



## MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
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### **Statement on Concurrent Jurisdiction Proposals**

Holding true to the position we as an association have held for decades, the 115 independent, locally elected prosecuting attorneys of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA) stand united against any proposal to vest any new original or concurrent jurisdiction with the Attorney General.

The best control is local control. Vesting the Attorney General with new original or concurrent jurisdiction erodes the ability of local voters to decide who will seek justice on their behalf should they be victimized by crime. Further, any attempt to vest the attorney general with jurisdiction to prosecute homicides without the request of the elected prosecuting attorney fundamentally changes our system of local, independent prosecution that has served the citizens of Missouri well since 1875.

MAPA, through our individual members, stands ready to assist any fellow prosecutor. Our prosecutors routinely come to each other's aid: assisting with cases; sharing resources; and ensuring that all Missourians receive effective prosecution services. Any prosecutors needing assistance need only reach out to MAPA, and they will receive any support needed.

For decades, our organization has consistently fought against proposals to vest the Attorney General with concurrent jurisdiction because these proposals undermine the independence and autonomy of locally elected prosecutors. Over the decades, numerous attempts to grant additional original jurisdiction to the Attorney General have been proposed. When those proposals were fully vetted through the deliberative legislative process of a regular session of the House and Senate, they have been consistently rejected. Our system, which for 145 years has provided for independent local prosecutors, should not be abrogated in the rush of a special session.

Signed by:

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