost Missourians \$35 Million.** "The most recent example is Josh Hawley, Missouri's pro-Trump Christian nationalist senator-elect (and current state attorney general) who has written that a politician's job is to advance Christ's kingdom and that Christians should be helping bring about End Times and the Second Coming. ... Thanks to dogged reporting by the *Kansas City Star*, we know that a pair of Washington D.C. political consultants – Timmy Teepell and Gail Gitcho – along with two lobbying firms called OnMessage, Inc. and First Tuesday, basically ran the Missouri Attorney General's office starting right after Hawley was sworn in as AG in January 2017. The two used state tax dollars and state resources to frame and help design Hawley's anti-opioid and anti-human trafficking initiatives as a way to raise Hawley's national profile and position him for a U.S. Senate run, even though Hawley had campaigned for AG criticizing politicians who used their offices to campaign for even higher office. Pot, meet kettle. The political consultants pushed Hawley's ambition using state employees. Hawley refused to use his official state email account and instead communicated with them via private email. The interference by the consultants and Hawley's rigid right-wing ideology led to an exodus of state civil litigation lawyers. And that meant Hawley's office was short-staffed when it came to defending the state against civil claims. Both the *Post-Dispatch* and *New York Times* reported that a combination of inexperienced lawyers and

lack of staff in Hawley's office meant Missouri taxpayers lost several civil suits in court, causing the state to cough up \$35 million in fiscal year 2018. And that doesn't count the judgment against the state for \$113 million in back pay for prison guards. Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a Republican, has finally launched an investigation into Hawley's use of the big money D.C. consultants to interfere in his office's work. Hawley's office, of course, calls the entire controversy 'a political smear campaign.'" (Charles Jaco, *St. Louis American*, 12/1/18)

**In December 2018, Ashcroft Began Investigating If Hawley Used Public Resources To Pay Political Consultants In Support Of His 2018 U.S. Senate Campaign.** "Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has launched an investigation into a complaint that Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley used public resources in his successful bid for the U.S. Senate. The American Democracy Legal Fund on Nov. 2 filed a complaint with Ashcroft, claiming that Hawley used out-of-state political consultants to direct the activities of public employees in the attorney general's office to raise Hawley's political profile as he prepared to mount a campaign for U.S. Senate. 'Josh Hawley's flagrant abuse of his taxpayer funded office for his own political gain deserves immediate investigation,' said Brad Woodhouse, ADLF president, in a statement. 'We're heartened to see Secretary of State Ashcroft give this racket further scrutiny.' Hawley's office said they welcomed the investigation. 'We are delighted to cooperate with the Secretary of State's Office and put these ridiculous allegations to bed once and for all,' said Mary Compton, a spokeswoman for the Missouri Attorney General's office. 'These allegations are totally meritless and nothing more than a partisan attempt to slander the work of the Attorney General's Office. As we have said before, no taxpayer resources were ever expended for campaign purposes. And no government employees ever participated in campaign or political activities.' Ashcroft and Hawley are both Republicans." (The Kansas City Star, 12/6/18)

**In December 2018, Ashcroft Enlisted The State Auditor's Subpoena Power To Investigate Hawley's Office.** "Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has formally requested that the state's Democratic auditor investigate allegations that Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley used public resources to support his successful campaign for the U.S. Senate. Missouri Auditor Nicole Galloway was already scheduled to begin an audit of the attorney general's office in January. Galloway's office conducts an audit any time there is a change in a statewide office. Ashcroft is seeking to enlist Galloway's subpoena power in an investigation sparked by a complaint filed in early November with the secretary of state's office by The American Democracy Legal Fund, a liberal group backed by influential Democratic operative David Brock. The group demanded an investigation to determine whether Hawley should be prosecuted for violating a state law barring elected officials from using public funds to support political campaigns." (The Kansas City Star, 12/10/18)

### **In 2019, Ashcroft Closed The Investigation Into Hawley, Claiming There Was No Probable Cause For A Violation Of State Law**

**In March 2019, Ashcroft Closed The Investigation, Claiming There Was No Probable Cause That Hawley Had Violated State Law.** "Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft closed his investigation and issued his report related to an election complaint submitted to his office on Nov. 6, 2018, regarding former Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley. Ashcroft has not found probable cause to believe Hawley or his Office violated Section 115.646 of Missouri law as alleged in a complaint from American Democracy Legal Fund. Thursday morning, Ashcroft provided copies of the report to the complainant as well as the governor, former and current attorneys general, and the state auditor. 'Based on the documents my office reviewed, and the interviews conducted, I cannot say that there is reasonable trustworthy information that an offense has been committed,' Ashcroft stated in his report. 'As such, I decline to issue a statement of probable cause and this investigation is considered closed.'" (Hannibal Courier-Post, 3/1/19)

### **During The Investigation, Ashcroft's Office Allowed A "Top Lieutenant And Campaign Donor" Of Hawley To Sit In On Interviews And Even Notified Him In Advance About Employees The Investigators Planned To Interview**

**In March 2019, John Sauer, A "Top Lieutenant And Campaign Donor" Of Hawley Was Allowed To Sit In On Interviews Conducted By Ashcroft's Office As Part Of The Investigation.** "A top lieutenant and campaign donor to Josh Hawley was allowed to sit in on interviews conducted as part of the investigation into whether Hawley illegally used government resources to support his successful bid for U.S. Senate. The arrangement,

detailed in documents obtained by *The Kansas City Star* under Missouri's open records laws, has drawn criticism from some legal experts, who say it compromises the legitimacy of Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's conclusions. 'As a general rule, no serious investigator, civil or criminal, would voluntarily invite representatives of the party being investigated to sit in on initial witness interviews,' said Frank Bowman, a professor at the University of Missouri School of Law. 'Not only is there an intimidation factor, particularly where the target is a sitting U.S. senator, but letting the target be represented in the interviews allows the target to shape his own response and to coach potential witnesses.'" (*The Kansas City Star*, 3/6/19)

