



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, Sept. 18, 2023

COURT PICK CREATES FEMALE MAJORITY

For at least a couple of weeks, women will constitute a

majority on the Missouri Supreme Court for the first time in state history. However, because one of those women judges is retiring Oct. 1, the court's female majority could be short-lived.

Gov. Mike Parson appointed Judge Kelly Broniec to the high court on Sept. 12 to replace Judge George Draper who retired in August after 13 years on the Supreme Court and nearly 30 years of total judicial service.

Broniec, 52, had been serving on the Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District, a post to which Parson appointed her in October 2020. She previously served more than 14 years as Montgomery County associate circuit judge and was the county's prosecuting attorney from 1999-2006.

Although Broniec's appointment gives the seven-

member Supreme Court four women judges, that will soon drop to three with the pending retirement of Judge Patricia Breckenridge, who is leaving after 16 years on the high court and more than 41 years on the bench. Like Draper, Breckenridge is about to reach the state's mandatory judicial retirement age of 70.

Broniec was one of three finalists selected by the Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission to fill the Draper vacancy. The others, both members of the Court of Appeals, were Judge Michael Gardner of the court's St. Louis-based Eastern District and Judge Ginger Gooch of the Southern District in Springfield. Like Broniec, Parson had appointed both to the appellate bench.

If the Commission follows its usual practice, Gardner and Gooch will be among the finalists for the Breckenridge vacancy, with the panel also picking a third candidate to submit to the governor. The seven-

member commission consists of Chief Justice Mary Rhodes Russell, three attorneys elected by the Missouri Bar and three non-attorneys chosen by the governor. It is expected to announce the latest slate of finalists on Oct. 24.

With Broniec replacing Draper, a 2011 appointee of former Gov. Jay Nixon, the Supreme Court will consist of five judges picked by Republican governors and two chosen by Democrats. That 5-2 split won't be changed when Breckenridge, a Republican appointee, is replaced.

SENATE BLOCKS VETO OVERRIDE ATTEMPTS

The Senate on Sept. 13 blocked efforts by the House of Representatives to restore some of the \$555.3 million in spending authority Gov. Mike Parson vetoed from the \$51

billion state budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

Parson issued a total of 179 line-item budget vetoes to strike spending authority from the current budget.

Although the House of Representatives mustered the two-thirds supermajority of its entire membership needed to override the governor on 14 of those line-item vetoes, the override efforts died for lack of action in the Senate which adjourned the legislature's annual veto session without taking any votes on the House's override motions.

Of the House's 14 overrides, nine collectively sought to restore a combined \$11.5 million for a special pay hike for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, while a 10th would have reinstated funding for a similar pay raise for the state Capitol Police. Parson vetoed the salary bumps because they exceeded the 8.7% raises granted to all state employees this year.

The House also voted to reverse the governor's rejection of \$28 million for improvements to Interstate 44, \$13 million for a police center in St. Louis City, \$2 million for re-enlistment incentives for Missouri National Guard personnel and \$1.41 million for the Missouri Force 1 search and rescue team.

Parson vetoed just one full bill the legislature passed this year, a 142-page omnibus anti-crime measure. However, most of the Senate bill's provisions were in other legislation Parson signed into law, and the Senate made no attempt to override his veto.

Although the governor vetoed the lengthy bill due to his objections to a few of its other provisions, his veto also struck down language from legislation I introduced to make discharging a firearm within or into city limits with criminal negligence a state offense to crack down on the worsening scourge of sometimes

deadly celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire that has plagued Kansas City and many other Missouri cities in recent years.

I will reintroduce this life-saving legislation for consideration in the 2024 legislative session and will do my best to get it passed as a "clean" bill without being combined with controversial bills or amendments.

With the conclusion of the veto session, lawmakers aren't scheduled to return to the Capitol until the 2024 legislative session gets underway Jan. 3.

JUDGE REJECTS CHALLENGE TO SENATE MAP

A Cole County judge on Sept. 12 upheld the

constitutionality of Missouri's state Senate districts, rejecting claims that the district map violates the state constitution by unnecessarily splitting Buchanan County and the city of Hazelwood in St. Louis County among multiple districts.

The current Senate districts were created by a panel of six state appellate judges in 2022 to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census.

