



**2-19-24**

**Dear Neighbor,**

**I want to start this report off by acknowledging the horrific events that took place at the end of Wednesday's Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl parade.**

**I was thrilled to be there at the parade with the rest of the Chiefs Kingdom supporting our Chiefs.**

**Luckily, I was inside Union Station when the shooting took place. As I started to see the crowd burst through the doors of Union Station running and yelling "shooter", I quickly found a place to take shelter inside of Union Station.**

**Seeing children separated from their families and parents yelling out to find their kids while hundreds of members of law enforcement ran towards the chaos was a very sobering moment.**

**The Missouri House today passed House Committee Substitute for House Bill 1659 which is an omnibus public safety bill that includes "Blair's Law", which is**

**my legislation that would create a state offense for discharging a firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits.**

**Also today the Special Committee on Urban Issues that I chair took a vote on what is known as the Missouri CROWN Act. This legislation creates a protected hairstyle class intended to protect brown and black children from discrimination and disciplinary action based on their hairstyles while they are in a school setting. It passed the committee by a vote of 6-0.**

**Below are a list of my committee assignments and my legislative assistant's email if you have any questions or would like to be added to my email list:**

**Special Committee on Urban Issues,  
Chairman**

**Special Committee on Education Reform, Ranking  
Minority Member**

**Special Committee on Public Policy, Ranking  
Minority Member**

**Special Committee on Property Tax Reform**

**Special Committee on Election Contests**

**Joint Committee on Legislative Research**

**Joint Committee on Legislative Research - Revision  
Subcommittee**

**Crime Prevention and Public Safety**

**Consent and House Procedure**

**Subcommittee on Appropriations - General  
Administration**

**My legislative assistant, Mariah Gilmore**

[Mariah.Gilmore@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mariah.Gilmore@house.mo.gov)



**I had the opportunity to join other Kansas City area State Representatives to ride the bus on the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl parade route.**



**I had a chance to take a photo with this signed Chiefs helmet inside of Union Station right before the mass shooting that took place minutes later outside.**



**I took this photo of law enforcement jumping into action from where I had taken shelter from inside of Union Station.**

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

Wednesday February 19, 2024

### **SENATE BLOCKS ABORTION BAN EXCEPTIONS**

The Missouri Senate on Feb. 7 rejected efforts to create exceptions for cases of rape or incest in the state's strict law banning abortion.

**However, the chamber failed to advance the underlying bill that seeks to prohibit Planned Parenthood clinics in the state from participating in Missouri's Medicaid program.**

**Because abortion is illegal in Missouri in nearly all**

**instances, the local Planned Parenthood clinics do not perform them and instead provide a variety of other women's health services for which they are entitled to receive Medicaid reimbursements. However, since Planned Parenthood locations in other states do provide abortions, some Republican lawmakers have unsuccessfully sought for years to keep any state funding from going to the organization.**

Senate Bill 1168 would prohibit health care providers from receiving Medicaid reimbursements if they are affiliated with an out-of-state abortion provider. Some Democrats attempted to add amendments to the bill to allow abortions in Missouri in cases of rape or incest, but they were voted down. After several hours of debate, the Senate couldn't overcome a Democratic filibuster and set aside the bill without taking a final vote.

**The Senate debate took place one day after the launch of an initiative petition asking voters to amend the Missouri Constitution to protect reproductive rights, including abortion. Supporters must turn in signatures from a minimum of about 185,000 registered Missouri voters by early May to qualify for the Nov. 5 statewide ballot.**

## **COURT SIDES WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD**

The Missouri Supreme Court on Feb. 14 unanimously ruled the General Assembly can't use the budget process to block Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursements for providing women's health care services unrelated to abortion.

Given that the court had sided with Planned Parenthood in

a similar case in 2020, the outcome of the latest litigation was widely expected.

**At issue is a provision some Republican lawmakers routinely insert into appropriations bills purporting to prohibit organizations affiliated with abortion providers from receiving Medicaid reimbursement for non-abortion services. Because Missouri outlaws abortion in nearly all circumstances, no Planned Parenthood clinics in the state offer the procedure. However, affiliated clinics in other states continue to provide abortions. Medicaid funding for abortion is prohibited by federal law.**

**In both the current Planned Parenthood case and its 2020 predecessor, the Supreme Court followed its longstanding precedent holding that appropriation bills must be limited to appropriating funds and cannot establish policy which must be done by separate legislation.**

In a concurring opinion, Judge Zel Fischer, who was the lone dissenter in the 2020 case, agreed precedent compelled this outcome but encouraged the court to reevaluate its precedent in the future and find appropriation bills are exempt from the Missouri Constitution's requirement that bills be limited to a single subject.

