



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, September 4, 2023

JUDGE ALLOWS LAW TO TAKE EFFECT

A controversial new Missouri law that prohibits providing gender-affirming care to most transgender youth took effect Aug. 28 after a St. Louis judge declined to issue a preliminary injunction blocking the measure while its constitutionality is litigated.

In an Aug. 25 order denying the preliminary injunction, Judge Steven Ohmer said the plaintiffs “have not clearly shown a sufficient probability of

success on the merits” of the case and haven’t demonstrated a “sufficient threat of irreparable injury” from the law taking effect.

Ohmer also said the science and medical evidence regarding gender-affirming care is “conflicting and unclear” and “raises more questions than answers” that need to be explored at trial.

The case is being brought on behalf of several transgender children and their parents, along with providers of gender-affirming medical care. The plaintiffs allege the new law violates the equal protection, natural rights and due process clauses of the Missouri Constitution by restricting certain types of medical care for a subclass of people.

They also claim it is an unconstitutional “special law” that applies to some groups but not other similarly situated groups.

Although the case was filed in Cole County, the Supreme Court reassigned it to Ohmer after the original judge said he wouldn’t be able to rule on the requested injunction before the law was set to take effect.

The next hearing in the case is set for Sept. 22.

The General Assembly passed the law in May as

Senate Bill 49. It permanently bans gender-affirming surgery for those under 18 years of age, which currently only happens in rare situations, while putting in place a four-year prohibition on providing puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors.

The law contains no criminal penalties. Instead, health care practitioners accused of violations could face sanctions against their state medical licenses.

Although the law allows youth who were already taking puberty blockers or undergoing hormone therapy prior to Aug. 28 to continue those treatments, the University of Missouri Health Care System informed patients just days before the law took effect that it would immediately cease providing such care to minors due to fear of future legal liability.

EARLY STARTS FOR PETITIONS REJECTED

When it comes to ballot initiatives, one election cycle must end before the next can begin, the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District ruled on Aug. 29.

The decision - should it stand on appeal to the state Supreme Court - means proponents of future initiative petitions can't seek to get an early start on the long and costly signature-gathering process.

The case involves a proposed petition to protect abortion rights but isn't related to a separate abortion rights initiative seeking to put the issue before voters in 2024 being advanced by the ACLU of Missouri and supported by leading reproductive freedom advocates.

The petition at issue in this case is sponsored by a Columbia attorney with no known ties to any organization and has not been cleared for circulation.

The attorney's petition sought to put a measure on the November 2024 general election ballot but was filed with Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office three months prior to the November 2022 general election. Because the state constitution says initiatives automatically go on the next general election, but the deadline for the 2022 election cycle had already passed, Ashcroft declined to process the petition until the day after the 2022 general election.

After its sponsor sued, a Cole County judge ruled Ashcroft had no legal duty to process a proposed petition for the 2024 election cycle until the 2022 cycle was over. In an opinion written by Judge W. Douglass Thompson, the three-judge appellate panel unanimously agreed.

“(S)ample initiative petitions are to be processed during

the election cycle for which they will be placed on the ballot,” Thompson wrote. “Practically, this means that a sample initiative petition for November 2024 general election can be processed only between the day following the November 2022 general election until six months prior to the November 2024 general election.”

Although the petition won’t be circulated, its sponsor told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch he intends to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

The case is *Jeffrey K. Bassinger v. John R. Ashcroft*.

RIVAL PETITIONS LIMIT ABORTION RIGHTS

In an apparent attempt to sow confusion over an effort to put a measure on the 2024 statewide ballot to constitutionally protect abortion rights in Missouri, a longtime Republican operative on Aug. 30 filed six versions of a rival initiative petition that instead of protecting abortion rights would establish “the fundamental right to refuse to have an abortion.”

After the U.S. Supreme Court abolished abortion rights under the federal constitution in 2022, a Missouri law became operative prohibiting abortion in nearly all instances, including in cases of rape and incest.

In response, reproductive freedom advocates are poised

to circulate an initiative petition seeking to enshrine abortion rights in the Missouri Constitution. However, that effort currently is tied up in court over ballot language Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft prepared for the proposal that its proponents claim is deceptive.

Although the petitions sponsored by the GOP operative would slightly soften some aspects of Missouri's existing anti-abortion law, they also would constitutionally secure the legislature's authority to regulate abortion in most circumstances.

Three of the measures would allow abortions to be legally performed up until the 12th week of gestation, while the others would continue to permit complete bans, except in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life or health is at risk.

The rape exemption is limited since it could only be invoked if the victim had reported the attack prior to seeking an abortion. If she had not, then she would be prohibited from obtaining an abortion in Missouri.

Since the proposed constitutional text says the report would have to be made to "a rape or sexual assault crises hotline" in order to trigger the exemption, rapes reported directly to law enforcement apparently would not qualify.

