



Dear Neighbor,

The Missouri House of Representatives will be getting into the full swing of legislative activity in the coming week with numerous committee hearings and the governor's State of the State address to a joint session of the House and Senate on Wednesday when he will present his legislative and budgetary priorities.

The House Crime Prevention Committee I serve on will conduct a public hearing Monday on House Bill 784 to authorize the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate to appoint marshals to assist the sergeants-at-arms with providing security.

The marshals will be required to have at least five years of experience as law enforcement officers and will be authorized to carry concealed firearms and make arrests.

The bill is scheduled to be voted on at a Committee hearing on Wednesday.

The Elementary & Secondary Education Committee I serve on is scheduled to conduct public hearings on three bills Tuesday.

HB 228 will prevent public school districts and charter schools from prohibiting students' parents or guardians from audio recording any meetings held under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act,

HB 349 will establish the "Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program" and allow taxpayers to claim a tax credit beginning with tax year 2022 of up to 50% of their state tax liability for contributions to charitable educational assistance organizations. The cumulative amount of tax credits will be capped at \$50 million for any year.

Parents may establish scholarship accounts for their children who are elementary and secondary students that will be administered by such

educational assistance organizations.

These organizations will be authorized to use funds in such accounts to pay for fees, textbooks or tuition for private elementary and secondary schools within the state or for charter or public schools not within students' districts of residence; tutoring; fees for tests related to college admission; computer hardware or other technological devices; and other categories of eligible educational expenses for elementary and secondary students.

Only students who live in counties with a charter form of government such as Jackson County or who live in a city with at least 30,000 residents will be eligible to participate.

HB 540 will allow taxpayers to claim a tax credit beginning with tax year 2022 of up to 50% of their state tax liability for contributions to the "Show Me A Brighter Future Scholarship Program" which cannot be designated for particular students. The tax credits are capped at \$25 million for the first year of the program and may increase 10% annually if the credits claimed in the first year exceed 90% of available credits, up to a final cap of \$50 million.

Money in the Program's scholarship fund only will be used for scholarships to pay tuition for private elementary and secondary schools in the state or for tuition for any public school not within students' districts of residence and for the expenses of administering the program.

To be eligible for scholarship aid, students must be members of households whose total annual income does not exceed two times the income cap for free and reduced price school lunches. They also must have attended a Missouri public school for the preceding school year or be starting school in the state for the first time.

Scholarships will be awarded in priority order, with the first priorities given to students who received a scholarship the previous year, then to their siblings. Following those categories, preference will be given to students who qualify for free lunches followed by those who qualify for reduced price lunches attending schools ranked in the bottom five percent of schools by the state's plan required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, than those residing in unaccredited school districts and then those residing in provisionally accredited districts.



Construction is well underway of a 242,353 square foot industrial building expected to be completed in mid-April at the Blue River Commerce Center on the site of the demolished Bannister Federal Complex on the north side of Bannister Rd. east of Troost. This industrial park being developed by NorthPoint Development primarily for light manufacturing and warehousing is expected to bring over 2,000 jobs to south Kansas City.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, January 22, 2021

BILLS SEEK TO BLOCK LOCAL COVID-19 PROTECTIONS

The Senate Health and Pensions Committee on Jan. 20 heard several bills that collectively would strip city and county officials of much of their legal authority to impose restrictions aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Throughout the pandemic, Gov. Mike Parson has avoided imposing a mask mandate or other statewide restrictions, leaving enforcement of coronavirus containment measures largely up to local officials, whom he repeatedly has maintained are best positioned to address the specific needs of individual communities.

One measure, Senate Bill 21, would prohibit county health boards from enacting emergency restrictions that last longer than a total of 14 days in any two-year period. Approval of both chambers of the General Assembly, which regularly meet during only five months a year, would be required to exceed that limit. The bill also would ban any restrictions on the size of residential gatherings.

Another proposal, Senate Bill 12, would prohibit health restrictions

relating to attendance at religious services.

A third, Senate Bill 56, would entirely strip local health departments of their authority to issue orders to combat infectious, contagious, communicable or dangerous diseases.

Supporters of the bills contend local public health orders harm restaurants, bars and other local businesses by limiting their operations and also infringe on individual freedoms.