**Ashcroft's Office Allowed Sauer To Attend Interviews And Even Notified Him In Advance About Employees The Investigators Planned To Interview.** "Documents newly obtained by *The Star* include emails between Ashcroft's office and Solicitor General John Sauer, who served as first assistant when Hawley was attorney general. Sauer also is a political ally of Hawley's who donated \$10,816 to his attorney general campaign and the maximum \$5,400 to his U.S. Senate campaign. The emails show that Ashcroft's investigators allowed Sauer to sit in on interviews and notified him early on about which former attorney general office employees investigators planned to interview. Mark Johnson, a lawyer in the Kansas City office of the Dentons law firm who specializes in election law, said best practices would be to keep witnesses away from the people who are the subject of the investigation. 'That even includes informing the attorney general's office of people that might be interviewed,' Johnson said. 'That certainly, at a minimum, could allow the attorney general's office to get an indication of which direction the investigation is going.' Ashcroft might say it was a matter of professional courtesy, Johnson said, but 'I would say that's a bad way of going about conducting a true, impartial investigation.'" (*The Kansas City Star*, 3/6/19)

**An Election Law Expert Criticized Ashcroft's Decision As "A Bad Way Of Going About Conducting A True, Impartial Investigation."** "Mark Johnson, a lawyer in the Kansas City office of the Dentons law firm who specializes in election law, said best practices would be to keep witnesses away from the people who are the subject of the investigation. 'That even includes informing the attorney general's office of people that might be interviewed,' Johnson said. 'That certainly, at a minimum, could allow the attorney general's office to get an indication of which direction the investigation is going.' Ashcroft might say it was a matter of professional courtesy, Johnson said, but 'I would say that's a bad way of going about conducting a true, impartial investigation.'" (*The Kansas City Star*, 3/6/19)

*In 2020, Ashcroft Investigated If Democrat Gubernatorial Candidate Nicole Galloway Used State Funds To Advance Her Campaign*

**In 2020, Ashcroft Investigated Then-Auditor Nicole Galloway For Allegedly Using State Funds To Violate A Law Barring The Use Of Tax Dollars For Campaigning**

**In October 2020, Ashcroft Announced An Investigation Into Galloway Over Allegations She Had Used State Resources To Support Her Gubernatorial Campaign.** "Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has agreed to investigate Democratic Auditor Nicole Galloway over a GOP group's allegations of campaign finance violations. In a letter obtained by the *Post-Dispatch* Wednesday, Ashcroft's office is requesting cooperation from the auditor in its pursuit of a complaint filed Sept. 9 by Liberty Alliance, a not-for-profit organization trying to get Republicans elected. The move by Ashcroft comes as fellow Republican Gov. Mike Parson and Galloway are duking it out heading into the Nov. 3 election. The auditor's office said the group's effort is 'nothing more than a political stunt.' 'This frivolous complaint is an attack by a partisan, dark-money group that has repeatedly targeted this office and the work of the State Auditor,' Galloway spokesman Scott Holste said. 'This office will review and respond, as we always do, in compliance with the law.' Liberty Alliance says an opinion piece by Galloway that ran in the *Post-Dispatch* last year focusing on a restrictive state abortion law was submitted to the newspaper by one of her state-paid press aides, violating state law barring the use of taxpayer dollars for campaign purposes. The auditor's office said there is no law prohibiting her, as an elected statewide officeholder, from speaking on any variety of topics. A spokesman for her campaign earlier called the premise of the complaint 'absurd.'" (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 10/1/20)

**The Complaint Against Galloway Alleged That One Of Her Press Aides Submitted A Galloway-Authored Op-Ed On Abortion To The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* In Violation of State Law.** "Republican Secretary of State Jay



Ashcroft has agreed to investigate Democratic Auditor Nicole Galloway over a GOP group's allegations of campaign finance violations. In a letter obtained by the *Post-Dispatch* Wednesday, Ashcroft's office is requesting cooperation from the auditor in its pursuit of a complaint filed Sept. 9 by Liberty Alliance, a not-for-profit organization trying to get Republicans elected. The move by Ashcroft comes as fellow Republican Gov. Mike Parson and Galloway are duking it out heading into the Nov. 3 election. The auditor's office said the group's effort is 'nothing more than a political stunt.' 'This frivolous complaint is an attack by a partisan, dark-money group that has repeatedly targeted this office and the work of the State Auditor,' Galloway spokesman Scott Holste said. 'This office will review and respond, as we always do, in compliance with the law.' Liberty Alliance says an opinion piece by Galloway that ran in the *Post-Dispatch* last year focusing on a restrictive state abortion law was submitted to the newspaper by one of her state-paid press aides, violating state law barring the use of taxpayer dollars for campaign purposes. The auditor's office said there is no law prohibiting her, as an elected statewide officeholder, from speaking on any variety of topics. A spokesman for her campaign earlier called the premise of the complaint 'absurd.'" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10/1/20)