The case is *Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, et al., v. Robert Knodell, et al.*

## **HOUSE OKAYS CHILD CARE TAX CREDITS**

The Missouri House of Representatives on Feb. 6 voted 113-39 to send legislation to the Senate creating three new tax credit programs to help reduce Missourians' child care costs. While support for the bill was bipartisan,

only Republicans voted against the bill.

**One program would allow taxpayers to claim a credit equal to 75% of a verified contribution to a child care provider. Another would grant employers who pay for child care for their employees a credit equal to up to 30% of their employer withholding tax. The final program would allow child care providers to claim tax credits on their employer withholding tax and offset up to 30% of their capital improvement costs with credits.**

According to the bill's official fiscal estimate, the new credits would cost the state a total of \$70 million a year in lost revenue. The legislation is House Bill 1488.

## **JUDGE SEEKS BETTER MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Rhodes Russell on Feb. 7 asked state lawmakers to increase state funding for mental health programs for defendants jailed while awaiting trial.

Russell made her comments during the 50<sup>th</sup> annual State of the Judiciary Address before a joint session of the General Assembly.

**“Our jails have become the largest mental health facilities in our counties,” Russell said. “But that is not how jails are designed, nor how their staff are trained. Jails should be used in the short term to detain people accused of crimes or found guilty of minor crimes. Concrete cell blocks are not conducive for treating mental health or addiction issues.”**

Russell also discussed the benefit of pretrial diversion programs for defendants who aren't jailed but require assistance with mental health issues. In addition, she

asked for increased legislative support for improving mental health services and security in juvenile detention centers.

Russell, who is in her 20<sup>th</sup> year on the state Supreme Court, is serving a rare second term as chief justice, a post that rotates among the court's seven members every two years. She previously was chief justice from 2013-2015. Only a few judges in the court's history have held the post twice.

## **REVENUE COLLECTIONS DOWN SLIGHTLY**

Year-to-date net state general revenue collections decreased 0.2% through the first seven months of the 2024 fiscal year compared to the same period in FY 2023, going from \$7.61 billion last year to \$7.59 billion this year, according to revenue data reported on Feb. 7 by the Missouri Division of Budget and Planning.

Collections had been down 1.7% through the first six months of the fiscal year.

Net general revenue collections in January 2024 increased 6.3% compared to those for January 2023, going from \$1.37 billion last year to \$1.45 billion this year. Strong growth in sales and use tax collections more than offset a continuing decline in individual and corporate income taxes resulting from recently enacted cuts.

**Although the original consensus revenue estimate for FY 2024 predicted revenue growth of 0.7% for the year, the latest revised estimate issued in December now predicts a 0.7% decline in collections by the time the fiscal year ends on June 30.**

## **UNDERMINING MAJORITY VOTES**

## **BLOCKED**

Democratic members of the Missouri Senate spent two days blocking legislation to eliminate the doctrine of "one-person, one-vote" when ratifying amendments to the Missouri Constitution which would essentially create a minority veto of many proposals receiving majority statewide support.

Senate GOP leaders set the measure aside Feb. 13 without reaching a vote, but the chamber is expected to resume debate on it at some point.

**The Missouri Constitution currently requires a simple majority of the statewide vote for ratifying constitutional amendments. The latest version of Senate Joint Resolution 74 would require future amendments to win both a statewide majority and majorities in at least five of Missouri's eight congressional districts. The concurrent majority requirement would apply to both amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature and those proposed by initiative petition.**

**Such a requirement could lead to situations in which a proposed amendment overwhelmingly wins statewide with strong support in highly populated urban and suburban areas but still fails because of narrow losses in rural areas.**

Similar legislation, House Joint Resolution 86, cleared the House Elections Committee on Feb. 13 by a party-line vote of 11-4, with Democrats opposed. The full House of Representatives is expected to debate the measure in the coming weeks.

If both legislative chambers approve one of the concurrent majority measures, it automatically would go before Missouri voters in November. However, the governor

could exercise his authority to move the election to August. Ratification would require approval from just a simple majority of voters statewide.

**Some Republicans want to put the issue before voters in August in hopes of thwarting a proposal to provide state constitutional protections for reproductive rights including abortion. An initiative petition is currently being circulated to put the reproductive rights issue on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot.**

## **COURT UPHOLDS NEW SENATE DISTRICTS**

In a split 5-2 ruling, the Missouri Supreme Court on Feb. 14 rejected claims that the state's new state Senate district map violates the state constitution by splitting Buchanan County and the city of Hazelwood among multiple districts.

A commission of six appellate judges created the new districts in 2022 to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census. Because only half of the state's 34 seats are up for election every cycle, the current map was used to elect senators from even-numbered districts in 2022. Senators representing odd-numbered districts will be elected under the plan for the first time this year, with candidate filing for the Aug. 6 party primaries opening Feb. 27.