Opponents say the proposed legislation would make the pandemic far worse than it already is. To date, there have been nearly 444,000 known cases of COVID-19 in Missouri, including 6,485 reported deaths. The Committee took no immediate action on the bills.

PANEL HEARS COVID LEGAL IMMUNITY BILLS

The Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee heard two similar bills on Jan. 19 to provide businesses, churches, medical providers and schools with legal immunity from lawsuits alleging wrongful exposure to COVID-19.

Numerous supporters of the measures say liability protections are necessary to protect against frivolous lawsuits alleging COVID-19 exposure. A representative of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys testified that organization isn't aware of any cases that have been filed that would have been prevented by the bills.

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been pushing for such legislation since the pandemic began last spring, and it also enjoys support from many other business groups and the Missouri Hospital Association. **The joint 2021 legislative priorities of the Grandview and South Kansas City Chambers of Commerce state the Chambers, "Support legislation to protect businesses from opportunistic claims alleging exposure to COVID-19 on their premises."**

Gov. Mike Parson in November included legal immunity against COVID-19 lawsuits among the topics of a special legislative session, but lawmakers adjourned the session in December without taking up the

legislation.

The Senate committee took no immediate action on either bill, but is expected to advance legislation to the full Senate sometime in the coming weeks. The measures are Senate Bill 42 and Senate Bill 51.

BILL TRIES TO NULLIFY FEDERAL GUN LAWS

Senate Bill 39, which the Senate General Laws Committee heard on Jan. 19, purports to declare invalid a host of federal laws, orders or rules and regulations concerning firearms, including the following:

--Any tax, levy or fee imposed on firearms, accessories or ammunition not common to all goods and services;

--Any registration or tracking of firearms, accessories or ammunition; and

--Any registration or tracking of owners of firearms, accessories or ammunition;

if they “might reasonably be expected to create a chilling effect on the purchase or ownership of those items by law-abiding citizens.”

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However, it is well established law that individual states have no power to nullify federal laws or interfere with their enforcement. In a 1958 case, *Cooper v. Aaron*, the U.S. Supreme Court described the nullification doctrine as “illegal defiance of constitutional authority.”

The bill also purports to make any person “acting as an official, agent, employee or deputy” of the U.S. government who knowingly “enforces or attempts to enforce”, or “gives material aid and support to the efforts of another who enforces or attempts to enforce” any of the actions listed as invalid “permanently ineligible to serve as a law enforcement officer or to supervise law enforcement officers for the state or any political subdivision of the state.” This provision appears extremely unlikely to withstand legal challenge.

The General Assembly passed a similar nullification bill in 2013, but then Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed it. Although the House of Representatives voted to

override, the attempt fell one vote short of the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate.



Here are some of the 48 Kansas City police officers who were deputized by the U.S. Marshals Service to help provide security along the inaugural parade route in the nation's capitol on January 20. Our Department was one of the few in the nation requested to assist with the inaugural ceremonies.

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2020

**Governor Parson Announces Mass Vaccination, Targeted
Vaccination Sites Across the State**

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today during a briefing at the State Capitol, Governor Mike Parson announced that the Missouri National Guard will begin assisting the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and other state partners in establishing COVID-19 vaccination sites across the state.

A mass vaccination team will be assigned to each of Missouri's nine Highway Patrol regions.

"The Missouri National Guard is once again answering the call to help Missourians in time of need," said **Governor Parson**. "The purpose of these vaccination teams is to support our existing vaccinators and provide an additional vaccination source for eligible Missourians that may otherwise have a hard time receiving a vaccine."

The Missouri National Guard is providing teams of Soldiers and Airmen to assist in establishing and staffing mass vaccination and targeted vaccination sites. The National Guard will also be deploying administrative teams to assist local agencies and other providers with data backlogs.

Missouri National Guard mass vaccination teams consist of 30 support personnel, who provide assistance in the form of traffic control, administrative support, and data input. Targeted vaccination teams consist of four-person teams with one vaccinator and three support staff to assist with administrative duties. Administrative support teams consist of three personnel to assist providers with paperwork and data backlogs due to vaccination entry requirements.

"We are proud to be a small part of the whole-of-government effort to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to our fellow Missourians," said **Maj. Gen. Levon Cumpton, Missouri National Guard Adjutant General**. "This

effort is truly a team effort, led by DHSS and consisting of multiple physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, local governments and others.”