**In November 2020, Ashcroft Closed The Investigation Into Galloway, Saying He Found No Probable Cause That State Funds Were Used To Support Her Run For Governor.** "Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has closed an investigation into Democratic Auditor Nicole Galloway over a GOP group's allegations of campaign finance violations. In a letter obtained by the *Post-Dispatch* Thursday, Ashcroft said he found no probable cause that the auditor used public funds to support her candidacy for governor. Galloway lost to Republican Gov. Mike Parson by 17 percentage points on Nov. 3. Galloway's office had called the complaint a 'political stunt' designed to raise unfounded ethical concerns in the weeks heading toward the election. On Thursday, she said she was pleased with the decision. 'Since this review began last month, my office has complied with inquiries from the Secretary of State's Office. As I said from the start, no laws were broken,' Galloway said." (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 11/13/20)

## ADDITIONAL BALLOT LANGUAGE ISSUES

**In 2021, Ashcroft Was Sued By A Fellow Republican For Allegedly Writing Flawed Language For A Proposed Constitutional Amendment To Change How The State Treasurer's Office Invests Tax Dollars**

**In July 2021, Ashcroft Was Sued By State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick, A Fellow Republican, For Allegedly Writing Flawed Language For A Proposed Constitutional Amendment To Change How The Treasurer's Office Invests Tax Dollars.** "A top state Republican official has taken a top state Republican official to court. In a 10-page lawsuit filed in Cole County Circuit Court on Monday, Missouri Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick is alleging that Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft wrote flawed ballot language for a proposed constitutional amendment that would change how the treasurer's office invests taxpayer dollars. The proposed referendum, which would go before voters in 2022, was a legislative priority for Fitzpatrick, who says the changes he wants would allow his office to earn higher interest rates on certain investments." (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/21/21)

**Fitzpatrick Charged That Ashcroft's Ballot Language Was Flawed, Misleading And "Intentionally Argumentative."** "The proposed referendum, which received little attention during the Legislature's spring session, would allow the treasurer to put money in a wider range of investments, as long as they are qualified under a set of standards designed to ensure the money is safe. But Fitzpatrick said the ballot language written by Ashcroft's office is flawed and misleading. 'The Secretary of State's summary statement of Amendment 1 is not a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the proposed measure,' the lawsuit notes. In particular, Fitzpatrick said some of the wording 'is intentionally argumentative and likely to create a prejudice against the proposed measure.' In addition, the lawsuit says the 'Secretary of State's fair ballot language does not fairly or accurately describe the measure.'" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7/21/21)

**In January 2022, An Appellate Court Sided With Ashcroft In The Ballot Language Dispute.** "A state appeals court Thursday sided with Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft in a court case brought by a fellow Republican statewide officeholder. In a 28-page decision, the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District rejected an appeal of a case brought by Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick alleging that Ashcroft wrote flawed ballot language for a proposed constitutional amendment that would change how the treasurer's office invests taxpayer dollars. The

proposed referendum, which would go before voters in 2022, was a legislative priority for Fitzpatrick, who says the changes he wants would allow his office to earn higher interest rates on certain investments.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1/14/22)


### **In 2023, Ashcroft Relented And Allowed A Columbia Resident To Move Forward With A Ballot Measure To Modify Term Limits And Prevent Lawmakers From Making It Harder For Voters To Approve Constitutional Changes**

**In March 2023, Harry Cooper, A Columbia Resident, Sued Ashcroft For Unlawfully Rejecting His Petition To Modify Term Limits And Prevent Lawmakers From Making It Harder For Voters To Approve Constitutional Changes.** “A Columbia man filed a lawsuit Thursday against Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft for allegedly violating initiative petition laws. The suit, filed in Cole County on behalf of Harry Cooper, alleges Ashcroft violated the law by unlawfully rejecting Cooper’s petition, doing so past the rejection deadline and refusing to provide a reason for its rejection. The proposed petition would have modified legislative term limits and prohibit the General Assembly from making an initiative petition’s path to the ballot more difficult, said a news release from Respect Voters, a coalition dedicated to the initiative petition ballot measure. Cooper alleged he filed two versions of the petition Feb. 16, and exhibits submitted with the suit show the Secretary of State’s Office responded with notification that both submissions had been received and had received ‘final approval as to form.’ Other letters from Ashcroft’s office dated March 9 stated the sample sheets were rejected after further review but did not include further reasoning. Cooper alleged he repeatedly asked the office for the reason they were rejected, but said the office ‘refused to provide, violating the law.’ A letter from Ashcroft’s office submitted as evidence says, ‘The Secretary of State has twenty-three days after the approval to the form of the petition to prepare and transmit to the Attorney General a summary statement of the measure,’ giving the attorney general 10 days to review the legal content and form of the proposal. The suit asks the court to require Ashcroft to approve the forms or to provide reasons for rejecting it. A spokeswoman for Ashcroft said the office had received the court documents and were reviewing them.” (Jefferson City News Tribune, 3/25/23)

