



## WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

### SENATE APPROVES EDUCATION BILL

The Missouri Senate on March 12 ended a two-day Democratic filibuster of legislation seeking to expand the state's private school voucher program by transforming it into an omnibus bill containing numerous provisions intended to bolster public education - and convince Democrat opponents to stand down, even though they still voted against it.

**Senate Bill 727 started as a 12-page bill limited to expanding Missouri's voucher program, which the legislature first created in 2021. Those provisions would double the annual cap on the tax credits used to fund the program from \$50 million to \$100 million and allow students statewide to participate, instead of just those living in more populous cities or counties.**

It also would expand eligibility to kids from families with incomes of up to 400 percent of what it takes to qualify for the free and reduced school lunch program, or about \$220,000 a year for a family of four.

**The Senate ultimately expanded the bill to include dozens of provisions spanning 167 pages. Some key additions call for significantly increasing basic state funding for local public school districts and boosting minimum starting teacher pay from \$25,000 to \$40,000 a year. It also would financially reward districts that continue to hold classes five days a week and require local voter approval for districts in more populous cities and counties to switch to a four-day schedule. Another additional provision, though one Democrats opposed, would authorize charter schools in Boone County. Charter schools currently can operate only in Kansas City, St. Louis or in unaccredited districts.**

The Senate on March 14 voted 19-10 to advance the measure to the House of Representatives, where its fate is uncertain. If the House were to make substantial changes to the legislation, it could jeopardize its chances of reaching a final vote in the Senate.

## **HOUSE VOTES TO SCRATCH CORPORATE TAX**

Corporations would pay no state income taxes under legislation the Missouri House of Representatives granted first-round approval on March 12. The bill would cost the state an estimated \$884.39 million a year in lost revenue once fully implemented in 2028.

**The substantially reduced revenue collections that would result from eliminating the corporate income tax would be in addition to the billions the state has already forgone due to multiple large tax cuts the General Assembly has enacted over the last decade, including a \$2 billion income tax cut lawmakers**

**approved just 18 months ago.**

Although an influx of federal pandemic relief funds in recent years has so far masked the financial consequences of the tax cuts, that is ending with flat revenue collections expected for the upcoming 2025 fiscal year, and revenue declines likely coming soon. Additional major tax cuts would greatly exacerbate the situation.

**Down from a high of 6.5%, Missouri's corporate income tax rate currently stands at 4%. Under House Bill 2274, the tax would be completely phased out over three years. Starting on Jan. 1, 2025, the rate would drop by one percentage point per year until being zeroed out as of Jan. 1, 2028.**

A second vote is required to advance the bill to the Senate.

## **HOUSE OKAYS LIMITING ST. LOUIS E TAX**

The Missouri House of Representatives on March 11 granted preliminary approval to legislation aimed at stopping the city of St. Louis from imposing its local earnings tax on people who work remotely from outside the city for companies located in the city.

A second vote is required to advance the bill to the Senate.

St. Louis and Kansas City are the only Missouri municipalities authorized to impose a 1% earnings tax on people who either live or work in those cities.

**While both cities historically had exempted remote work conducted elsewhere from being subject to**

**taxation, St. Louis changed its policy during the pandemic and sought to levy the tax on non-city residents working remotely for St. Louis companies.**

The issue is currently being litigated, with St. Louis losing at the trial level. The Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District recently heard arguments in the case but hasn't yet issued a ruling.

House Bill 1516 would specify that remote work performed outside the city cannot be taxed and effectively preempt an appellate ruling in the city's favor moving forward.

## **HOUSE MOVES TO PROTECT KIDS' MONEY**

The Missouri Children's Division could no longer take the federal survivor benefits of foster children to help pay for their care under legislation the House of Representatives granted first-round approval on March 14.

A second vote is required to advance the bill to the Senate.

At issue is money from survivor benefits a child in foster care receives from Social Security, the Veterans Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board following the death of a parent.

**House Bill 2227 would prohibit the Children's Division from using that money to pay for foster care costs the division otherwise would provide at no cost to the child. Under the bill, the money instead would be set aside for the child's later use.**

The division currently collects about \$6.57 million a year

in such benefits on behalf of kids in foster care.

**Supporters of ending this practice say it's unfair to force children to pay for their own care and note that when children age out of the system they typically have little or no assets and are left to fend for themselves. Instead, they say the kids should have that money available to pay for college tuition or otherwise begin their lives on their own.**

## **PANEL SPIKES PLAN ON ALLOCATING HIGHWAY FUNDS**

The House Transportation Accountability Committee on March 11 voted 2-11 to reject a proposed constitutional amendment seeking to give state lawmakers power over allocating state revenue for highways and bridges, which currently is independently controlled by the Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission.

