



- Week of March 31, 2023

Greetings from Jefferson City, neighbors and Royals fans in the 9th Senatorial District. Just like our beloved boys in blue, the General Assembly answered the call to “play ball” this week and sent several measures to the House for consideration.

This legislative grand slam includes a [bill](#) to waive fees for obtaining legal documentation for homeless youth and survivors of domestic abuse; an [act](#) to ban courts from awarding custody to a parent found guilty of abusing the child; a [proposal](#) to prevent distracted driving; and a [measure](#) to designate a Public Defender fund in the state treasury and prohibit judges from placing cases on a waiting list.

Safeguarding funding for the Missouri State Public Defender will help this office manage excessive caseloads, attract and retain attorneys and provide better representation to low-income individuals.

My [Senate Bill 423](#) rounded first base on March 27 and passed out of committee. I began working on the certification of juveniles for trial as adults when I served in the House. Going through this process for those so young can cause unnecessary trauma that will last the rest of their lives. I want to strengthen protections for children in the justice system to make sure we are helping them maximize their potential as members of our communities.

The Senate also fielded some tough line drives this week. I am extremely pleased to report the “[Anti-Red Flag Gun Seizure Act](#)” failed to pass out of committee on March 29. Missourians are still recovering from the fatal school shooting in St. Louis, and now our nation is mourning more innocent lives lost at the hands of a mentally unstable school shooter in Nashville. Having a red flag law in place may have prevented the tragic event that took place at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School last fall, so I’m relieved my colleagues put a stop to this proposal. In my opinion, the General Assembly should be working on ways to reduce gun violence and prevent those with a history of mental illness from accessing deadly weapons, instead of condoning anti-red flag measures.

Another item of good news to share is regarding the initiative petition process. Multiple bills have been brought forward in an effort to thwart Missourians’ ability to modify our Constitution through this tried-and-true method. The Senate debated [House Joint Resolution 43](#) for several hours on March 29 but didn’t come to an agreement on the language. Ironically, it seems like there is frequently a push by the majority party to reform and complicate this process after an amendment they don’t support passes by the will of the people.

Welcoming MCC Students

I enjoyed visiting with several North Kansas City High School students who visited the Capitol this week to advocate for student issues.



Senator Washington meets with student advocates from North Kansas City High School.

April's Free Family Health Essentials Event – April 1 at Swope Health Central

We will once again be holding our free monthly Family Health Essential event from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 1 at Swope Health Central, located at 3801 Martin Luther King Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64130. It is the Easter edition of the event that will feature four stations: Household Baskets, Toiletry Bags, Easter Baskets (Maximum 3 per family), and Food Boxes that include a free ham (limited to the first 500 families).

Call for Vendors Now Open for Public Health and Safety Fair


On June 24, I will host the annual Public Health and Safety Fair at the Urban Youth Academy, and we are now accepting submissions from vendors and sponsors. If you have a resource or product that would benefit our community, please [sign-up](#) today.




Please share these graphics on social media.


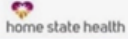
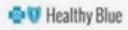
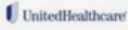
Important Medicaid Alert

Missouri will be restarting Medicaid eligibility renewals on April 1, 2023.



Learn more about renewals and update your address by scanning the QR code or go to mydss.mo.gov/renew.



Missouri Department of SOCIAL SERVICES

1st Saturday

Free FAMILY HEALTH ESSENTIALS



SATURDAY, APRIL 1st

SWOPE HEALTH CENTRAL
3801 Martin Luther King Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64130
(formerly Blue Parkway)
9:00am-12:00pm
(While supplies last)

DRIVE THRU

ALL STATIONS

EASTER EDITION

- Maximum 2 families per car – 2 Families **MUST** be represented in the car
- e.g. not 1 person for two families
- All items delivered to the car – Trunk Service only (no walk-up)

Station 1: Household Basket	Station 2: Toiletry Bag	Station 3: Easter Baskets	Station 4: Food Boxes including Free Hams <i>First 500 Families</i>
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Max: 3 per family

Proudly Sponsored By:



Below is a list of the bills I have sponsored in 2023. If you have questions or need additional information or assistance, please reach out.