**In May 2023, Ashcroft Allowed Cooper’s Proposal To Move Forward.** “After being sued for illegally blocking a proposed citizen-driven ballot question that would prevent lawmakers from making it harder for voters to amend the state constitution, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has allowed the proposal to move forward. Columbia resident Harry Cooper in Cole County dropped his lawsuit against Ashcroft, a candidate for governor in 2024, last month after Ashcroft relented and allowed Cooper to begin gathering signatures to put his proposal on the 2024 ballot. ... Ashcroft’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday. Cooper’s ballot question is in response to Missouri Republican lawmakers proposing a flurry of proposals this year that would make it harder for voters across the state to approve amendments to the state constitution. If certified for the ballot, Cooper’s plan would ask voters in 2024 to approve a measure preventing state lawmakers from passing laws that make it harder for citizens to amend the state’s initiative petition process. It also would prevent lawmakers from changing voter-approved laws for seven years unless receiving 75% approval from both chambers of the Missouri General Assembly. And it would allow lawmakers to serve 16 years in either chamber instead of the current eight year per chamber cap. The ballot measure would have reduced the legislative term limit to 12 years if lawmakers pass any laws that restrict the public’s ability to amend the state constitution. ... The lawsuit filed by Cooper in March accused Ashcroft of initially approving his proposal and then reversing course and rejecting it after a 15-day deadline, in violation of state law. It further alleged that Ashcroft had rejected ‘a number of’ other ballot initiatives this year through a similar process.” (The Kansas City Star, 5/3/23)

### **In 2019, Ashcroft Was Sued By A St. Louis Resident For Writing “Biased And Inflammatory” Ballot Summaries**

**In August 2019, Ashcroft Was Sued By A St. Louis Resident Who Accused Him Of Writing “Biased And Inflammatory” Summaries Of State Petitions.** “A St. Louis woman looking to make voting more convenient in Missouri says Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft is sabotaging her efforts. In a lawsuit filed Friday in Cole County Circuit Court, attorneys for Mary Anne Sedey accused Ashcroft of writing ‘biased and inflammatory’ summaries of petitions that could harm their chances with voters if they qualify for the 2020 ballot. The initiatives propose a number of changes to the Missouri Constitution, including requirements for six weeks of early and mail-in voting



and automatic registration of eligible voters when they come into contact with government agencies. Promotional materials from Vote 2020, a campaign committee for which Sedey serves as treasurer, said the ‘common-sense updates’ would make it easier for eligible voters to ‘have their voices heard, while also safeguarding our elections with mandatory audits to protect against hacking and tampering.’ But the lawsuit says Ashcroft, a Republican, paints a more sinister and unfair picture in his summary, which would appear on the ballot should backers of the petitions gather the more than 150,000 signatures required to qualify. In one instance, for example, Ashcroft describes a change designed to ensure certain provisional ballots are counted as allowing ‘voters on election day to appear at the wrong polling place, vote on a wrong ballot, and have election judges later transfer the votes to the right ballot.’” *(Springfield News-Leader, 8/11/19)*

## Ashcroft Has Supported Making It Harder For Missourians To Place Constitutional Amendments On The Statewide Ballot

### **In 2018, Ashcroft Tweeted “I Couldn’t Agree More…” In Reference To A Tweet Criticizing Missouri’s Constitution Referendum Process**

**In March 2018, Ashcroft Tweeted “I Couldn’t Agree More…” In Reference To A Tweet Criticizing Missouri’s Constitution Referendum Process.** “I couldn’t agree more…” (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 3/14/18)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 3/14/18)

### **In 2018, Ashcroft “Hinted” Support For Raising The Threshold For Petitions To Be Placed On The State Ballot**

**In December 2018, Ashcroft “Hinted” Support For Raising The Threshold For Petitions To Be Placed On The State Ballot.** “Mehan countered that out-of-state, left-leaning groups spent big on many of the successful campaigns last year - casting doubt on the assertion there is grassroots enthusiasm for policies that Democratic voters tend to support. Cardetti said Republicans had used the petition process, too - most notably in 2010 when St. Louis financier and Republican donor Rex Sinquefeld pushed a successful ballot question that banned earnings taxes outside of St. Louis and Kansas City. The measure also forces the two cities to reauthorize their taxes every five years. ‘That would never have been able to pass the Legislature,’ Cardetti said. But, Cardetti said, some proposals to tighten the process are worth a look, such as one backed last year by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a Republican. The legislation would have raised various fees to discourage frivolous petitions, which eat up state resources. Ashcroft also hinted he would support the attempt to raise the threshold needed to change the Constitution.” (St. Louis Post Dispatch, 12/29/18)

### **In 2019, Ashcroft Believed The State Referendum Process Had Gotten Out Of Hand And Said “The Normal Process Should Be To Go Through Our Legislature”**

**In March 2019, Ashcroft Believed The State Referendum Process Had Gotten Out Of Hand And Said “The Normal Process Should Be To Go Through Our Legislature.”** “In 2020, Democrats and their allies are looking to use the same vehicle to expand eligibility for Medicaid, outlaw right-to-work completely and establish early voting. Republicans aren’t sitting out the initiative petition scrum. They are considering measures of their own that would ban sanctuary cities, protect Confederate memorials and establish partisan elections for state Supreme Court judges. The state’s chief elections officer, Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, believes the entire process has gotten out of hand. He insists he doesn’t want to deter Missourians from taking issues directly to the ballot. But he contends that it is too easy to amend the state’s constitution, and the number of initiative petitions submitted to his office has skyrocketed from 55 in 2008 to 371 last year. ‘We’re not a democracy. We’re a republic,’ Ashcroft said. ‘It’s not an attack on our way of life or our government. We are a republic, and I do think that the normal process should be to go through our Legislature.’” (The Kansas City Star, 3/31/19)

### **In 2021, Ashcroft Backed Legislation To Increase The Number Of Signatures Required For A Measure To Qualify For The State Ballot**

