



**Capitol Report**

**January 11, 2024**

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***Dear Neighbor,***

Week two of the legislative session was very quiet on the House side as we gavelled in on Monday, but Technical sessions were called on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Several committees did meet in the interim, including my Professional Registration and Licensing Committee. I heard bills relating to licensure for dentists, cosmetologists and funeral directors and embalmers.

I also co-sponsored several bills relating to health care, public safety and tourism. One of those bills, HB 1492, proposes to raise the casino admission charge (paid by the casinos) from its current rate of \$2 per person to \$4 per person. The admission rate has remained the same since 1993 while casinos are experiencing record profits in Missouri. Raising the admission rate would allow for better funding for Missouri Veteran's Homes, give additional funding to the Access Missouri Scholarship, additional funds for the Missouri National Guard and funding for each county history museum as well as funds for the Steamboat Arabia Museum in Kansas City and the Transportation Museum in St. Louis.

I look forward to working to the best of my ability for you in my final session. I have always been thankful for the trust you have placed in me and I will continue to serve you with the highest level of integrity.

***Yours in Service,***

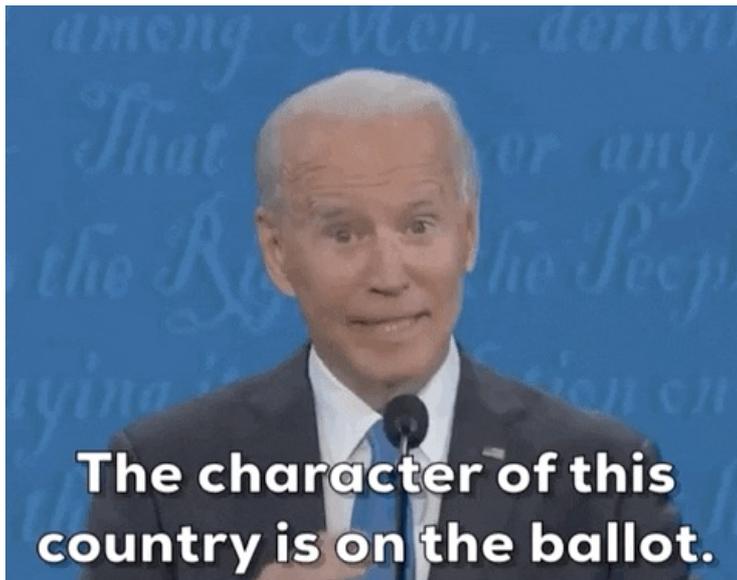
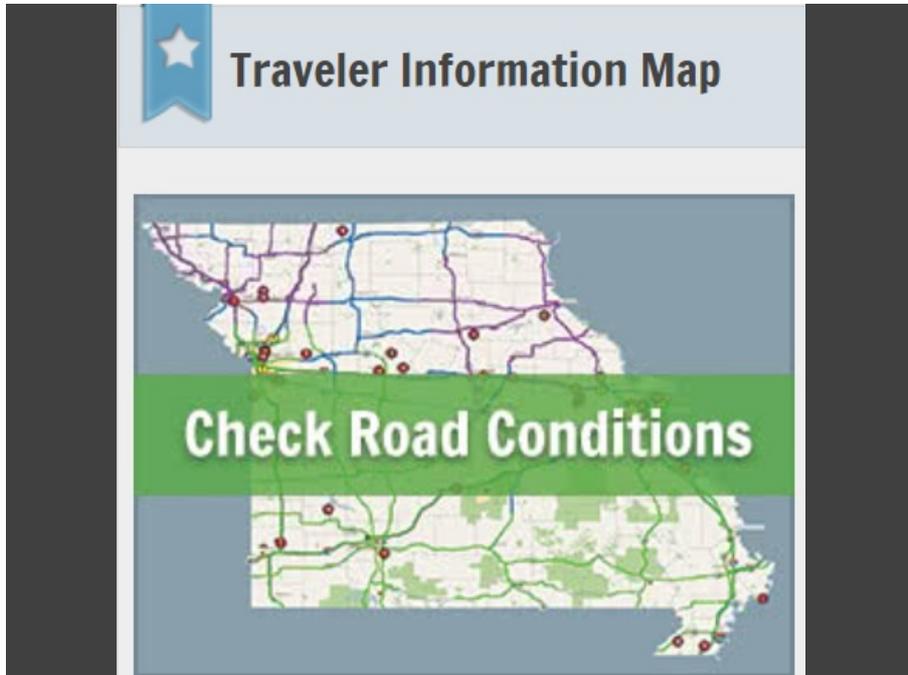
***Rich***

## House Legislative Dashboard



Let's Go Chiefs!





**Ashcroft threatens to keep  
President Biden off MO ballot**

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said in a Jan. 6 social media post that Missouri and other Republican-led states should keep President Joe Biden off the ballot this year if the U.S. Supreme Court rules former President Donald Trump is ineligible to again seek the office under the Insurrection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Ashcroft, a Republican, cited no legal justification for excluding Biden, a Democrat, from the ballot this November and lacks the authority under state law to do so even if there was one.

