



Dear

Neighbor,

My legislative colleagues from our area and I will discuss the major issues that will be considered by the 2021 session of the Missouri General Assembly during a virtual ZOOM webinar **from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 14**, sponsored by the South Kansas City Alliance.

We will also discuss our top priorities for the session that begins January 6 and take questions about state issues during the legislative panel discussion. **Please see the SKCA newsletter below for the link and call-in information for the event.**

One of my top priorities will be to pass House Bill 99, the bill I introduced to enact **Blair's Law** to make discharging a firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits a state offense. It is named after Blair Shanahan Lane, the 11-year-old girl killed here by celebratory gunfire.

I greatly appreciate the KCMO City Council on December 10 approving a resolution that included supporting passage of Blair's Law with the rest of the city's positions on upcoming state legislation.

Reckless celebratory gunfire on certain holidays and special occasions can make some of our neighborhoods sound like war zones. Hopefully enhancing the penalties for such irresponsible behavior as has been done recently in other states such as Arizona and Virginia, coupled with a major public education program about the dangers of reckless gunfire in urban areas, can significantly reduce such gunfire before anyone else is killed.

Governor Mike Parson today signed into law the supplemental spending bill that included \$2 million to fund the legislation I co-sponsored that created a new statewide pretrial witness protection program.

I am urging that this program be quickly implemented to encourage people to testify so that more of the persistent violent offenders who commit many of our city's most violent crimes can be successfully prosecuted and incarcerated before they can hurt more victims.

As of December 10, KCMO had recorded 170 homicides so far this year, far exceeding the highest number of homicides for any year in the city's history (151) set in 2017 and 2019. We all have to do everything in our power to reverse this wave of deadly violence!

Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant [Brian Farmer](#) is ready to help you.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless!

Yours in Service,
Mark A. Sharp



These are just some of the many blankets donated by caring area residents that were collected by Kansas City police officers and their helpers at a Spread the Warmth event December 3 at the South Patrol Police Campus. The blankets, along with toys collected at a Cram-A-Cruiser toy drive the day before at the 7-Eleven at 10615 Blue Ridge Blvd. sponsored by the Police Department and 7-Eleven, Inc., will be given to south Kansas City families in need at a Because We Care event Dec. 19 hosted by several area churches and organizations.

Mark A. Sharp
WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE
Friday, December 11, 2020

LAWS USED TO BLOCK ABORTION VOTE RULED

UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A Cole County judge on Dec. 4 ruled unconstitutional two state statutes Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft invoked last year to block Missouri voters from having a chance to decide whether legislation which criminalized performing most abortions after just eight weeks of pregnancy should become law.

After the Missouri General Assembly enacted House Bill 126 which included other abortion restrictions on the last day of the 2019 legislative session before I took office, opponents of the bill quickly filed a referendum petition, which forces a statewide vote on a bill passed by lawmakers and signed by the governor and prevents it from taking effect unless approved by voters.

Ashcroft initially declared the petition unconstitutional because a portion of HB 126 was subject to an emergency clause causing it to take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor, and the state constitution prohibits referendums on bills that already have become law.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by petition organizers, the Missouri Court of Appeals said on July 8, 2019, that the secretary of state has no authority to declare petitions unconstitutional and ordered him to certify the petition.

However, Ashcroft didn't immediately do so, noting that state law granted him up to 51 days to complete the job. He finally cleared the petition for circulation on Aug. 14, 2019, just two weeks before the deadline for turning in the more than 100,000 signatures from registered voters required to force HB 126 onto the ballot, a likely impossible task by that point.

Ruling in a follow-up lawsuit to prevent Ashcroft from blocking future referendum attempts, Cole County Judge Jon Beetem noted that for a bill passed on the final day of a legislative session, the deadline for submitting a referendum petition is just 90 days from then, but that the challenged statutes allow state officials to take away up to 51 of those days. As a result, Beetem said those statutes unconstitutionally impede the right of citizens to force statewide votes on legislative acts.

"No pre-circulation presentment to the government is contemplated by the constitution," Beetem wrote. "Bestowing on state officials the authority to derail

the referendum petition process by delaying the certification of an official ballot title is contrary to the plain language of (the constitution) and the primary objectives of the reservation of the referendum power.”

Although Ashcroft successfully stymied the HB 126 referendum, most of the bill’s key provisions have been blocked by a federal judge, who ruled they violate the U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade* protecting abortion rights.

MEASURE SEEKS REJECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The leadership of the Missouri House of Representatives extended a special legislative session that was expected to end on Dec. 10 to consider a non-binding resolution calling on Congress to reject the presidential election results of six states won by former Vice President Joe Biden.