**In April 2021, Ashcroft Said He Supported Legislation To Increase The Number Of Signatures Required For A Measure To Qualify For The State Ballot.** “Republican leaders like Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft have long contended that the initiative petition process isn’t a good venue to hash out complicated policy initiatives. Rather, he said, the legislature is the better venue. ‘The people elected legislators to represent them,’ Ashcroft said. ‘We are not a democracy, we are a constitutional republic.’ ... Ashcroft supports efforts currently moving through the legislature that would raise the bar to get certain initiative petitions up for a vote. GOP lawmakers have put forward proposals that would increase the number of signatures necessary for measures to get on the ballot. They’ve also backed plans that would raise the amount of votes needed for a constitutional amendment to pass from a simple majority to two-thirds. ... Carl Bearden of United for Missouri, which backs conservative issues, doesn’t like the Medicaid expansion ballot initiative but doesn’t agree with efforts to make the initiative petition process more difficult. He said doing so would make it more difficult for conservative groups to implement policy change if the legislature or governor shifts leftward. He also said that Republicans complaining about the initiative petition process should really be more upset that conservative groups offered up underfunded opposition campaigns to things like Medicaid expansion or the minimum wage increase.” ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), 4/30/21)

**In 2019 And 2021, Ashcroft Supported Legislation To Increase Filing Fees For Initiative Petitions To \$500 In Order To Reduce The Number Of Petitions Filed**

**In March 2019, Ashcroft Voiced Support For A Bill To Charge A \$500 Filing Fee Per Petition.** “My concern is, ‘How do we do something to make sure that, if we’re changing our constitution, it’s something that’s widely agreed by the people of the state?’, but I also don’t want to make it more difficult for people, or unreasonable for people, to get something on the ballot,’ said Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a proponent of reforms. Ashcroft is backing a bill, sponsored by Rep. Chrissy Sommer, R-St. Charles, that would charge a \$500 refundable filing fee for each petition, with additional fees for longer petitions. Groups that pay people to get signatures for constitutional amendments would also be charged \$64,000 to help local governments cover the cost of verifying signatures. It also standardizes the forms used to gather signatures. ... Ashcroft supports requiring a two-thirds majority to approve constitutional amendments. Currently, it requires just a simple majority. He does not agree with boosting the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot, although he pointed out concerns he was with the current requirements.” ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), 3/27/19)

**In April 2021, Ashcroft Supported Raising Filing Fees For Initiative Petitions To \$500 In Order To Reduce The Number Of Petitions Filed.** “One sponsored by Rep. John Simmons, R-Washington, would raise filing fees to \$500 for initiative petitions, a process where voters can collect signatures to put an issue on the ballot. ... Testifying in favor of the bill, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said the filing fee, which he supports making refundable, would cut down on the number of petitions filed by people who aren’t serious about gathering signatures. Some individuals file 60 or 70 petitions, which create work for local governments that are required to determine their impact, he said. Ashcroft, who supported the other two proposals as well, said he also appreciated that Simmons’ legislation would expand the word count for ballot summaries so people can understand what they’re choosing.” ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), 4/1/21)

## **\$9.7 MILLION MISTAKE**

**In 2023, A State Audit Found That Ashcroft’s Office Lacked “Adequate Controls And Procedures Over Financial Reporting” That Could Have Resulted In An Overstatement Of At Least \$9.7 Million In Financial Statements.** ([Missouri State Auditor, Audit Report 2023-56](#), Filed 9/15/23)

We reported an audit finding related to the SOS's internal controls over financial reporting.

- Office of Secretary of State Financial Reporting Controls (Finding No. FS2022-006) - The SOS did not have adequate controls and procedures over financial reporting of accounts receivable. As a result, civil penalty accounts receivable data submitted to the OA for inclusion in the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022, was misstated. If the resulting misstatements had not been identified during the audit, Government Wide - Governmental Activities and Public Education Fund net accounts receivable and related liability balances would have been overstated by at least \$9.7 million in the financial statements.

The SOS disagreed with the audit finding. The audit finding and the SOS's response, including explanation and specific reasons for disagreement, are included in our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Report on Internal Control, Compliance, and Other Matters (Report No. 2023-022) and the SOS's Corrective Action Plan is included in the Single Audit Report (Report No. 2023-030).

(Missouri State Auditor, [Audit Report 2023-56](#), Filed 9/15/23)

## 2022 REDISTRICTING FIGHT

**In February 2022, Ashcroft Sided With State Sen. Bill Eigel In His Push To Redraw The State's Congressional Map For Seven Republican Seats Rather Than Six.** "Ahead of an anticipated Senate debate on the proposed Missouri Congressional map, several GOP officials urged over 100 supporters gathered Monday in the Capitol to continue to press for a redrawn map that would add an additional seat in Republicans' favor. The House quickly sent the proposed Congressional map to the Senate in the first two weeks of the legislative session. That version, which was passed out of the Senate Redistricting Committee late last month, maintains the current partisan balance of the state's Congressional delegation — six Republican seats and two Democratic seats. Yet while the Senate has been mired in disagreement over the map, it has yet to be formally brought to the Senate floor for discussion. Senators said they expect that to change Monday, with Sen. Bill Eigel, R-Weldon Spring, telling supporters holding signs that read '7:1' and 'Missouri is a red state' to prepare for an 'extended debate' come Monday afternoon. ... Republican leaders have raised concerns that a 7-1 map may be challenged in the courts, and that even if it did remain intact, a seat may swing in Democrats' favor in a competitive election year. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, who has lobbied for a 7-1 map, called those legal concerns 'balderdash' Monday. Missouri is required to maintain a minority-majority district in the 1st Congressional District, which encompasses St. Louis, under the Voting Rights Act, Ashcroft noted. But he argued a majority-minority district didn't exist across the state in Kansas City and Jackson County, and thus cracking that district to bring in more Republican voters would not be in danger of being tossed by the courts." ([Missouri Independent](#), 2/7/22)