**Since its creation in the 1920s, the commission has been constitutionally empowered to make transportation funding decisions without being subject to legislative action. However, lawmakers periodically have sought to give themselves additional authority regarding how transportation revenue is allocated.**

**House Joint Resolution 127 sought to repeal an existing constitutional provision that says money in the State Road Fund - which consists of revenue from fuel taxes and other highway user fees - shall "stand appropriated without legislative action". Instead, HJR 127 would give the legislature the power to decide how money from the fund is allocated.**

In the end, even the measure's sponsor voted against it in a procedural move that allows him to attempt to revive it







# May 18,\* June 29, Neighborhood Clean-Ups

Trash, Bulky Items, Tires (w/wo rims), Leaves, Limbs & Debris,  
Reusable Household Items + Electronics (prices below)

**Saturday 8 AM - Noon** 8434 Paseo & 8131 Indiana



Volunteers Needed! Help us direct vehicles at 8434 Paseo for a 1.5 hour shift.  
Or pick up litter for a neighbor who is unable to come!  
To help, email [sarah@wearemarlborough.org](mailto:sarah@wearemarlborough.org) or call 816.866.6279



### No \$\$ to recycle most electronics with the exceptions of:

- CRT Monitors = \$5.00 each
- CRT TV's 26" or less = \$30.00 each
- CRT TV's 27" or greater = \$50.00 each
- Wood Console and True Big Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00 each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV'S = \$20.00 each
- Any Freon containing unit = \$10.00 each



CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

MARLBOROUGH EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



SCHOOL CENTER DISTRICT

WALNUT GROVE

Marlborough Community Coalition | [wearemarlborough.org](http://wearemarlborough.org) | 816.866.6279 | [sarah@wearemarlborough.org](mailto:sarah@wearemarlborough.org)



## RECYCLE



KCMO.GOV/  
RECYCLE



### PAPER

all colors and types



### CARTONS

empty and clean



### CANS

Aluminum and Steel Cans  
empty and dry



### PLASTIC

Plastic Bottles, Jars and Jugs  
empty and dry

### DO NOT RECYCLE!



PLASTIC BAGS & FILM



GLASS



SCRAP METAL



TANGLERS



FAST FOOD & TAKEOUT



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

## WE'RE HIRING!!!!

### MAKE AN IMPACT IN KANSAS CITY

Police Officer \* Detention Officer \* Parking Control \*  
Communication Specialist \* Fleet Operations \* Building  
Operations \* Analyst \* Administrative and Fiscal  
Administrators \* THE LIST GOES ON!!!!

[www.careers.kcpd.org/](http://www.careers.kcpd.org/)

# Want lower electric bills?

Share the Sun can help. Share the Sun is a free solar energy program to reduce energy burdens. Eligible homeowners can receive a 10-panel, 4-kW solar energy system with a 25-year warranty at no cost. Go to [www.info.solarcrowdsource.com/skc-share-the-sun](http://www.info.solarcrowdsource.com/skc-share-the-sun) for more information and to apply.

DO YOU QUALIFY?



YOU MUST MAKE LESS THAN **60% AMI\***

Household Size	2021 Household Income
1	\$40,680
2	\$46,500
3	\$52,320
4	\$58,080
5	\$62,760
6	\$67,380
7	\$72,060
8	\$76,680

\*AREA MEDIAN INCOME



Share the Sun is brought to Kansas City, MO by the following organizations with generous support from the KCMO Government and Metropolitan Energy Center







## SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

- Open to Ages 8-15
- Dinner Provided

9701 Marion Park Drive | KCMO 64137  
2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



For more information contact PO McCall at [mary.mccall@kcpd.org](mailto:mary.mccall@kcpd.org) or (816) 672-2828

## WE'RE HIRING!

AmeriCorps VISTA  
for the  
Marlborough Conservancy

Apply online



Or email [sarah@wearemarlborough.org](mailto:sarah@wearemarlborough.org)  
for more information!





# Part-Time Child Care Jobs Now Hiring!

North Kansas City  
Kansas City Public Schools  
Center  
Hickman Mills  
Grandview

## LINC Caring Communities Sites

Contact: Carol Green, (816) 739-9314, [cgreen@kclinc.org](mailto:cgreen@kclinc.org)  
Apply: [kclinc.org/jobs](http://kclinc.org/jobs)

MEMORIAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

# FOOD Pantry

MCI  
MEMORIAL CHURCH

11424 HICKMAN MILLS DR. KCMO 64134

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

**2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH :  
2PM - 5PM**

**EMERGENCY NEEDS BY APPOINTMENT  
CONTACT: MCI 816.363.7940**

**EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS:  
CALL UNITED WAY AT 211**



[WWW.MCIKC.ORG](http://WWW.MCIKC.ORG) - 816.363.7940

## South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

**Community Assistance Council**, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org) for appointments or questions.

**Red Bridge Area Food Pantry**, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**Center School District**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

**Center District Warehouse**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

**Evangel Church**, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

**United Believers Community Church**, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School**, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

**Colonial Presbyterian Church**, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

**Red Bridge United Methodist Church**, 636 E. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

**Serve and Lift Center - South KC**, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



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WEB TIPS

KCrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



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Please don't hesitate to contact me  
with any feedback, questions or ideas!