In rejecting the challenge to the map, Circuit Judge Jon Beetem said the plaintiffs failed to offer any evidence the commission deviated from constitutional standards which call for avoiding splitting counties and municipalities when possible but allow it if necessary. Beetem also said the alternative plans the plaintiffs proposed were less compliant with other constitutional factors than what the commission produced.

“(T)he Constitution does not require numerical precision or any other kind of perfection from the redistricting commissions, who are chosen to fulfill this legislative task,” Beetem wrote. “The evidence clearly shows that to the extent there is any perceived imperfection in the Senate Map, the choices made by the Judicial Redistricting Commission are reasonable.”

Because only half of the seats in the 34-member Senate 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 new plan for the first time in 2024.

The plaintiffs, who included Buchanan County and Hazelwood residents, are expected to appeal Beetem’s ruling to the Missouri Supreme Court.

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

REPUBLICANS PICK NOMINEE FOR SPEAKER

House Republicans on Sept. 12 selected House Majority Leader Jon Patterson, R-Lee's Summit, to be their party's nominee for House speaker when the position becomes vacant in January 2025.

Current House Speaker Dean Plocher, R- Des Peres, cannot seek re-election to his House seat in 2024 due to term limits.

Republicans, who have controlled the chamber since 2003, began the practice of selecting a speaker-designee more than a year in advance in 2007. However, the choice isn't final yet as Patterson must

**win re-election to the House next year, and
Republicans must retain their chamber majority.**

The actual election for the next House speaker will take place on the first day of the 2025 legislative session. All members of the chamber, including minority Democrats who could field their own candidate, will vote in that election.



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IN 

A FARM-TO-TABLE DINNER



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 2023
@ THE HISTORIC CITY MARKET



After a Kansas City Chiefs win, my father John Sharp and I had the opportunity to attend Cultivate KC's Dig-In dinner. This is Cultivate KC's annual farm-to-table benefit dinner created by local chefs, using local ingredients.



South Patrol Division
Community Crime Meeting
Tuesday September 19th at 1900 hours
SPD Community Room

WE'RE MOVING BACK TO KANSAS CITY



SAVE THE DATE RENOVATION KICKOFF PARTY NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR LM2

Please come join us as we celebrate the start of renovation
of our new headquarters.

The renovation will consist of office space, modern open kitchen, conference
rooms, training room, media room, wellness room, warehouse and outdoor
recreation space.

JOIN US

Thursday, September 21, 2023
4:30PM-7:00PM

9000 Old Santa Fe Road
Kansas City, MO 64138

DJ, Food Trucks and MORE

RSVP: ashley@lm2cc.com



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21ST ANNUAL

Silent Auction & Gala



SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 AT 5:00 PM
AT CRESTVIEW DAIRY FARM
16499 E 83RD ST, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GREAT FOOD, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT,
PRIZES, AND A FUN AUCTION!

TICKETS \$50/PERSON

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There's A New Event In Town

Presented by Centerwell Senior Primary Care



Save the Date!
September 30th, 2023
HyVee Arena

Scan the QR code
to learn more about
Prom With A Purpose.™



Honorary Co-Chairs Joanne Collins
and Alvin Brooks.

PUBLIC WORKS

CITYWIDE DROP-OFF

In District 5

Saturday, October 14
8AM – Noon
For All KC Residents



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

Southeast High School, 3500 E Meyer Blvd
Leaf & Brush, Tires

Center Academy for Success, 8434 The Paseo
Leaf & Brush, Trash & Bulky Items, Tires, Shredder, Electronics

Ruskin High School, 7000 East 111th St.
Leaf & Brush, Trash & Bulky Items, Tires, Shredder, Electronics

3001 East 81st St.
Leaf & Brush, Trash & Bulky Items

ELECTRONICS PRICE LIST

(CENTER ACADEMY FOR SUCCESS AND RUSKIN HIGH SCHOOL LOCATIONS ONLY)

CRT Computer Monitors (\$5)

LCD TVs (\$20)

Plasma Screen TVs (\$20)

Console/Projection TVs (\$30)

CRT TVs (\$30)

Additional Electronic Items Accepted at No Cost!



Part-Time Child Care Jobs
Now Hiring!

North Kansas City
Kansas City Public Schools
Center
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Grandview

LINC Caring Communities Sites
Contact: Carol Green, (816) 739-9314, cgreen@klinc.org
Apply: klinc.org/jobs

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