Sixty-seven House Republicans, including House Majority Leader Rob Vescovo, had signed a letter to departing House Speaker Elijah Haahr, R-Springfield, asking him to extend the special session, which Gov. Mike Parson called last month for lawmakers to enact a supplemental spending bill including funding for the new witness protection program. Vescovo is slated to become Speaker when the regular legislative session begins Jan. 6.

House Resolution 2 introduced by Rep. Justin Hill of St. Charles County cites unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – states won by Biden. A House committee is expected to hear the resolution on Dec. 14, with the full 163-member chamber to convene amid the worsening COVID-19 pandemic to debate the measure shortly thereafter.

The Senate permanently adjourned from the special session on Dec. 10 and will not consider the measure. As a purely symbolic resolution with no force of law, no Senate action on HR 2 is required.

HR 2 was filed one day after Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt joined a lawsuit brought by Texas asking the U.S. Supreme Court to directly intervene in the presidential election and throw out the election’s results in four states

carried by Biden – Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

To date, no lawsuits challenging the presidential election results in any state have been successful.

NET GENERAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS UP IN NOVEMBER

Net state general revenue collections for November 2020 increased 14.5 percent compared to November 2019, going from \$708.5 million last year to \$811.1 million this year. The boost was driven by strong growth in individual and corporate income tax collections compared to last November.

Year-to-date net general revenue collections through the first five months of the 2021 fiscal year which started July 1 were up 23.3 percent compared to the same period in FY 2020, going from \$3.68 billion last year to \$4.53 billion this year.

However, the year-to-date revenue figures are inflated by the fact that this year's income tax filing deadline was delayed from April to July due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thus pushing revenue that normally would have been collected in FY 2020 into the early months of FY 2021.



Dedicated to a Unified Vision for South Kansas City, Missouri



All the returning and recently elected state legislators who represent significant parts of south Kansas City will discuss the major issues expected to be considered by the 2021 session of the Missouri General Assembly as well as their own priorities for the session at a virtual ZOOM webinar of the South Kansas City Alliance from **6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 14.**

Please see the following link and call-in information to participate.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Dec 14, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: South Kansas City Alliance Annual Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81984007500?pwd=Q1lJMVpTYTZtcFF4R2U2NXpjMGhkQT09>

Passcode: 142892

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,81984007500#,,,,,0#,,142892# or

+13126266799,,81984007500#,,,,,0#,,142892#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833
Webinar ID: 819 8400 7500
Passcode: 142892
International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81984007500>

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2020

Governor Parson Announces FY 2022 Consensus Revenue Estimate

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today, Governor Mike Parson announced the state’s Consensus Revenue Estimate (CRE) for Fiscal Year 2022.

The annual CRE is a figure established by state budget experts and outside consultants and is one of the basic assumptions used by the Governor and legislative leaders to build and balance Missouri’s budget.

“I want to thank Senator Dan Hegeman and Representative Cody Smith for their hard work and cooperation in developing this revenue estimate,” **Governor Parson** said. “COVID-19 has had an overwhelming impact on our economy, but we are already making a strong recovery and remain optimistic for the coming year. We look forward to working with the General Assembly this session to create a balanced and responsible budget for the people of Missouri.”

The key figure in the CRE is the projected general revenue collections. Net general revenue collections in FY22 are expected to be \$9.78 billion. This represents a net decrease of \$418.8 million over the estimated revenue for FY21.

The estimate for FY22 assumes a decrease of 4.1 percent. The revised estimate for the current fiscal year (FY21) is \$10.2 billion. This estimate is artificially high due to the income tax filing date being moved from April 15 in

FY20 to July 15 in FY21, resulting in two income tax filing dates in FY21. The FY22 estimate reflects a return to a single filing date in the fiscal year.

“I am pleased we were able to arrive at a consensus revenue estimate for FY22. The House, Senate, and Governor stand ready to work together to address the needs of Missourians as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Senator Dan Hegeman, Senate Appropriations Chairman**.

“We are in the midst of the most trying economic times in a generation. Forecasting revenue growth is particularly challenging this year. Therefore, I'm pleased to put forward a conservative revenue estimate to which the House, Senate, and Governor have agreed,” said **Representative Cody Smith, House Budget Chairman**.

Governor Parson will detail his proposed budget for FY22 during the State of the State address in January.

THE FIRST AWARD OF THE MEMORIAL MEDAL OF TREE OF PEACE TO SOUTH KC RESIDENT

Žilina, October 28, 2020. The civic association Servare et Manere, as the responsible organization for the implementation of the international initiative Tree of Peace, had the honour of awarding the Memorial Medal of Tree of Peace to Mr. Ross P. Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest USA for noteworthy merit for the implementation of the project in the United States. Thanks to Mr. Marine, it was possible to plant the Tree of Peace in an extremely important place for American and world military history. On Friday, June 21, 2019, at 5:00 pm, [the ninth Tree of Peace](#) was planted on the north lawn of the National World War I Museum and Memorial of the United States in Kansas City in the state of Missouri. The event took place also under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York.

