**A Very Important Question**

On Nov. 5 of this year, voters in Jackson County, Mo., will make a decision vital to the future of this community, and this university.

A proposal on the ballot calls for a one-half-cent sales tax to be used to create an Institute for Translational Medicine on Hospital Hill. The institute would operate as a collaborative partnership among UMKC, Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Saint Luke’s Health System and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute.

The goal of this initiative is to create a world-class medical research institute right here in Jackson County that will help solve some of our toughest health care challenges.

The institute would hire additional doctors and scientists, along with key support staff, to work with top researchers already in place here and at the two hospital systems to develop cutting-edge treatments and lifesaving cures for many of the devastating diseases currently affecting our children and seniors.

**This institute would significantly enhance UMKC’s reputation in academic research.** UMKC is urging all faculty and staff living in Jackson County to study the issue carefully, make an informed decision, and most importantly, **cast a vote** on this vitally important issue. You must be a registered voter in Jackson County, Mo., to vote on this ballot question.

The tax would generate $8 million annually for UMKC research – resources that can be used to leverage millions more in additional federal and private research grants. Beyond that, if passed, this initiative will boost the Jackson County economy, create hundreds of new jobs, attract new companies to our region, and generate hundreds of millions of dollars for our community. Already, the Hall Family Foundation and the Hall family have pledged $75 million to build a research center on Hospital Hill for the new institute, if the tax question passes.

By law, the money raised from this tax will be governed by an independent board, subject to regular audits, and can only be used to support the institute. More information on this issue is available at [www.JacksonCountyCures.com](http://www.JacksonCountyCures.com)

Be sure to share your thoughts and feelings about this important issue with your friends, neighbors and relatives, too.