**The plaintiffs, who included residents of Buchanan County and Hazelwood, sued to block the districts from being used for this year's elections and sought to have them redrawn, arguing the current lines dilute their communities' voting clout. Although the state constitution discourages the splitting of county and municipal boundaries, it permits it when necessary to comply with other constitutional factors.**

In its ruling written by Judge Kelly Broniec, the Supreme Court majority sided with the trial judge in finding the constitution doesn't require perfectly drawn districts and that the plaintiffs failed to offer any evidence the judicial commission's Senate map violates constitutional standards.

Writing in dissent, Judge W. Brent Powell said he would have found for the plaintiffs since they had shown it was possible to craft Senate districts that kept Buchanan County and Hazelwood intact while complying with other constitutional requirements. Judge Paul Wilson joined the dissent.

The case is *Clara Faatz, et al., v. John Ashcroft*.

## **BILLS TARGET UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

The House Homeland Security Committee on Feb. 12 considered legislation that would make undocumented immigrants' mere presence in Missouri a crime and allow those accused of other offenses "including municipal ordinance violations" to be charged with felony trespassing.

**House Bill 2470 would create the crime of "illegal entry" for an undocumented immigrant to enter the state. A first violation would be a misdemeanor, with subsequent violations elevated to felonies. The bill also establishes a felony trespassing charge for immigrants who commit other offenses, no matter how minor. In addition, the bill creates a felony crime carrying a minimum penalty of 10 years in prison for knowingly harboring an undocumented immigrant.**

The committee also heard two other similar bills "

House Bill 2523 and House Bill 2367 “ that are limited to imposing felony trespassing charges on undocumented immigrants accused of other offenses. The panel took no immediate action on any of the bills.

## *Let's Celebrate*

**JOHN A. SHARP's 80 years of life and over 50 years of service to south Kansas City as a public official and community volunteer while raising funds for a good cause.**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

5:30–6:30 p.m. – Reception & Free Museum Tours

6:30–8 p.m. – Dinner & Program

**NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM**

1616 E. 18th St. in the Historic 18th & Vine District

*Featured Speaker*

**U.S. CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER**



**No gifts please, but any donations are gratefully accepted.** All net revenue from this event will go to the **John Sharp Scholarship** awarded annually through the **Hickman Mills Educational Foundation** to a Ruskin High School senior involved in student government or community service. Donate online by clicking or scanning a QR code below, paying at the door or by mailing a check made out to the **Hickman Mills Educational Foundation** with **John Sharp Scholarship** on the memo line to: **John Sharp, 8401 E. 103rd Terr., KCMO 64134-2106.**

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**PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 19 TO [JSHARP122@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:JSHARP122@HOTMAIL.COM)**

# PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS

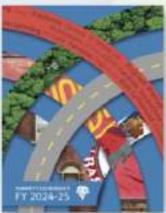


**Saturday, February 24, 9 AM – 12 PM**  
Southeast Community Center, 4201 E 63rd St

**Saturday, March 2, 9 AM – 12 PM** (Virtual Option Available)  
City Hall, 26th Floor, Council Chambers, 414 E 12th St

*Free parking at Wolfe Garage at 11th and Oak  
(validation slip provided to hearing attendees)*

**Monday, March 4, 6 – 8:30 PM**  
Northland Neighborhoods Inc, 5340 Chouteau Trafficway



Please join us to provide your feedback on next year's budget. The meeting links and proposed budget are posted at [KCMO.GOV/BUDGET](https://kcmo.gov/budget).

If you can't attend the hearings, you can also email your feedback to us at [publictestimony@kcmo.org](mailto:publictestimony@kcmo.org). Please put "proposed budget" in the subject line.

[KCMO.GOV/BUDGET](https://kcmo.gov/budget)



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DO YOU QUALIFY?



10 YEARS OLD



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



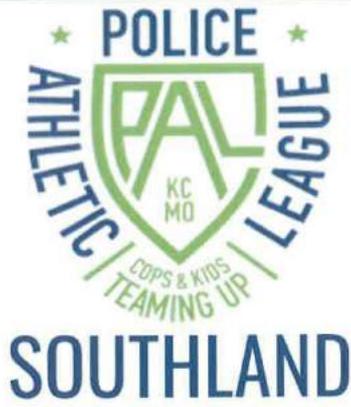
Share the Sun is brought to Kansas City, MO by the following organizations with generous support from the KCMO Government and Metropolitan Energy Center



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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  
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## 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 â€” 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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*State Representative Mark A. Sharp*

**Missouri House of Representatives**

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**Jefferson City, Mo 65101**

**Phone**

**573-751-0238**

**Email**

**[mark.sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:mark.sharp@house.mo.gov)**

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