Officials in Colorado and Maine have concluded the Insurrection Clause prevents Trump, a Republican, from appearing on presidential ballots in those states due to his role in fomenting the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol as part of his failed attempt to remain in office after losing the 2020 election to Biden. The Insurrection Clause bars anyone who has taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and subsequently “engaged in insurrection or rebellion against” the United States from again holding public office. The conservative-dominated Supreme Court has agreed to hear Trump’s appeal of Colorado’s decision.

In a post on Twitter, now officially known as X, Ashcroft said: “What has happened in Colorado & Maine is disgraceful & undermines our republic. While I expect the Supreme Court to overturn this, if not, Secretaries of State will step in & ensure the new legal standard for (Trump) applies equally to (Biden).” In subsequent media interviews, Ashcroft reaffirmed his position that he could unilaterally keep Biden off of Missouri’s ballot.

In a Jan. 8 interview on CNN, Ashcroft struggled to come up with a legal justification for excluding Biden from the ballot when pressed by anchor Boris Sanchez. At one point Ashcroft said, referring to Biden, that there are “allegations that he engaged in insurrection,” but Ashcroft could not back up his claim with any allegation and ended up shouting at Sanchez.

As secretary of state, Ashcroft oversees elections in the state but has no authority to unilaterally remove a candidate from the ballot. In fact, as the Missouri Independent noted in a Jan. 11 story, the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District ruled in 2014 that secretary of state can’t even strike a candidate from the ballot who isn’t legally qualified to run for office unless a court first orders the removal.

In the intervening day between the original post and the CNN interview, Ashcroft and his family were victims of a “swatting” incident when Jefferson City police arrived at their home after receiving a false report of a shooting. No one was harmed as a result of the Jan. 7 incident, and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported police are continuing to investigate it. Making a false police report is a class B misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.



I am pictured with House Minority Leader Crystal Quade.  
I serve as the Assistant House Minority Leader.

**MORE  
GUNS  
IS NEVER THE  
ANSWER**

**House committee hears bill to  
further weaken state gun laws**

The House General Laws Committee on Jan. 9 heard Republican legislation that would further weaken Missouri's already lax gun laws to allow firearms to be carried on mass transit and in churches, expand conceal-carry rights to 18-year-olds and restore conceal-carry rights to people who pleaded guilty to certain crimes, including violent misdemeanors. All of those proposals have cleared the House of Representatives in recent years in various forms but failed to win Senate approval.

Under existing law, concealed weapons are prohibited on public buses and light rail, and also in houses of worship without the permission of church officials. House Bill 1708 would lift those prohibitions for people with a conceal-carry permit, although the bill's sponsor said church leaders could still bar guns on church property by posting a sign declaring that weapons aren't allowed. Firearms would still be prohibited on Amtrak trains.

Other provisions of HB 1708 would lower the minimum age for applying for a concealed weapons permit from 19 to 18, lift the prohibition on obtaining a conceal-carry permit for people who have pleaded guilty or no contest to certain crimes, and authorize retired judges and current or former lawmakers who are permit-holders to carry weapons in places where guns are otherwise prohibited by law.

The committee also heard separate legislation, House Bill 2291, that would exempt guns and ammunition from all state and local sales taxes. Democrats on the panel noted that under the bill necessities like food would still be taxed but weapons and ammunition would not. The bill's fiscal estimate says it would cost the state about \$31 million a year in lost revenue and local governments up to \$65.4 million annually. The committee took no immediate action on either HB 2291 or HB 1708.



# House panel considers public school open enrollment

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee on Jan. 10 heard legislation that would authorize children to transfer to public school districts other than the one in which they reside. The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Under House Bill 1989, the open enrollment program would begin with the 2025-2026 school year. As currently written, while districts largely couldn't stop students from transferring, participation would be voluntary among receiving districts. However, skeptics of the legislation are concerned that if open enrollment becomes law, the voluntary nature of the program wouldn't long last as lawmakers would be under pressure to require districts to accept transfers.

Proponents of the bill say open enrollment would expand the public school options available to Missouri children and their families. Since the tax dollars would follow a student from his or her home district to the receiving district, opponents says it would shift resources from less wealthy districts to the more affluent ones that students are likely seek to transfer to under the bill, putting further financial strain on struggling school systems.



I met with Department of Revenue Director Wayne Wallingford this week.



**State general revenue down 1.7 percent in first half of FY 24**

Year-to-date net state general revenue collections decreased 1.7 percent through the first half of the 2024 fiscal year, going from \$6.24 billion last year to \$6.13 billion this year. Collections had been down 2.2 percent through the first five months of the fiscal year.

Net general revenue collections in December 2024 increased 0.6 percent compared to those for December 2022, going from \$1.08 billion last year to \$1.09 billion this year. The continuing decline in individual and corporate income taxes resulting from significant tax cuts enacted by the Republican-controlled legislature was largely responsible for the anemic collections in December.