A mass vaccination site is scheduled to begin this week in the Southeastern region, and other sites will be operational in the remaining eight Highway Patrol regions by the end of January. These sites have the capability to provide up to 2,500 doses per day, per team. More details concerning dates and locations will be released once finalized.

Targeted vaccination sites provide vaccines to populations outside the reach of mass vaccination sites, as designated by DHSS. Target vaccination teams will work with clergies and community leaders in the Kansas City and St. Louis regions to vaccinate vulnerable populations. Teams staffing these sites have the capability to provide up to 160 doses per day, per team.

Vaccine supply remains extremely limited. Current demand for the vaccine far outweighs the current supply that the state is allotted by the federal government. These mass vaccination and target vaccination sites will ensure that vaccines are being administered as efficiently as possible and that every Missourian will have the opportunity to eventually receive a vaccine regardless of where they live.

Missourians are encouraged to visit [MoStopsCOVID.com](https://mostopsCOVID.com) to see the latest vaccine updates, find out when they are eligible for the vaccine, and locate available vaccinators in their area.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 19, 2021

Contact: [Morgan Said](mailto:Morgan.Said@mo.gov) | 816-385-3464

**Mayor Lucas, Mayoral Colleagues Call on New Congress to Swiftly
Approve Direct Aid for Cities**

Bipartisan coalition of more than 280 mayors also plead for increased local funding for vaccination efforts

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, with 283 of his mayoral colleagues from across the country, today encouraged President-elect Biden and the new Congress to provide direct fiscal relief to all cities—large, medium, and small—and boost support for America’s vaccination program.

Kansas City fell under the required population threshold for direct *CARES Act* funding last spring, losing out on millions of dollars for the Kansas City Health Department for testing and contact tracing, the Kansas City Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services, the Kansas City Police Department, and facilities sanitation as Kansas City worked to slow the spread of COVID-19. Direct aid to cities is vital for Kansas City as the City works to inoculate our community.

President-Elect Joe Biden has proposed a comprehensive package of relief measures that includes \$350 billion in direct aid to state and local governments and a national vaccination program. The bipartisan group of 284 mayors today wrote to Congressional leaders, urging them to take swift action.

“With few exceptions, cities have been largely left without direct federal assistance,” **the mayors wrote**. “The lack of adequate support has resulted in budget cuts, service reductions, and job losses. Sadly, nearly one million local government jobs have already been lost during the pandemic. Our essential workers deserve federal relief like any other sector. The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and local governments included in President-elect Biden’s American Rescue Plan would allow cities to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery. Providing direct, flexible aid to cities is the most efficient and immediate way to help families and their communities who have been suffering for far too long.”

“Furthermore, cities must be central to a deliberate strategy to accelerate vaccinations throughout the country,” **the mayors continued**. “We support President-elect Biden’s proposal to mount a national vaccination

program and the provision of additional resources to cities to bolster our efforts to contain the spread of the virus.”

“Your quick action on President-elect Biden’s plan is a crucial step to making meaningful progress in one of the most challenging moments in our country’s history. The United States Conference of Mayors is eager to work with Congress and the incoming Administration to meet this challenge. We encourage you to take up the President-elect’s rescue plan as soon as possible in the 117th Congress.”

January 18, 2021

Wednesday, Jan. 20, Saturday, Jan. 30 Food Appointments Available

Can't get to CAC during the weekday? **Call 816-763-3277 x 100 for an appointment** to pick up food 4 - 6 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 20, or 9 am to noon, Saturday, Jan. 30. Note: We cannot make appointments Saturday morning before distribution AND if you do not have an appointment, you may need to call for one for another time. For new south Kansas City clients, bring photo ID, social security cards for all in the family, mail with address and proof of income. For returning clients, bring ID.

CAC's Next Free Classes - Jan. 22, 26, 29

All classes are free and open to anyone interested (participants do not have to meet income or geographic guidelines unless noted). Current CAC clients are encouraged to sign up for classes. For more information on all classes, contact Julie Reid,

julie.reid@cackc.org, 816-763-3277 x 110. Download PDF of December classes [HERE](#). Register online [HERE](#).

