



Sister opts to torch the memories of late parents

DEAR ABBY: My sister has always been a liar and a manipulator. She has lost jobs because of her toxic behavior. Our parents passed away 20 years ago, and ever since, she has trashed their memory to anyone who will listen. She claims she was unwanted because she was female, that my parents refused to name her and wouldn't take her home from the hospital until police were called. None of that is in any way true. Now, she's claiming our mother slept with multiple men and my biological father could be nearly anyone. I have a DNA test that proves



DEAR ABBY
Abigail Van Buren

that my father was the man who was married to my mother for more than 50 years. She dismisses this proof as a "lab mistake" and maintains her tale about my parentage. How do I respond to this? Do I contact members of our large extended family and tell them what she is doing? I suspect that what she wants is a reaction from me, which

she will then weaponize against me as she often does. How do I handle such a liar, who has no concern for the impact of her allegations? --**FRUSTRATED BROTHER IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR BROTHER: Your sister appears to be mentally unbalanced and unwilling to accept you as her full brother. She may also be trying to upset you. If you think she has been spreading these rumors among your relatives, by all means reach out and tell them you have proof that what she has been saying is untrue. One can only imagine what else she has been

lying about.

DEAR ABBY: A close relative has been diagnosed with incurable cancer. Friends are now sending me articles and clippings about cancer research and the promise of new therapies. If they had actually READ these articles, they would see that clinical trials on humans are far off, or that the type of cancer referred to in the article is different from what my relative has. Why offer hope when there is none? The same thing happened to me when I had cancer 20 years ago. In one instance, I received an article about how

to prevent the cancer I already had! Please remind your readers that although these items are most often sent with love, they do little to help the individual experiencing the illness and treatment and can cause anger and pain. Doctors, especially oncologists, provide their patients with the best treatments available. It's best to let them handle it. Thank you. --**SAD RELATIVE IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR RELATIVE: Many people, upon hearing that someone they care about has a terminal illness, feel sad and helpless. Out

of a need to do **SOME-THING**, they will send articles, some of which are inappropriate. While I agree that the most reliable source of information about cancer is your relative's oncologist, and that readers need to be aware of the message they are trying to send, please understand they are being sent out of a desire to help.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Kansas Senate secures GOP petition signatures to call special legislative session

By Tim Carpenter
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TOPEKA — The president of the Kansas Senate said Monday a sufficient number of Senate Republicans signed a petition to call a special session of the Legislature to consider new congressional district boundaries to improve odds of defeating Democratic U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids.

Senate President Ty Masterson, who is seeking the GOP nomination for governor, said the minimum 27 signatures, or a two-thirds majority of the Senate, had been achieved. Republicans hold a 31-9 advantage over Democrats in the chamber.

“The Kansas Senate Republican caucus has secured the signatures needed to exceed the constitutional threshold, demonstrating strong support for this call for a special session,” Masterson said. “This threshold having been met marks a critical step toward convening the session, pending the necessary two-thirds approval from the House of Representatives.”

To complete requirements in the Kansas Constitution for calling a special session, GOP leaders in the House need to obtain 84 signatures on its petition. In the House, the GOP possesses an 88-37 edge over Democrats.

Despite sending a letter to House Republicans lobbying for support of a special session, House Speaker Dan Hawkins has not announced he landed commitments from enough GOP peers. A



Senate President Ty Masterson said Oct. 27, 2025, there are enough Senate Republicans signers of a petition to call a special session of the Legislature to consider new congressional district maps. The Kansas House is still working to secure a two-thirds majority on its petition. In this image from March 26, 2025, Masterson presides in the Kansas Senate. (PHOTO BY GRACE HILLS/KANSAS REFLECTOR)

spokesperson for Hawkins didn't immediately respond to a request for comment about Masterson's statement.

President Donald Trump, seeking to maintain GOP control of the U.S. House, urged Republican-led states to engage in mid-decade gerrymandering of U.S. House seats to prevent Democrats from winning a majority in November 2026.

Typically, redistricting in Kansas has been done every decade based on population shifts documented in the Census. In Kansas, that timeline meant mapping wouldn't ordinarily be done again until 2032.

The objective of redistricting in Kansas in 2025 would be to distribute moderate voters of Johnson County into two or three congressional districts that would more likely be represented by Republicans.

Currently, Davids serves all of Johnson County, the southern half of Wyandotte

County and all of Anderson, Franklin and Miami counties.

Davids won reelection to her 3rd District seat in 2022 and 2024 despite previous modification to her district to favor Republican nominees.

In response to debate about a special session, Davids raised the possibility of running for U.S. Senate next year against U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall, a Kansas Republican.

One redistricting prize available to Republicans would be a Trump endorsement in the governor's race. Former Gov. Jeff Colyer, Secretary of State Scott Schwab, Masterson and others competing for the nomination and would covet an alliance with the president.

“We're sending a clear message: We're ready to get it done. We look forward to working our agenda to make Kansas and America great again,” Masterson said in his statement about the GOP Senate petition.

BROOKS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

band, Jeff Brooks, in 1983 and we recently celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary. We have two daughters (married) and five grandchildren.

Together with my husband we own three businesses - Phil's Plumbing, Brooks Rentals and B&B Mini Storage. We come from a proud blue-collar working family. I know the kind of hard work it takes to make a difference. I believe that accountability, responsible leadership, integrity and transparency is the foundation to build a safe and thriving community.

I am grateful to my parents for the example they set. I have seen what it takes to run a business and make a life. My husband and I have built our business on quality work, fair price and our reputation. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to be good stewards and that Pittsburg will thrive for years to come.

What is your interest in running for city commission?

I want people to understand that transparency, integrity, accountability, and responsible leadership matter! A group of citizens was told 8 years ago in a city P&Z meeting that if we didn't like the outcome

of what they voted on we could get involved by being on a board or running for a place on the commission. I made up my mind, from that day forward I could no longer stay silent and just go along to get along. I have lived in Pittsburg my whole life. I care about issues that affect us all. I believe that listening is a very important leadership quality!

What are some issues, as you see them, that need to be addressed and scrutinized more closely?

Addressed...Yes Scrutinized...No

If it was easy we would already have it taken care of!

— Crime (be proactive, work to get laws changed, etc.)

— Jobs (get everyone working, rally to get unemployment to a new low, small & big businesses need an active help wanted site to fill needs.)

— Incentive Programs for small businesses and homeowners to make necessary repairs. (Everyone needs help.)

— Lower Taxes (make a real effort to take a hard look on lessening the burden on the taxpayer.) Capturing real growth should not be perceived as normal, and bad when others feel they are being taxed to death!

What is your suggestion for lowering taxes, either sales or property, without jeopardizing

the city's budget, property, safety, or future growth? What excesses do you see, if any, that can be cut?

It is important to find a balance to provide certain services that are provided by the city government that are essential to this community such as safety, maintaining services and future growth. We also need to account for how much as a community we can afford to do. There must be transparency, communication and an annual review of the entire budget to determine the priorities. The Commission first sees the outline of the budget at the May annual City Work Session. In July, the City Manager presents the budget to us, in August a public hearing is held to hear from citizens and then the Commission votes to approve the budget. I would like to see the Commissioners actively be a part of the budget process start to finish.

NO, you never cut services, and you definitely do NOT reduce payroll. It takes good people to work here. I believe our greatest asset is the employees who make it all happen. ALL employees are important, not just a few!

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