



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, June 26th, 2023

AG RESISTS & APPEALS COURT ORDER

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey has refused to comply with a court order requiring him to certify by June 21 the fiscal estimates for initiative petitions seeking to put a proposed constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights on the statewide ballot in 2024.

Instead of complying with the order to certify the fiscal estimates by June 21, Bailey appealed the ruling, and as reported by the Missouri Independent, the Missouri Supreme Court on June 23 scheduled a hearing on the case for July 18.

A day before the June 21 deadline he set, Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem had ruled Bailey acted without legal authority when he demanded that State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick rewrite his fiscal estimates to claim the proposals would cost the state \$12.5 billion in lost revenue.

Fitzpatrick concluded the measures would result in no costs or savings to state government, with one local county predicting a \$51,000 negative fiscal impact.

In a 28-page opinion critical of Bailey's position, Beetem noted state law once granted the attorney general the task of crafting fiscal estimates for ballot measures, but the legislature repealed that law in 1980, and the job has since been statutorily assigned to the state auditor.

“It is illogical to conclude the General Assembly repealed the Attorney General's authority to draft fiscal note summaries, but silently intended for the Attorney General to be able to substitute his judgement as to the estimated cost or savings of a measure for that of the Auditor's,” Beetem wrote.

“There is an absolute absence of authority to conclude the Attorney General is permitted to send the

Auditor's fiscal note summary back for revision simply because he disagrees with the Auditor's estimated cost or savings of a proposed measure."

Abortion rights supporters on March 8 filed 11 separate, but similar, initiative petitions to enshrine abortion rights in the Missouri Constitution. State officials were required by law to prepare ballot language and fiscal estimates for the petitions and certify them for circulation by no later than May 1. The petition supporters sued after Bailey's obstruction caused the state to miss the statutory deadline. More than 50 days have now passed since then and the petitions, only one of which will actually be circulated, still haven't been certified.

In his ruling, Beetem said state law only empowers the attorney general to review fiscal estimates to ensure they comply with legal requirements that they state a measure's estimated costs or savings to state and local

governments, be free of prejudicial or argumentative language and don't exceed length limits.

“Because the fiscal note summary for each of the 11 initiative petitions satisfied the requirements of (state law), the Attorney General lacked any statutory authority or discretion to return the fiscal note summaries to the Auditor for revision, and he was required by law to forward his approval of them to the Auditor,” Beetem wrote.

Beetem's decision marked the third time in less than two months that a Missouri judge has ruled against Bailey or his predecessor for asserting power the attorney general doesn't possess.

The first ruling came May 1 when a St. Louis County circuit judge said Bailey's attempt to unilaterally ban gender-affirming care in Missouri by administrative rule

amounted to unconstitutional legislating by an executive branch official.

The second decision followed May 27 when a Jackson County circuit judge ruled former Attorney General Eric Schmitt, whom Bailey was appointed to replace in January, acted without legal authority in late 2021 when he ordered Missouri public schools to end COVID-19 mitigation efforts that state law empowered them to implement.

Bailey recently faced further criticism for overstepping his authority by threatening the Kansas City Police Department with legal action if it doesn't enforce a new law taking effect in August prohibiting medical practitioners from providing gender-affirming care to transgender children – even though the law contains no criminal provisions for police to enforce.

PROCESS BEGINS TO FILL VACANCIES

The process of filling the first of two pending vacancies on the Missouri Supreme Court is underway as the Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission on June 20 announced it is accepting applications to fill the seat currently held by Judge George Draper III who is stepping down on Aug. 4, one day before he reaches the mandatory judicial retirement age of 70.

The seven-member commission will narrow the pool of applicants to three finalists. Gov. Mike Parson must appoint one of those finalists or forfeit the selection to the commission, which consists of the Supreme Court chief justice, three lawyers elected by the Missouri Bar and three non-lawyers appointed by the governor.

The Missouri Constitution requires Supreme Court judges to be at least 30 years of age, U.S. citizens for at least 15 years and qualified Missouri voters for at least nine years. All Missouri judges must be licensed to practice law.

Once the Draper vacancy is filled, the commission is expected to select finalists to replace Judge Patricia Breckenridge, who in February announced her plans to retire this October.

Breckenridge was appointed to the court by Republican Gov. Matt Blunt in September 2007, and Draper was appointed by Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon in October 2011.

Once Parson fills the two pending vacancies, he will have appointed three judges to the seven-member Supreme Court, including Judge Robin Ransom, whom he named to the court in May 2021.

The court's current partisan split of four Republican appointees and three Democratic appointees will then shift to 5-2 in favor of Republican appointees, who have controlled the Governor's office since January 2017.

SUPER BOWL TROPHY TO BE ON DISPLAY

The Lombardi Trophy, won by the Kansas City Chiefs this year in Super Bowl LVII, will be on public display in the Missouri Capitol on June 27 and June 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, the Governor's office has announced.

The trophy will be displayed on the first floor of the Capitol Rotunda in front of a backdrop depicting Arrowhead Stadium. The event is free, and visitors will have the opportunity to take photos with the trophy.



PUBLIC WORKS

6TH DISTRICT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Clean Up Event

Sat., July 15
8 A.M. - Noon

Ruskin High School
7000 E 111th St. Kansas City, MO 64134

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Automotive products
Antifreeze
Batteries
CFL Light Bulbs
Fertilizers
Flammables
Fuels
Hazardous Cleaners
Hazardous Liquids
Household Cleaners
Lawn and Garden Products - Paint
Pesticides
Photographic Chemicals
Pool Chemicals
Solvents - Thinners - Used Oils



For more information: Call Robert Woods at 816-513-8442

PUBLIC WORKS

5TH DISTRICT SHREDDER AND ELECTRONICS

Clean Up Event

Sat., July 15
8 A.M. - Noon

2810 East 80th St.
Kansas City, MO 64132

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Documents for Shredding
All Desktop and Laptop Computers
Computer Flat Screen Monitors
Wires
Cables
Networking Equipment
Ink
Toners



For more information: Call Robert Woods at 816-513-8442



COACH JOEL WEBB SKILL DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

JULY 10, 17, 31



THERE WILL BE OBSTACLES.
THERE WILL BE DOUBTERS.
THERE WILL BE MISTAKES.
BUT WITH HARD WORK,
THERE ARE NO LIMITS.



1st-3rd grade from 5:00pm-6:00pm
4th -6th grade from 6:00pm-7:00pm
Maximum 30 kids per session

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Kansas City, Mo 64137



Darron LaMonte Edwards, Lead Pastor

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Cradle **kc**  Community
Health Council
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CHC and Cradle KC are a formula distribution site! We have a variety of infant formula available. If we do not have the type of formula you need, we can request it.

Scan the QR code to
submit your
request

ee.

contact us at 913-371-9298 if you have
questions



Understanding and Accessing **MISSOURI MEDICAID**

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

Am I eligible?

Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross **monthly** household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, **you may qualify**.



1

\$1,481

2

\$2,003

3

\$2,525

4

\$3,048

5

\$3,570

6

\$4,092

How do I apply?

GOOD NEWS!

Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!

Online:

Visit <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal

By Phone:

Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994

By Mail or Email:

Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:

Family Support Division
615 E 13th St
Kansas City, MO 64106

Or email to:

FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov

KIDS EAT FREE



MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

**UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
5600 E. 112 TERRACE, KCMO 64134**

FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM

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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 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. 103rd 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. 111th 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. 117th 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

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Missouri House of Representatives

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mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

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