Addressing and Managing Challenging Behavior in Children: Jan. 22, 1 – 2 pm

- For anyone interested in learning effective skills for rewarding and motivating children
- Presented by Tonika Benson, Community Education Manager, Child Abuse Prevention
- Register [HERE](#) to receive a ZOOM for video or phone call link for the session

Parenting is hard work! But it can also be fun and rewarding. There are many things you can do to help build a safe, stable, and nurturing relationship with your child. This session will help parents handle some common parenting challenges, so they can be a more confident parent and enjoy helping their child grow.

CAC Cooks! Jan. 26, 1 – 1:45 pm

- For anyone looking for healthier meal options.
- Presented by Rachel Casey, Community Assistance Council executive director
- This session will be presented on Facebook Live

CAC's Rachel Casey will use ingredients from this month's food distribution to make two winter hardy dishes - Chicken Pasta and Mexican Lentil Soup. Join us for the January edition of CAC Cooks!

Interacting with Individuals with Mental Health Issues:

Jan. 29, 1 – 2 pm

- Presented by Shane Young, MSW, ReDiscover Mental Health Center
- Register [HERE](#) to receive Google Meets for video or phone call links for the session

Those who attend will learn:

- How stigmatizing language influences connection with clients.
- About Schizophrenia, Bipolar, and Borderline and how to work with clients

who are diagnosed with these illnesses.

- Tips for interacting with people who are diagnosed with a mental illness.
- To identify a mental health crisis and how to navigate a crisis.
- About the LEAP concept.
- How to manage escalating behaviors.

Those who pre-register and attend the behaviors in children or mental health sessions may receive their choice of a \$10 Walmart or QT gas gift card.

For these and all classes, including recorded available anytime, visit www.cackc.org/classesresources. Recorded classes include: Mindfulness, Autogenic Muscle Relaxation, Trauma Informed Care, KCMO Landlord-Tenant University.

Questions, or interested in presenting a class, or have a request for a topic?

Contact Julie Reid at 816-763-3277 x 110, julie.reid@cackc.org.

CAC Needs Volunteers

Are you available on Fridays or Wednesdays?

CAC needs a Friday volunteer who will check in clients who drive up for food appointments, following safety precautions. This is an active job that directly helps folks in SKC. On Wednesday (when there are few staff in the building), we could use someone who likes to clean out and organize files and storage and help with mailings. If interested /available, contact Julie Reid, julie.reid@cackc.org, 816-763-3277 x 110

Community Assistance Council is the social services agency that covers South Kansas City, including all of Hickman Mills and Center School Districts, with a food pantry, Happy Bottom diapers and pull-ups, Giving the Basics hygiene items, KC Medicine Cabinet medicines and equipment, emergency rent and

utilities assistance and limited case management. We'd love to give you a tour or provide a program for your organization!



SNAP/Food Stamp benefits get temporary 15% increase through June

This month, the USDA started a temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamp benefit increase. If your household gets SNAP/Food Stamp benefits, this means your household will automatically get a 15 percent increase from January through June 2021.

For the month of January, Missouri issued P-SNAP maximizing benefits for every household based on its size. The chart below shows the new maximum monthly SNAP amount that includes the 15 percent increase Missouri households received in January.

IMPORTANT: If you get SNAP benefits, note that your amount may come as a single payment or as two separate payments totaling the new amount.

Check out our [media release](#) for full details.

Reminders:

- It is important for you to report to the Family Support Division (FSD) if you now have an income above the maximum limit (contact information below).

- If you are an able-bodied adult without a dependent, you must report any change in your circumstances to FSD (contact information below).

Questions:

- Visit myDSS.mo.gov to start a chat and get immediate answers to basic questions that are not specific to your case 24 hours a day.
- Call the FSD Information Line at **855-FSD-INFO** or (855-373-4636) Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Aldi now offers SNAP/Food Stamp online purchases

This month, Aldi became Missouri's newest retailer to accept EBT card to purchase groceries online. Online purchasing can help Missourians remain safe during COVID-19 and winter weather conditions.

SNAP/Food Stamp recertification paperwork still required

To continue getting SNAP/Food Stamp benefits, you still need to submit your completed recertification form when it's due along with any requested documents.