In the United States the project also received the significant honour. Thanks to Mr. Marine's initiative, an official Congressional Record was issued in Washington on June 20, 2019. The Record of the United States House of

Representatives with № 104 was signed by Emanuel Cleaver II, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Servare et Manere expresses the gratitude by awarding a Memorial Medal of Tree of Peace, which may be granted to personalities, who are personally involved in planting, or people and governmental or non-governmental organizations who have made a contribution to spreading ideas of understanding and union among nations, as well as have made a contribution to the spreading and implementation of the project. This award is also given for significant environmental merits leading to sustainable development of human society and use of natural resources. The number of laureates is limited to 60 people including organizations.

The Memorial Medal of Tree of Peace was awarded on September 28, 2020 on the second anniversary of the Tree of Peace initiative and was awarded for the first time since the establishment of this award. Unfortunately, the well-known complications caused by coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic affect all spheres of cultural and social life. For this reason, the award was sent only by post. We believe that the actions of Mr. Ross Marine will be inspiring for other future supporters and friends of the Tree of Peace project. *Once again, cordially congratulations to the laureate!*

saturday,
december

12th

1-5 PM



Santa's coming to
**RED BRIDGE
SHOPPING CENTER**

... and he needs your help!

drive-by _____

TOY DRIVE

benefiting:



Children's Mercy
KANSAS CITY

**Spread some holiday cheer without
ever leaving your car!**

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Red Bridge collecting toys to deliver to local families at Children's Mercy Hospital. Stop by to see Santa and share your holiday spirit by donating a new, unused toy to a child in need.



Located near Caleb's at
Red Bridge Shopping Center



redbridgeshoppingcenter.com



FREE LIVESTREAM DISCOVERY CONCERT

HOLIDAY BLISS will be a nostalgic nod to televised specials hosted by crooners Bing Crosby, Andy Williams, and Perry Como. **Just as in those shows from decades past, star tenor Ben Bliss will be joined by his musical family including the band Barnaby Bright, and special guests in an hour-long celebration** presented by the Harriman-Jewell Series at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 12, 2020.

Prairie Village, Kansas native Ben Bliss is coming home for the holidays. The tenor sang his American recital debut presented by the Harriman-Jewell Series in October 2016, and in 2019 he performed the role of Belmonte in the Lyric Opera of Kansas City's production of *Abduction from the Seraglio*.

Ben's guests will include his sister and brother-in-law Becky and Nathan Bliss. The talented duo's band **Barnaby Bright** has opened for Norah Jones and the Lumineers, and has just released a Christmas album, *Bleak Midwinter*.

The concert will feature some of Kansas City's favorite musicians, including **pianist Mark Lowrey, bassist Joey Panella, drummer Sam Wisman, cellist Sascha Groschang, vocalist Carmen Dieker**, and a surprise guest or two!

Please join the Harriman-Jewell Series for this free livestream concert performed at Kansas City's 1900 Building. **The concert will not have an in-person audience, but visit [HJSERIES.ORG](https://hjseries.org) at the time of the performance to watch live!**

[VIEW EVENT PAGE](#)

YOU ARE INVITED TO

UMKC Center for Neighborhoods Virtual

Holiday Party

TUESDAY

Dec
15

6 - 7:30PM
(ON ZOOM)

LIVE MUSIC

Best Holiday Background Contest

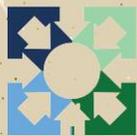
Ugly Sweater Contest

Best Dressed Contest (Holiday Edition)

Door Prizes and MORE!

*Please join us for our
neighborhood-wide event
in this time of
celebration!*

Join here - <https://bit.ly/cfnholiday>

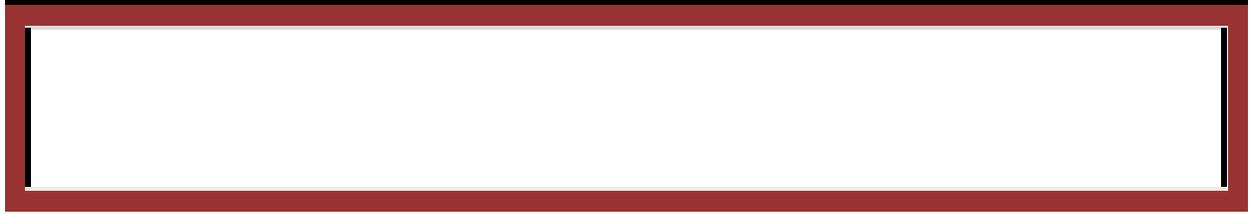


UMKC

Center for Neighborhoods
Architecture, Urban Planning + Design

WWW.CFN.UMKC.EDU





St. Joseph Medical Center

**HONKING
FOR
HEROES**

Tuesday, December 15 • 4 to 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Medical Center