Senator Washington's Sponsored Legislation for 2023

Bill Number	Description	Status
Senate Bill 423	Modifies provisions relating to certification of juveniles for trial as adults.	Passed by Judiciary Committee and combined with SB 406
Senate Bill 424	Creates new provisions on discriminatory practices relating to hair.	Hearing conducted 3/22.
Senate Bill 425	Authorizes a tax credit for the purchase of certain homes.	Referred to Economic Development

<u>Senate Bill 433</u>	Authorizes a sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene products.	Referred to Economic Development
<u>Senate Bill 434</u>	Authorizes a tax credit for providing services to homeless persons.	Referred to Governmental Accountability
<u>Senate Bill 435</u>	Creates a Text-to-Donate program for homeless services in certain cities.	Referred to Governmental Accountability
<u>Senate Bill 437</u>	Authorizes a tax credit for providing housing to victims of domestic violence.	Referred to Governmental Accountability
<u>Senate Bill 438</u>	Creates a pilot program for incarcerated mothers to have access to their children.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 439</u>	Creates the offense of unlawful possession of a handgun.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 440</u>	Establishes the “Cronkite New Voices Act” to protect the freedom of press in school-sponsored media.	Hearing conducted 3/22.
<u>Senate Bill 441</u>	Creates provisions relating to firearms.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 442</u>	Modifies provisions relating to concealed firearms.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 443</u>	Modifies provisions relating to medical marijuana program participants in family court matters.	Referred to Health and Welfare
<u>Senate Bill 444</u>	Creates provisions relating to reporting requirements of law enforcement agencies.	Referred to Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
<u>Senate Bill 445</u>	Modifies provisions relating to use of force by law enforcement officers.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 446</u>	Modifies provisions relating to restitution for individuals who are actually innocent.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 447</u>	Modifies provisions relating to criminal records.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 531</u>	Modifies provisions relating to expungement.	Referred to Judiciary
<u>Senate Bill 561</u>	Modifies provisions relating to earned discharge from probation.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 562</u>	Creates new provisions relating to state contracts for minority and women’s business enterprises.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 563</u>	Creates a DWI diversion program.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 579</u>	Modifies the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 580</u>	Modifies provisions relating to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 581</u>	Creates provisions relating to parole eligibility.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 582</u>	Modifies provisions relating to terms of probation.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 583</u>	Authorizes a tax credit for the purchase of electric vehicles.	First Read

<u>Senate Bill 641</u>	Modifies provisions relating to the certification of juveniles for trial as adults.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 643</u>	Modifies provisions relating to offenses against employees of election authorities.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 675</u>	Modifies provisions relating to legal representation for certain court proceedings involving children.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 676</u>	Modifies provisions relating to the offense of filing false documents.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 713</u>	Enacts provisions relating to health insurance coverage of maternity services.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 714</u>	Establishes standards for demographic data collection by certain entities.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 715</u>	Creates a health advocate program in the Department of Health and Senior Services.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 716</u>	Enacts provisions relating to motor vehicle sales tax payment plans.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 722</u>	Modifies provisions relating to tax increment financing.	First Read
<u>Senate Bill 723</u>	Relates to voter registration.	First Read
<u>Senate Concurrent Resolution 14</u>	Apologizes for the State of Missouri's role in slavery.	Referred to Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics
<u>Senate Joint Resolution 36</u>	Places limits on increases of the assessment of certain properties.	Referred to General Laws
<u>Senate Joint Resolution 40</u>	Exempts from taxation real and personal property of citizens over the age of 65.	Referred to General Laws

It is an honor representing the great people of Kansas City's 9th Senatorial District. If you need assistance navigating state government or understanding the legislative process, please contact me by calling 573-751-3158 or emailing Barbara.Washington@senate.mo.gov. My team is here for you!