## CONTROVERSIAL LIBRARY RULE

**In 2022 And 2023, Ashcroft Made Headlines When He Issued A Rule To Prohibit Missouri Libraries From Buying Obscene And Pornographic Materials.** "In order to comply with a rule introduced by Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, public libraries in the state now require kids and teenagers as old as 17 to have adult permission in order to obtain a library card. ... The Library Certification Requirement for the Protection of Minors went into effect on May 31. Per the rule, libraries were required to submit a copy of their written policies to the state librarian by July 31. Among other stipulations, the rule prohibits libraries from buying materials that are 'child pornography,' 'pornographic for minors' or 'obscene,' as defined by Missouri law. ... In a 2022 news release, Ashcroft said the rule is about protecting children. 'Yes, we want to make sure libraries have the resources and materials they need for their constituents, but we also want our children to be 'children' a little longer than a pervasive culture may often dictate,' he said." ([St. Louis Public Radio](#), 8/8/23)

## RUSSIAN HACKING

**In 2018, Ashcroft Was Dismissive Of Russian Hacking Efforts, Calling It "A Whole Lot Of Nothing"**

**In April 2018, Ashcroft Tweeted, "Russians Didn't Hack The [Election] Results, They Hacked The Perception."** "@60Minutes Russians didn't hack the results, they hacked the perception. #SecureElections" (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 4/8/18)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 4/8/18)

**In July 2018, Ashcroft Said A Report That Then-Sen. Claire McCaskill Was Targeted By Russian Hackers Was “A Whole Lot Of Nothing.”** “Missouri’s top election official is questioning the potential damage from Sen. Claire McCaskill’s reported targeting by Russian hackers while assuring Missourians that wanna-be election meddlers will not succeed under his watch. ‘In a sense, this is a whole lot of nothing’ Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said Monday. The Daily Beast, a U.S. news website, reported last week that McCaskill, D-Missouri, was targeted by the same Russian hacking group that successfully obtained emails from the Democratic National Committee and promoted lies on social media in 2016.” (*Springfield News-Leader*, 7/31/18)

## COVID-19

***Ashcroft Said That Fathers He Knew Would Rather Risk Getting COVID-19 And Dying Than To Not Have Their Children In School***

**In 2020, Ashcroft Said In An Interview That Fathers He Knew Would Risk Dying From COVID-19 So Their Children Could Attend School**

**In August 2020, Ashcroft Said In An Interview That Fathers He Knew Would Risk Dying From COVID-19 So Their Children Could Attend School.** “Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft was slammed Wednesday by his Democratic challenger in the November election for telling a radio interviewer that the fathers he knew would risk contracting COVID-19 -- even dying from it -- so that their children could attend school during the pandemic. ‘At some point, we need to just put our heads down and say we’re gonna get through it, and we definitely need to send our kids back to school,’ Ashcroft said on ‘Good Morning Ozarks,’ broadcast Monday on KLFC, a Branson-based Christian station. ‘I don’t know a father alive that wouldn’t risk getting COVID, even risk dying to make sure that his children had the greatest foundation for success for their life they could have.’ He also said: ‘If that’s the trade-off, me being safe and my kids losing a year and a half of education, I’m all in favor of taking that risk to make sure they can be the best they can be,’ he said. ‘That’s what a dad does.’” (*The Kansas City Star*, 8/5/20)

- **ASHCROFT: “I Don’t Know A Father Alive That Wouldn’t Risk Getting COVID, Even Risk Dying To Make Sure That His Children Had The Greatest Foundation For Success For Their Life They Could Have.”** (*The Kansas City Star*, 8/5/20)

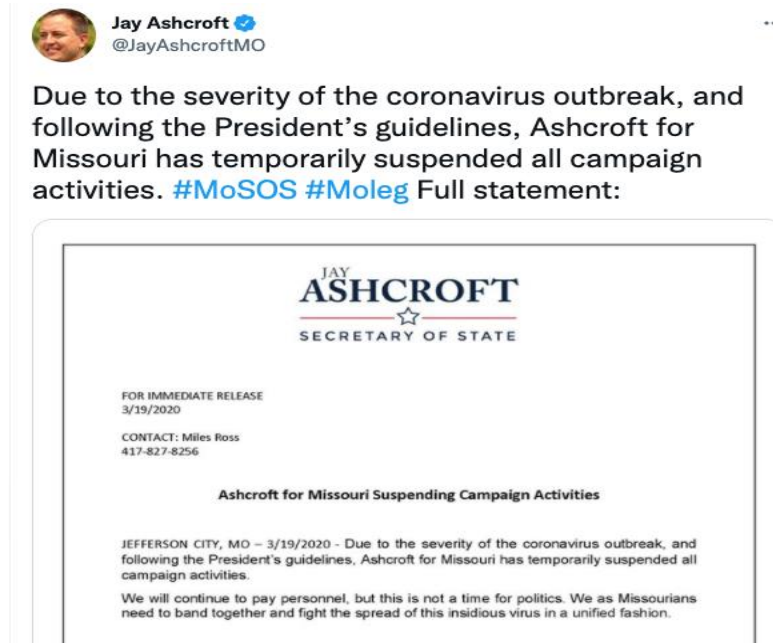
**Ashcroft Later Clarified His Comments To Say That Parents Should Have The Option Of Sending Their Children To In-Person Classes.** “Ashcroft, a Republican, defended his comments Wednesday afternoon, explaining that he wasn’t telling fathers that they have to die for their children’s education. Rather, he said, he was advocating for parents to have the option of sending their children back to in-person classes. ‘I think parents ought to have that option,’ Ashcroft said. ‘I’ve always been someone in political and personal life that thinks that we need to do things to give parents more ability to be in control of their kids’ education and to make the best decisions for their kids.’” (*The Kansas City Star*, 8/5/20)

## At The Beginning Of The COVID-19 Pandemic, Ashcroft And His Office Publicly Supported Efforts To Limit The Spread Of The Virus...