1000 Carondelet Drive • Kansas City MO 64114

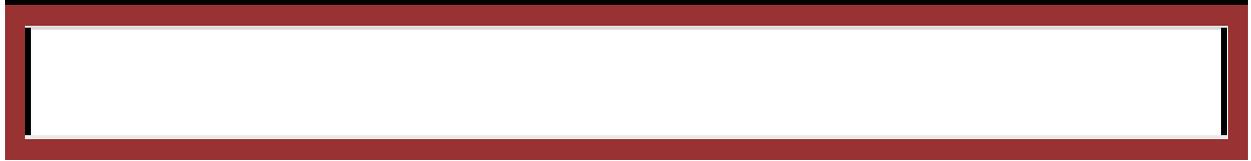
*Park where you can find space around the
St. Joseph Medical Center campus and **honk that horn!***

Come show your appreciation for our employees working day in and day out caring for our community. We are requiring everyone stay in their cars for their safety and to maintain social distancing.



**St. Joseph
Medical Center**

Your Health. Our Calling.





*Helping you stay safe this
Holiday Season!*

FREE COVID TESTING
FREE FLU SHOTS

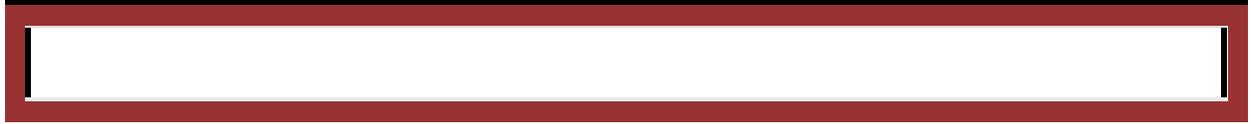
Location:
Robert J. Mohart Center
3200 Wayne Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64109

Date:
Saturday, December 19th
Time:
11:00am - 2:30pm

For Information:
DaRon McGee
dmcgee@cb-kc.org

A Special Thanks to Our Community Partners:







Be a part of the 12th Annual Grandview C Trivia Night

Thursday, January 14, 2020

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TRIVIA NIGHT IS GOING VIRAL

Presented by Grandview Education Foundation
Supports teacher grants, student scholarships and programs
Hosted through TriviaHub, join us for a competitive game
Gather your team through a Zoom platform (together or
separately)
More information on team dynamics available after registration is received
Win the coveted BRAIN TRIVIA NIGHT TROPHY!

BE A SPONSOR

Circle level, or visit <https://bit.ly/GEFTriviaNight> to pay online
Mensa - \$1,000 Genius - \$500
Brainiac - \$250 Know-It-All - \$100

FORM A TEAM

\$100 for a team of up to 8 players. All Welcome!
Clever team names, uniforms, cheers, and more will be applauded and awarded! Registration is available online at: <https://bit.ly/GEFTriviaNight>

DONATE GOODS OR SERVICES

With a virtual format, we will gladly accept donations of gift cards or certificates
offer as prizes throughout the evening. Thank you for your consideration!

Item _____

Retail Value \$ _____

Contact Mary King, 816-977-5765, to arrange pickup of item, or arrange to drop-off.

Sponsors, donors and teams will be recognized throughout evening



www.grandvieweducationfoundation.org

PO Box 546 • Grandview, MO

Need Help Paying for Internet?

The [Internet Access Support Program](#) has funds available to pay for Internet service. If COVID has made it more difficult for you to afford Internet, the IASP can help you:

1. Establish new service
2. Pay off an old balance
3. Pay for ongoing service

The IASP can pay for up to 6 months of service. The program is only open to families with limited income. To qualify, you need to earn less than 2x the federal poverty rate.

Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis. So do not wait. Apply now! Visit kconnect.me or call **(816) 200-0599** to apply.

Harvest Report



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.

1 of 1



COVID-19

FREE TESTING CLINIC

Testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals

Walk-ins welcome, appointments preferred



Monday - Friday

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Lunch will be held from 11:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.,
and there will not be testing during this time.*

Visit jaco hd.org/events to see
dates + locations and to register.

Testing provided by the Jackson County Health Department

Truman Medical Centers has available services for Jackson County residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



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:

1. Your Social Security number;
2. Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;
3. The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
4. 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 REWARD



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KcCrimestoppers.co



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives

Room 109G

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!**