

Silenced on Stage. Twice. Now He's Asking Why.

Video from the Urban Summit's own recording shows Jackson County Executive candidate Holmes Osborne was cut off twice in one afternoon — the first time when he raised the one issue nobody in the room wanted to become a campaign issue: the \$6.6 billion Nebius AI data center.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — June 8, 2026

Holmes Osborne is a Democratic candidate for Jackson County Executive running on a platform of fiscal accountability — including demanding transparency on the region's largest corporate construction deals. On June 6, 2026, he attended the 19th Annual Urban Summit Conference, organized by the Urban League of Greater Kansas City, as the only candidate publicly challenging the \$6.6 billion Nebius AI data center deal in Independence. He was not once but **twice silenced** by the event's moderator. The Urban Summit's own four-hour video is the public record.

WHAT HAPPENED — ON VIDEO

Holmes Osborne attended the 19th Annual Urban Summit Conference — organized by the Urban League of Greater Kansas City — on June 6, 2026 at The Gathering KC. He was invited to participate in a candidate panel at the request of a sitting Missouri legislator. The Urban Summit's own four-hour video documents what followed.

Incident One — Video timestamp 2:42

The moderator asked the panel how candidates authentically engage young people in politics. Osborne answered directly: he pointed to Independence, Missouri, where the Nebius AI data center deal — a 2.1 million square foot facility — had been, in his words, “rammed down our throats” by a city council that voted 5-2 “without really knowing what they were talking about.” He cited the project scale directly: 800 megawatts of power, enough to generate electricity for 450,000 homes. Osborne told the panel that young people in Independence had already organized against the deal, ousting two councilmen with a third recall underway — and held them up as a model of authentic civic engagement.

Osborne's answer to the panel: “*Why do you need me? You got the young people to do it. The young people can do this themselves.*” The audience applauded.

The moderator cut him off.

Incident Two — Video timestamp 3:05

Twenty minutes later, Osborne was speaking about voter registration in Kansas City's urban core. The moderator — the same person who had cut him off when he raised the data center — said twice she was going to “hold her peace.” Seconds later, a heckler began screaming at Osborne from the audience. The moderator then addressed him directly from the chair:

"I've done this a lot and seldom have we experienced the level of disrespect... As a black woman, you sir do not get to disrespect the convenor and moderator of this event... You serve."

The crowd applauded and cheered.

Then, still holding the microphone, the moderator said:

"When we invited this gentleman to the panel, he did not respond by the deadline — and we, at the urging of our senator, made an accommodation to add him today."

Osborne never got to respond. The moderator moved on. He sat in silence — publicly accused, on camera, with no microphone. It was the second time that afternoon she had cut him off.

THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE UNDERNEATH

The Nebius AI data center in Independence is the largest construction project in the region's history — a \$6.6 billion investment, a 2.1 million square foot building, 1,200 construction jobs, 85 percent union. Osborne is the only candidate in the Jackson County Executive race publicly demanding independent transparency on the deal — alongside his calls for accountability on the stadium TIF negotiations and a forensic audit of the 2023 property assessment process.

The firms that build data centers, stadiums, and public infrastructure in the Kansas City region are members of the Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City. The same organizations had already aligned on the 2024 Jackson County ballot measure — Question 1 — which would have extended a sales tax to fund both the new Royals downtown ballpark *and* improvements at Arrowhead Stadium for the Kansas City Chiefs. Both teams. Same tax. Same organizations.

HCA's Executive Director, **Bridgette Williams**, publicly led the campaign for that measure — calling stadium investment "imperative" and saying the teams must stay in Kansas City. Freedom Inc. endorsed the measure and received **\$125,000 directly from the Kansas City Royals** shortly before the vote. Jackson County voters rejected it 58%-42%.

HCA's Deputy Director is **Shalonn "Kiki" Curls** — a former Missouri State Senator and Freedom Inc. board member. Her simultaneous role at a construction lobbying organization and a Democratic political organization places a single insider at the intersection of both.