### In March 2020, Ashcroft Suspended Campaign Activities As A Result Of President Donald Trump's COVID-19 Guidelines

#### **In March 2020, Ashcroft Suspended Campaign Activities As A Result Of Trump's COVID-19 Guidelines.**

“Due to the severity of the coronavirus outbreak, and following the President’s guidelines, Ashcroft for Missouri has temporarily suspended all campaign activities. #MoSOS #Moleg Full statement:” (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 3/19/20)



(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 3/19/20)

### In March 2020, Ashcroft Praised Gov. Mike Parson's "Quick Approval" On Delaying The April 2020 Election Due To COVID-19

#### **In March 2020, Ashcroft Praised Parson's Executive Order Delaying The April 2020 Election Due To COVID-19.**

“Pursuant to Governor Mike Parson’s Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency in response to COVID-19 and a request from Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, Governor Parson today signed Executive Order 20-03 ordering all Missouri municipal elections previously scheduled for April 7, 2020, to be postponed to June 2, 2020. The Executive Order declares that ballots already printed for the April 7 election may be used at the postponed date of June 2. Voters who have attained the age of 18 by April 7 will be allowed to cast a ballot. ‘Given the growing concern surrounding COVID-19 and the large number of people elections attract, postponing Missouri’s municipal elections is a necessary step to help combat the spread of the virus and protect the health and safety of Missouri voters,’ Governor Parson said. ‘Postponing an election is not easy, but we are all in this together. We are thankful to Secretary Ashcroft and our 116 election authorities for their leadership, cooperation, and commitment to doing what is best for their communities during this time.’ ‘I deeply appreciate Governor Parson’s quick approval and am thankful to the local election authorities – your county clerks and boards of election – who have worked through developing health concerns to find a unified and secure means of implementing our next election,’ Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said. ‘Missouri has 116 separate election authorities, almost all who are elected in their own right, and we have come together to help protect Missouri voters. These are difficult times, but I am grateful for how we have responded, worked together and come to a resolution that helps every single Missouri voter.’” (Democrat News, 3/18/20)

- **ASHCROFT: “I Deeply Appreciate Governor Parson's Quick Approval And Am Thankful To The Local Election Authorities – Your County Clerks And Boards Of Election – Who Have Worked Through**



**Developing Health Concerns To Find A Unified And Secure Means Of Implementing Our Next Election.”**

(Democrat News, 3/18/20)

**In April And May 2020, Ashcroft Delivered Face Masks, Distancing Strips, And Hand Sanitizer To Election Workers**

**In April 2020, Ashcroft Worked To Provide Personal Protective Equipment And Hand Sanitizer For Poll Workers.** “Ashcroft said he has been working to secure personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer for poll workers. That won’t be N95 masks, he added, which provide the highest degree of safety and are in short supply for medical workers. But he insisted that he has been carefully considering each part of the voting process, down to the need to sterilize pens between voters or offer disposable versions. ‘We will have protective equipment for poll workers so that they will be protected,’ he said. ‘We expect to be sending out between \$4 and \$5 million in federal grant money in the next week, along with suggestions. Not only have we been working to get that federal money ready to get disbursed, but we’ve been looking at potential things that we think the election authorities might want to spend it on to protect poll workers and voters. We’ve been talking to equipment manufacturers about what they’ve been doing. I didn’t want to come out and say, “We’ve got this” until we had it,’ he added. ‘We are confident that we are going to provide the materials to keep our poll workers safe.’” (St. Louis NPR, 4/23/20)

**In April 2020, Ashcroft Helped Deliver Nearly 17,000 Masks To Local Election Authorities.** “We’ll soon be delivering nearly 17,000 face masks to Local Election Authorities across the state for upcoming elections.” (Missouri SOS Office, [Twitter](#), 4/28/20)



(Missouri SOS Office, [Twitter](#), 4/28/20)

**In May 2020, Ashcroft Delivered Face Masks, Distancing Strips And Hand Sanitizer To Local Election Authorities.** “Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft will visit Rolla as he delivers polling place supplies to local election authorities for their upcoming 2020 elections, which have been postponed to June due to the coronavirus pandemic. Ashcroft will deliver face masks, distancing strips, sanitizer, face shields and posters to the Phelps County Clerk’s Office at 8 a.m. on Monday, May 18. Ashcroft will then deliver supplies to Texas, Howell, Oregon, Ripley, Butler, Wayne, Carter, Shannon, Dent, Crawford and Gasconade counties. During the day of visits, Ashcroft will deliver 780 face masks, 2,205 distancing strips, 69 bottles of sanitizer, 780 face shields and 882 posters, according to Ashcroft’s office on Thursday.” (Lori Amos, “Ashcroft To Deliver Face Masks, Other Polling Place Supplies To Phelps County,” *Rolla Daily News*, 5/9/20)