COURT OF APPEALS FINALISTS PICKED

The Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission on Aug. 29 selected three finalists to replace Missouri Court of Appeals Judge Sherri Sullivan who recently retired after serving 24 years with the court's St. Louis-based Eastern District.

Sullivan was the last appointee of former Gov. Mel Carnahan (who held the post from 1993 to 2000) still serving on the appellate bench.

The three finalists to replace Sullivan are Kathleen Hamilton, a litigation attorney and partner at the HelperBroom law firm in St. Louis; St. Louis County Circuit Court Judge Virginia Lay; and Warren County Associate Circuit Judge Michael Wright.

Under the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan, Gov. Mike Parson must appoint one of the finalists within 60 days or forfeit the final selection to the Commission. With his latest pick, Parson will have appointed seven of the 14 judges currently serving on the Eastern District bench.



STUDENT LOAN WORKSHOP

For residents who have questions about their student loan debt, restarting payments, and federal programs that can help.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

9:00–11:00 A.M.

MCC–PENN VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER

3201 Southwest Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64111

HOSTED BY:



DaRon McGee
Chairman of the Jackson
County Legislature

GUEST SPEAKER:



Jason Anderson,
CPA, CFP®
College consultant focused on
affordability, student success,
and financial common-sense.

CO-HOSTED BY:



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Gradmetrics

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RSVP IS REQUIRED BY SEPT. 5 – SPACE IS LIMITED!
Email Kimberly Randolph: kmrandolph@jacksongov.org

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

FIFTH DISTRICT

Tuesday, Aug. 29
6 – 8 p.m.

Hillcrest Community Center
10401 Hillcrest Rd

Tuesday, Sept. 5
6 – 8 p.m.

Southeast Community Center
4201 E 63rd St

[KCMO.GOV/PIAC](https://kcmo.gov/piac)





Questions ?
816.866.6279

MARLBOROUGH FALL FESTIVAL & RESOURCE FAIR

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

NOON - 5:00 PM

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
84TH & EUCLID



FOOD TRUCKS



SMALL BIZ &
RESOURCE
VENDORS



FUN FOR ALL AGES!!

DRILL
TEAMS



GAMES &
CRAFTS



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Shine!*

MD AUTO REPAIR



Annual Kansas City 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

*Please Join the American Legion District 5,
VFW District 5, DAV, Passantino Bros. Funeral Home,
Muehlebach Funeral Care, and
The Catholic Cemeteries of Kansas City-St. Joseph*

Monday September 11, 2023

5:30—6:00 pm Music by the American Legion Band

6:00—7:00 pm Remembrance Ceremony

First Responder Memorial, Mount Olivet Cemetery

7601 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138

*A livestream of the ceremony can be viewed on the
Muehlebach Funeral Care Facebook page*

With Special Guests

Master of Ceremonies Taylor Hemness KSHB News

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas

Raytown Mayor Mike McDonough

KCMO Police Chief Stacey Graves

KCMO Deputy Fire Chief



Join us for

BYSTANDER TRAINING

The primary cause of violence in our region stems from disagreements.

Be an agent of change and learn how to effectively deescalate arguments. The Center for Conflict Resolution is providing specialized training on when and how to be an active bystander, including group practice interrupting potentially harmful situations.

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15**
9 AM - 12 PM

**THE ANITA B. GORMAN CONSERVATION
DISCOVERY CENTER**

4750 TROOST AVE
KANSAS CITY, MO 64110

SIGN UP HERE:



Common Good®



Disney THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

September 15th | 6:00 PM

**KCPD South Patrol
9701 Marion Park Drive KCMO 64137**

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET



- PRE SHOW ENTERTAINMENT AT 6
 - HOT DOGS & POPCORN
- MOVIE BEGINS AT 7
 - RAIN? NO PROBLEM - WE'LL MOVE INSIDE!



**Thanks
to our
sponsors:**



You are invited to have a **free** table at the
Community Job Fair

sponsored by
Ruskin Heights Homes Association,
Community Assistance Council, The Martin City Telegraph

Saturday, September 16, 9:30 am to noon
Southside Optimist Bingo Hall,
11154 Blue Ridge Blvd. KCMO 64134

Employers -

If you would like to have
a free table at this event,
contact Beth Boerger at
rhhacommunity@gmail.com
or 816-510-4845.



MARTIN CITY & SOUTH KC
THE TELEGRAPH

You're Invited to
HICKMAN MILLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S
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

HICKMAN MILLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S
21ST ANNUAL

Silent Auction & Gala



Sponsorship Levels

PLATINUM: \$2,000

BUSINESS NAME AND LOGO PROMINENTLY GIVEN
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GOLD: \$1,000

BUSINESS LOGO PROMINENTLY FEATURED ON SPONSOR RECOGNITION

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North Kansas City
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Center
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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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Missouri House of Representatives

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