



## WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023

### **PRO TEAMS LEAD SPORTS GAMBLING PUSH**

After years of unsuccessfully trying to convince lawmakers to legalize sports gambling, Missouri's major

professional sports teams are backing a statewide ballot measure to enshrine sports betting in the state constitution.

**On Sept. 8, a lawyer acting on behalf of the major Missouri-based sports clubs filed four slightly different versions of an initiative petition seeking to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the Nov. 5, 2024, ballot establishing regulations governing sports gambling and setting taxation rates on it with the Secretary of State's office.**

Initiative backers commonly file multiple versions of a proposal but only circulate one for signatures.

**The St. Louis Cardinals baseball team is leading the effort, which is also supported by the Kansas City Royals baseball club, football's Kansas City Chiefs, hockey's St. Louis Blues and soccer's Kansas City**

## **Current and St. Louis City SC, according to the Associated Press.**

Although historically sports leagues had opposed gambling on games as posing a major threat to the integrity of their sports, they've completely changed their position in recent years to form partnerships with the gambling industry as **most states – 37 and counting – have moved to legalize sports wagering**, thus opening new markets and expanding the potential for profit.

**In recent years Missouri's professional teams have aggressively lobbied state lawmakers to legalize sports gambling, and the House of Representatives has passed several bills to do so. However, the efforts annually failed in the Senate, with some senators insisting that legalization of sports betting be tied to the controversial regulation of so-called video lottery terminals that have proliferated around the state.**

Since some lawmakers want the devices -which the Missouri Gaming Commission regards as illegal slot machines - granted legitimate status while others want them banned outright, reaching a consensus on the issue has proven elusive.

Although recent legislation sought to statutorily legalize sports wagering, the Missouri Constitution generally prohibits lawmakers from passing laws authorizing gambling. That's why previous efforts to allow gambling in the state, including charitable bingo, the state lottery and licensed casinos, were all done via constitutional amendments.

As a result, going the constitutional route could avoid a legal challenge to sports wagering later on. However, putting a measure on the ballot via initiative is a costly and time-consuming process, requiring supporters to

gather a minimum of about 172,000 signatures from registered Missouri voters to qualify for the ballot.

**Supporters must submit the required number of valid signatures to the state in early May in order to make the November 2024 ballot.**

## **STATE SENATOR THREATENS BOOK BURNINGS**

Hardline conservative state Sen. Bill Eigel pledged in a Sept. 18 on-line post to conduct book burnings if he considers it necessary on the lawn of the Governor's Mansion if elected as Missouri's governor in 2024.

Twitter, now officially known as X, initially suspended Eigel's account for an unspecified violation of the site's rules but reinstated it two days later.

The controversy began when fellow state Sen. Nick Schroer posted a video of him and Eigel using flamethrowers to ignite a pile of unidentified objects, which some Twitter users interpreted as depicting a book burning. The caption on the post said, “**Burning down the swamp!**”

“**Drain the swamp,**” was a metaphorical expression that gained notoriety when frequently used by Donald Trump and many of his supporters during his 2016 campaign for the presidency and generally referred to his pledge to cleanup what they viewed as a corrupt Washington establishment made up of an intertwined network of entrenched bureaucrats, elected officials and lobbyists more interested in personal gain than in serving the country.

In response, Eigel later posted that the video, shot at a

political event in St. Charles County, showed the men burning a pile of cardboard boxes.

**He then added, “But let’s be clear, you bring those woke pornographic books to Missouri schools to try to brainwash our kids, and I’ll burn those too – on the front lawn of the governor’s mansion.”**

Eigel, a leader of the Senate’s hardline conservative faction, cannot seek re-election next year due to term limits, and instead is vying for the Republican nomination for governor. His pledge to engage in state-sponsored book burning if he becomes governor and considers it necessary resulted in widespread criticism.

**POLICE BILL OF RIGHTS HEARING SET**

The Missouri Supreme Court on Sept. 27 will hear St. Louis City's appeal of a lower court's decision upholding the constitutionality of legislation enacted in 2021 creating a "law enforcement officers bill of rights" that regulates investigations of alleged police misconduct.

The unjustified 2020 slaying of George Floyd by Minneapolis police sparked nationwide calls for greater accountability and oversight.

**At least partially as a result of that movement, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation in 2021 strictly regulating any investigations of law enforcement officers that could result in disciplinary action, demotion, dismissal, transfer or placement that could lead to economic loss and allowing such officers to be represented by an attorney during any questioning.**



**The legislation also requires officers' employers to defend and indemnify the officers against civil claims while they were acting within the scope of their duties, but provides their employers are no longer obligated to defend them in civil cases if any criminal convictions arise out of the same conduct.**

**St. Louis City filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law on several fronts, including that it violates the Hancock Amendment's prohibition against the state imposing unfunded mandates on local governments and interferes with St. Louis' authority to decide personnel matters.**

The city also contends the larger bill the disputed sections were part of - Senate Bill 26 - violated state constitutional provisions limiting legislation to a single subject that is clearly reflected in the bill's title and isn't changed from

the original purpose.

SB 26 originally was a 10-page measure containing two provisions relating to “public safety,” including those relating to investigations of police, but ultimately ballooned to 21 provisions spanning 172 pages. The city argued several provisions – such as those changing the statutory definition of “excursion gambling boat” and establishing new regulations on electric fences and pesticide usage, among others – have a tenuous connection to public safety.

**However, Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem ruled against all the city’s claims in November 2022, prompting an appeal to the Supreme Court.**

The case is *City of St. Louis v. State of Missouri*.

# 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.



You are cordially invited to a

# **FAITH & BLUE**

## **Prayer Breakfast**

Please Join us for food and prayer. Clergy will pray for law enforcement and law enforcement will pray for clergy as we kick off the National Faith & Blue weekend.

Faith & Blue are working together to build bridges to more inclusive communities. We hope you will join us.

**COLONIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**9500 WORNALL RD KCMO 64114**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER**

**6**

**8 - 10 AM**



For more information contact PO McCall at [mary.mccall@kcpd.org](mailto:mary.mccall@kcpd.org)

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, Trash & Bulky Items*

**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!**



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THURSDAY,  
OCT 19TH



1:00 PM -  
4:00 PM



ALL JOB  
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PUBLIC WORKS

# DROP-OFF IN THE 6TH DISTRICT

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

**Saturday, October 21**  
**8AM – Noon**  
**Open to all KC residents**



**South Broadland Presbyterian Church, 7850 Holmes, 64131**

*Tires, Trash & Bulky, Leaf & Brush, Shredder, Electronics*

**First Baptist Church of Kansas City, 100 Red Bridge Rd, 64114**

*Tires, Trash & Bulky, Leaf & Brush, Shredder, Electronics*

## ELECTRONICS CATEGORIES

COMPUTERS AND ACCESSORIES

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SERVERS & DATA CENTER

MOBILE DEVICES

OFFICE ITEMS

## ELECTRONICS PRICE LIST

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!**



## 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](mailto: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. 103<sup>rd</sup> 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. 111<sup>th</sup> 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. 117<sup>th</sup> 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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**TIPS HOTLINE**

**816-474-8477**



**WEB TIPS**

**KCcrimestoppers.com**



**FREE MOBILE APP**

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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!**