**In May 2020, Ashcroft Helped Deliver Over 1,000 Face Masks In Four Different Counties.** “Finished up deliveries in the rain this morning in Bates, Vernon, Barton & Jasper counties! In total we’ll deliver over 1,000 face masks and other supplies today!” (Missouri SOS Office, [Twitter](#), 5/11/20)



Missouri SOS Office, [Twitter](#), 5/11/20)

*...But He Later Ignored A “Stay At Home” Order, Opposed Absentee Voting By Mail, And Attended Indoor Events Without Wearing A Mask*

**In April 2020, Ashcroft’s Chief Of Staff Trish Vincent Instructed Employees With Offices To Return To Work Despite Gov. Mike Parson’s “Stay At Home” Order**

**In April 2020, Vincent Instructed Ashcroft’s Employees With Offices To Return To Work Despite Parson’s “Stay At Home” Order.** “Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft is ready for staff to get back to work the old-fashioned way: at the office. Ashcroft’s chief of staff, Trish Vincent, said in a staff memo Thursday that employees who have offices ‘should return to work’ on Monday ‘unless otherwise directed by the Director of your Division.’ Some workers will continue to work remotely, the office said. The return to work comes one week after Gov. Mike Parson issued a ‘stay at home’ order requiring entities that do not employ ‘essential’ workers to ‘adhere to the limitations on social gatherings and social distancing.’” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4/11/20)

**Vincent Said Ashcroft’s Staff Was Encouraged, But Not Required To Wear A Mask.** “Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft is ready for staff to get back to work the old-fashioned way: at the office. Ashcroft’s chief of staff, Trish Vincent, said in a staff memo Thursday that employees who have offices ‘should return to work’ on Monday ‘unless otherwise directed by the Director of your Division....’ Vincent, in her memo, urged sick employees to stay home. ‘PLEASE, if you are sick or running a temperature DO NOT COME TO WORK and call your supervisor!!!!’ she said. ‘We are encouraging, but not requiring, everyone to wear a mask,’ Vincent said. ‘We won’t be requiring anyone to wear a mask, nor are we supplying them, but please feel free to wear one, in whatever form you may choose.’ In a tweet Thursday, the secretary of state’s office said: ‘We want everyone to be safe and healthy, and we also need to continue doing work for the people of Missouri!’” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4/11/20)

**Ashcroft’s Office Remained Closed To The Public In Order To Limit Foot Traffic.** “Maura Browning, spokeswoman for the secretary of state’s office, said division directors would determine who is essential. Browning said it wasn’t immediately clear how many staffers would be working remotely and how many would be working from the office. She said the secretary of state’s office would still be closed to the public in order to limit foot traffic, but she said the office has continued to provide services.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4/11/20)

**In May 2020, Ashcroft Opposed Bipartisan State Legislation To Allow For Increased Absentee Voting By Mail In Response To COVID-19**

**In May 2020, Ashcroft Opposed State Legislation To Allow For Increased Absentee Voting By Mail In Response To COVID-19 Without Photo ID Requirements.** “Missouri lawmakers were pushing to allow everyone to vote by mail if they so choose in the upcoming August and November elections because of the coronavirus pandemic. In the waning hours of the 2020 Missouri Legislative Session, state lawmakers approved a plan to

allow those with COVID-19 or those at a high risk of being infected to vote by mail. Other eligible voters who want to vote by mail would be able to do so but only with a notary. Republicans agreed to drop efforts to include a requirement that voters show a photo ID. The state's top election official, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, has panned the latest version of the bill." (FOX-2 KTVI, 5/15/20)

**When The Bipartisan Legislation Passed, Ashcroft Said He Did Not Support It Due To The Removal Of Photo ID Language.** "Lawmakers from the Missouri Senate and the Missouri House of Representatives have approved a bill that would allow absentee voting to be expanded during the coronavirus pandemic. The bill passed the Senate, 25-5, and the House, 121-24. It now heads to Gov. Mike Parson's desk. The bill would allow those who have contracted, or those who are in the at-risk category of contracting COVID-19 to vote absentee in the 2020 elections. It would expire in December 2020. Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft released a statement Friday saying he did not support the bill. 'Without the agreed-upon safeguards, I have grave concerns that this bill will make voting less secure and jeopardize the integrity of our elections,' Ashcroft said in a statement. 'I call on legislators to either add the original language back to the bill or vote the current version down. No bill at all is better than passing bad legislation with permanent consequences.'" (ABC-33 KSPR, 5/15/20)

**In June 2020, Ashcroft Was Photographed At Multiple Events Not Wearing A Mask**

**In June 2020, Ashcroft Was Photographed Not Wearing A Mask At The Cole County Republican Club Meeting.** "Awesome to hear from our Honorable Secretary of State @JayAshcroftMO — at tonight's Cole County Republican Club meeting." (Sara Walsh, [Twitter](#), 6/18/20)



(Sara Walsh, [Twitter](#), 6/18/20)

**In June 2020, Ashcroft Was Photographed Without A Mask At The Wayne County Candidate Forum.** "It was great to be at the Wayne County Candidate Forum in Patterson this past weekend. Saw many old and new friends ready for the upcoming elections." (Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 6/15/20)



**Jay Ashcroft** ✓  
@JayAshcroftMO



It was great to be at the Wayne County Candidate Forum in Patterson this past weekend. Saw many old and new friends ready for the upcoming elections.



6:41 PM · Jun 15, 2020 · Twitter for iPad

(Jay Ashcroft, [Twitter](#), 6/15/20)