What you need to do to continue SNAP benefits:

Submit your completed recertification form when it's due along with any requested documents.

What has changed:

Until June 2021, **you do not need to call FSD for an interview** for SNAP recertification. Only **NEW** SNAP/Food Stamp applicants are required to do interviews.



A JOINT VENTURE

The Kansas City International Airport (KCI) New Terminal Project's Workforce Training Program (WTP) is a three-week paid classroom training program designed to provide access to careers in the construction industry for Kansas City area residents with little to no construction experience.

The WTP curriculum focuses on construction math skills, jobsite safety, First Aid and CPR training, financial literacy, diversity/inclusion training, and trade-specific involvement.

Applications for the 2021 classes are open through Friday, 1/29.

We are looking to select approximately 150 participants for the remaining six classes scheduled to take place between March and November 2021.

WTP INFORMATION & APPLICATION LINK

When applying, you will be asked to rank your top three construction trades for employment consideration. Please [click here](#) and review the various trades available prior to completing the application.

If you applied in 2019 for the WTP but were not selected for a class, you will need to re-apply to be considered for the 2021 classes.

Learn more about the WTP, application process, participant benefits, and how to apply by watching a [pre-recorded virtual information session](#). For other frequently asked questions, please [visit our website](#).

Pre- Registration is Required

Use this Link to Register

<https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=2730>

TESTING IS INSIDE THE BUILDING



Helping you stay safe!

FREE COVID TESTING

Everyone must pre-register online for an appointment at:
<https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=2730>

Location:

Bruce R. Watkins
Cultural Heritage Center
3700 Blue Parkway
KCMO 64130

Date:

Monday, January 4th
Monday, January 11th
Monday, January 25th
Monday, February 1st

Time:

9:00am - 3:00pm

For Information:

DaRon McGee
dmcgee@cb-kc.org

A Special Thanks to Our Community Partners:





Harvest Report



BROOKSIDE
FARMERS'
MARKET



Select
Saturdays
9:00 AM - Noon

NOVEMBER
7th, 14th, 21st

DECEMBER
5th, 12th, 19th

JANUARY
2nd, 16th

FEBRUARY
6th, 20th

MARCH
6th, 20th

Winter Market

HJ's Community Center
6425 Wornall Road

SUSTAINABLE FARMS
ARTISAN FOOD
LOCAL PRODUCE
HOLIDAY GIFTS

sponsored by



www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com

South KC Mobile Food Pantries

With so many people out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic, a growing number of families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to five sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

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 food will be loaded in the vehicles when they reach the school by staff and student volunteers. This event is sponsored by the school and Community Assistance Council.

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.

Center High School, 8715 Holmes Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as long as food is left on the third Saturday of the month. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Coronavirus Facts and Resources

Kansas City

If you would like to receive updates about what the City is doing in response to the coronavirus, text **COVIDKC** to **888777** or go online to kcmo.gov/coronavirus

Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a [hotline](#) for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19.

The statewide hotline number is **877-435-8411**. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

UNEMPLOYMENT

How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll need the following:

- Your Social Security number;
- Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;

- The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
- The dates you started and ended work at each of those jobs.

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch [this video](#) on unemployment basics. Visit uinteract.labor.mo.gov, create an account and file your claim. If your job loss is related to coronavirus issues, make sure to check a box that says “COVID-19” in your application to waive a requirement to search for a new job amid the crisis.

Missouri provides benefits for up to 20 weeks, which can be extended to 33 weeks under the federal provisions.

The state will pay you up to \$320 per week, and the federal government will provide \$600 on top of whatever you get from the state for each week you're on unemployment prior to July 31.

Benefits can be paid within 22 days unless there is an issue with your eligibility, which on average can take 4-6 weeks to resolve.

You should continue filing weekly requests for payment even if you have not yet received benefits.

Regional Claims Center representatives are available by phone Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM by calling:

Kansas City Claims Center: [816-889-3101](tel:816-889-3101) or visit

[Missouri Unemployment Website](#)

Please visit the Missouri Department of Labor's website for more information about COVID-19 FAQ's for Businesses and Workers: <https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus>

US Department of Labor has a few sites dedicated to Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KcCrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives

Room 102-BA

201 W Capitol Ave

Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Phone

573-751-9469

Email

mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

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