**Are you ready for some football?**





# 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)

**PROUD MEMBER**



**OF**

**CHIEFS**

**KINGDOM**

247SPORTS

Hyundai	Kia
2011-2022 Accent	2011-2021 Forte
2011-2022 Elantra	2021-2022 K5
2013-2017 Elantra GT	2011-2020 Optima
2013-2014 Elantra Coupe	2011-2021 Rio
2011-2012 Elantra Touring	2011-2021 Sedona
2011-2014 Genesis Coupe	2021-2022 Seltos
2018-2022 Kona	2010-2022 Soul
2020-2021 Palisade	2011-2022 Sorento
2011-2012, 2019-2022 Santa Fe	2011-2022 Sportage
2013-2018, 2019 Santa Fe; Santa Fe XL	
2013-2018 Santa Fe Sport	
2011-2019 Sonata	
2011-2022 Tucson	
2012-2017, 2019-2021 Veloster	
2020-2021 Venue	
2011-2012 Veracruz	

# Free Steering Wheel Locks for Hyundai and Kia Owners

In response to the increasing incidents of vehicle theft, Kia and Hyundai are providing steering wheel locks for the listed years and models of vehicles.

If your vehicle qualifies, you can be obtain a lock from any KCPD Division Station or the Community Engagement Division located at Police Headquarters " 1125 Locust St. You must be a resident of KCMO, present a valid Identification, and Proof of Ownership. These locks will be available Monday-Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m



**D.A.V.E.'S**  
place

**1st and 3rd Thursdays**  
**11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m**

**2116 E 74th St**  
**Kansas City, MO 64132**

**Call 816-444-2116 for more information.**

 [davesplacevolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:davesplacevolunteer@gmail.com)  
Join our email list.

 **Dave's Place**  
Find all updates on pantry changes.

 **cfbc** CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH  
A Biblical Alternative for Living

 **WALNUT GROVE**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



**Joshua K. "JK" Russell Jr**



1941 - 2023

Joshua Russell, Jr. passed away on December 29, 2023. He was the husband of longtime Kansas City, MO NAACP Branch President Anita Russell. [You can read his obituary and arrangements here.](#)

A recruitment poster for KCFD. The background is a photograph of a dark blue fire truck with 'ES 31 CUE' visible on its side. On the left, there is a dark red vertical banner with white text and a QR code. At the top of the banner is the KCFD logo, which consists of a stylized fire hydrant above the letters 'KCFD'. The text on the banner reads 'You are KCFD' in large, bold, white letters, followed by 'Schedule a test today!' in a smaller font. Below the text is a square QR code. At the bottom of the banner is the website address 'kcmo.gov/joinkcfd' in white text.

**KCFD**

**You are KCFD**

**Schedule a test today!**

[kcmo.gov/joinkcfd](https://kcmo.gov/joinkcfd)

**Starlight**

For more information about  
Vincent Legacy Scholarships, visit  
[kcstarlight.com/vincent-legacy-scholarship](https://kcstarlight.com/vincent-legacy-scholarship)



## **Vincent Legacy Scholarships Applications**

Since 2006, Starlight has proudly awarded Vincent Legacy Scholarships to middle school students throughout metropolitan Kansas City. Established with a generous contribution from longtime Starlight supporters Greg and Rebecca Reid, the scholarships provide BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) youth with funds to pursue professional training and experience the life-expanding possibilities of the performing arts.

To qualify, students in grades six, seven and eight must display talent and passion for the performing arts, have a strong interest in community service, and audition for the selection committee at Starlight.

Each \$2,500 Vincent Legacy Scholarship is administered by the Starlight Community Engagement Department, and funds are applied to performing arts training opportunities selected by the scholarship recipients during their middle and high school years.

**The deadline to apply for the 2024 Vincent Legacy Scholarships is Tuesday, January 30. Qualifying students must complete the application to be considered.**

**PEACE FOR  UKRAINE**

**COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS**



# 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?



YOUR ROOF MUST BE LESS THAN 10 YEARS OLD



YOU MUST OWN & OCCUPY YOUR HOME



YOU MUST LIVE IN KCMO

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



## WE'RE HIRING!

AmeriCorps VISTA  
for the  
Marlborough Conservancy

Apply online



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



**The reward has been raised to  
\$30,000 for Dominic**



**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS  
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator**

**SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide**

**KANSAS CITY, MO ---** The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic’s father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father’s home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at [www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com), or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



**Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards**

**Tips Hotline**

**816-474-8477**

**Web Tips**

**[www.KCrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**

\* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

[Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.](#)



**Rep. Richard Brown**

Assistant Minority Floor Leader  
MO House of Representatives  
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Jefferson City, MO 65101  
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Email:

[richard.brown@house.mo.gov](mailto:richard.brown@house.mo.gov)

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

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