THREE FIGURES AT THE CENTER OF THE NETWORK

Compensation drawn from IRS Form 990 public filings.

Name	Title / Organization	Annual Compensation	Key Connection
Gwen Grant	CEO, Urban League of Greater KC	\$210,890	Urban Summit moderator; brother is Freedom Inc. legal counsel
Bridgette Williams	Executive Director, HCA	\$324,130	Publicly campaigned for 2024

			Royals + Chiefs stadium tax
Shalonn “Kiki” Curls	Deputy Director, HCA	\$199,792	Freedom Inc. board member; former MO State Senator

HCA's political spending has not always been visible. The organization contributed \$50,000 to Mayor Quinton Lucas's “United We Stand” political PAC — a contribution that required a whistleblower to expose and that the Missouri Ethics Commission reviewed for transparency violations.

The Urban League of Greater Kansas City organized the Urban Summit. Its CEO is **Gwen Grant** — the same person who served as moderator and cut off Osborne twice. Grant's own Form 990 compensation: \$210,890 per year. Her brother, **Clinton Adams**, serves as legal counsel for Freedom Inc. Freedom Inc. publicly endorsed the 2024 Royals stadium sales tax. Holmes Osborne was the only candidate on that Urban Summit stage who had been publicly calling for independent accountability on both the stadium TIF and the Nebius data center.

He was cut off when he raised it. Then he was silenced when he tried to speak again.

PUBLIC RECORD — WHAT WE KNOW

- Nebius AI data center: \$6.6B project, 2.1M sq ft, approved 5-2 by Independence city council — Osborne called it “rammed down our throats” by a council that voted “without knowing what they're talking about.”
- Young people in Independence organized against the deal, ousted two councilmen, are pursuing a third recall — Osborne cited this as his answer to authentic youth engagement. The audience applauded. The moderator cut him off.
- HCA Executive Director Bridgette Williams publicly campaigned for the 2024 Royals stadium tax — called it “imperative.”
- HCA Deputy Director Shalonn “Kiki” Curls is a former Missouri State Senator and current Freedom Inc. board member.
- HCA contributed \$50,000 to Mayor Lucas's PAC — exposed only by a whistleblower.
- Freedom Inc. publicly endorsed the 2024 Royals stadium tax and received \$125,000 from the Royals.
- Holmes Osborne is the only candidate on the Urban Summit stage publicly demanding accountability on both the stadium TIF and the Nebius data center.
- The moderator cut off Osborne twice: first when he described the Nebius deal being “rammed down our throats”; second when he was speaking about registering voters in the urban core.

OSBORNE'S STATEMENT

“I was answering a question I was asked — about how young people make a difference in politics. My answer was: look at Independence. Young people organized against a deal rammed down their throats, ousted two councilmen, and are going after a third. The moderator cut me off. Twenty minutes later I was attacked and silenced again. I am not alleging a conspiracy. I am reading the public record — and asking why the one candidate demanding accountability keeps getting shut down in every room connected to the same deals.”

— Holmes Osborne, Candidate for Jackson County Executive

THE VIDEO

YouTube: youtube.com/watch?v=S4ZiNfPeRw0

Incident One: Approximately 2:42:00 — Osborne answers youth engagement question, cites Nebius/Independence, audience applauds, moderator cuts him off.

Incident Two: Approximately 3:05:00 - 3:07:00 — Osborne attacked and silenced; never allowed to respond.

Uploaded by: Urban Summit KCMO / Urban Summit Tech (the Urban Summit's own recording).

ABOUT HOLMES OSBORNE

Holmes Osborne, CFA, is a Democratic candidate for Jackson County Executive in the August 4, 2026 primary. He is a 25-year financial professional, founder of Osborne Global Investors in Lee's Summit, and a sitting member of the Metropolitan Community College Board of Trustees. His platform focuses on fixing the property tax crisis, holding stadium and corporate deals accountable, and restoring fiscal discipline for working Jackson County families.

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Paid for by Osborne for Jackson County · Holmes Osborne, Treasurer · Contributions are not tax-deductible.