



Dear Neighbor,

This week two of my colleagues and I presented legislation in a bipartisan effort that would either remove all sales tax or reduce sales tax on diaper products and feminine hygiene products.

Representative Dottie Bailey, Republican from St. Louis County, and I share identical language in our bills (House Bills 1679 and 2859) that would remove all sales tax across the state including local and state sales tax from diaper products. Currently, diaper products in Missouri are taxed at a “luxury” rate alongside clothes and cars.

We presented this language to ease the burden on new parents and families. Our legislation would roughly save new parents and families with a newborn \$60-\$90 a year in taxes, which can then go towards formula, breast-pumping equipment, medicine and of course, more diapers. The average newborn requires 4,600-4,800 diapers a year.

Representative Rasheen Aldridge, Democrat from St. Louis City, was there with us presenting House Bill 2272 that reduces the state sales tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products to match the sales tax on food, 1.225%.

At least 30% of new parents have difficulty purchasing new diapers for their newborns, forcing some families to reuse dirty diapers, which can lead to a variety of health issues for babies.

Our elderly can also experience issues with purchasing incontinence products. AARP was there to testify in favor saying, "many of our members are on a fixed income and for those who aren't able to afford adult diapers it can cause bed sores and make it more difficult for our elderly to function normally in social settings."

The committee Chair and members of the committee all acknowledged that we need to join the 16 other states that have passed similar legislation and change how we tax items that are necessities, especially for our most vulnerable children and elderly.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to support or oppose, please email me at Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide [Kaylee Bauer](#) is ready to help you.

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

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



Two of my House colleagues and I presented House Bills 1679 (Sharp, left), 2272 (Aldridge, middle) and 2859 (Bailey, right) to the Ways and Means Committee. Representative Bailey and I share the same language in our bills which removes all sales tax from diaper products, while Representative Aldridge's bill reduces the sales tax for diapers and feminine hygiene products. Each of us shared reasons why it is so important to help parents, women and elderly persons afford these essential products.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, March 25th, 2022

SENATE PASSES CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

Following months of inaction, the Missouri Senate voted 20-10 on March 24 in favor of a plan to redraw Missouri's eight congressional districts that appears likely to preserve the current partisan split of six Republicans and two Democrats. However, the bill faces an uncertain reception when it returns to the House of Representatives.

The Senate action came just five days before candidate filing for the Aug. 2 congressional primary elections is set to close on March 29. However, there is still no guarantee new districts will be in place by that time since it is unclear if the House will accept the Senate's version. Although the Senate version maintained the same likely partisan split, its district boundaries are radically different from those the House approved in January.

Even if the House accepts the Senate version, whether the redistricting measure - House Bill 2117 - can take legal effect in time remains in question since bills passed during the regular legislative session normally take effect Aug. 28. In this case that would be nearly four weeks after the primary.

Although the Senate voted 30-2 to attach an emergency clause allowing the bill to become law immediately upon being signed by the governor, the House failed to do so when it originally approved the bill. The House will have a chance to reconsider the emergency clause, but approval requires a two-thirds majority, which the House fell 14 votes short of achieving on its previous vote.

The redistricting process had stalled over the insistence of a small group of hardline conservative Republican senators on carving up a normally safe Democratic seat in the Kansas City area now held by Congressman Emanuel Cleaver to create what they claimed would be a 7-1 partisan split favoring their party. Mainstream Senate Republicans contended that plan actually would have diluted Republican voting strength in adjacent areas to make it possible for Democrats to gain congressional representation. Prior to approving HB 2117, the Senate voted 7-22 to reject the hardliners' proposal.

Since both chambers have adjourned for the weekend, the earliest the redistricting bill can win final approval is March 28. If the House refuses to accept the Senate version, the two chambers can try to negotiate a compromise bill. If lawmakers are unable to agree, the possibility of a court drawing Missouri's new congressional districts, as happened in 1972 and 1982, becomes increasingly likely.

HOUSE APPROVES LEGALIZED SPORTS WAGERING

The House of Representatives voted 115-35 on March 23 to pass a bill seeking to legalize sports wagering in Missouri. The measure now heads to the Senate, where similar legislation in recent years has bogged down over unsuccessful efforts to add provisions to crack down on the proliferation of illegal slot machines.

Under the Missouri Constitution, lawmakers have no authority to legalize games of chance, which is why previous efforts that legalized various forms of gambling, such as charity bingo, the state lottery and casinos, have been done by voter-approved constitutional amendment.

House Bill 2502 seeks to get around this constitutional

prohibition by defining wagering on athletic competitions as a “game of skill.” Whether that maneuver can survive court scrutiny if challenged remains to be seen.

HB 2502 would authorize sports wagering through Missouri’s 13 casinos and also allow betting through mobile applications. The measure would levy an 8 percent tax on a licensed sports book’s gross receipts. The Kansas City Royals, St. Louis Cardinals, Kansas City Chiefs, St. Louis City Soccer Club and the National Hockey League Players Association all testified in favor of the bill before a House committee.

REVISED PROTECTIONS ADVANCE FOR SURVIVORS

One week after the Missouri Supreme Court unanimously ruled a Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights enacted in 2020 was unconstitutional, the Senate on March 22 granted first-round approval to legislation creating a scaled back version of the law. A second vote is needed to send it to the House of Representatives for consideration..

The high court said the previous law’s requirement that defense attorneys must provide certain information and disclosures to sexual assault victims put them in the position of advocating for the victims and created a conflict with their duty to represent their clients.

As a result the court ruled it violated the free speech rights of defense attorneys and the due process rights of criminal defendants.

Senate Bill 775 would provide new services for sexual assault victims without imposing any requirements on criminal defense attorneys.

The bill would grant survivors the right to consult with a rape crisis center, have a sexual assault forensic examination, be provided a shower and change of clothing, and request that medical examinations or police interviews be conducted by someone of the gender of the survivor's choosing. The measure also contains provisions relating to other sexual offenses.

JOB FAIR

PUBLIC WORKS *is*
HOSTING a JOB FAIR!

**CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI**

DAY:

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 26**

TIME:

**9 AM -
1 PM**

PLACE:

**ROBERT J.
MOHART CENTER**



**KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI**

FOR MORE
INFORMATION, VISIT
KCMO.GOV/JOBS

FREE SATURDAY NATURE PROGRAM

for 4th-8th Graders

MARCH 26 - MAY 14 2022



Enjoy some "me" time while your child makes new friends and has fun in nature!

DATES

Saturdays March 26 - May 14, 2022

TIME

10am - 12pm

with 30 minutes of optional creative play before and after class

LOCATIONS

At 2 different locations:

- Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost
- Lakeside Nature Center, 4701 East Gregory Blvd.



SIGN-UP NOW! → Full details and registration at: greenworkskc.org/programs

Questions? Contact Desiree@greenworkskc.org



Please Join Us

JOINT CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Friday, April 1, 2022
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



KCPD - South Patrol Division
9701 Marion Park Drive
Kansas City, MO 64134



Kansas City, Missouri Police Chief Community Listening Sessions

YOU ARE INVITED to share your thoughts and help strengthen community trust between Kansas City residents and the KCMO Police Department by attending a free **Community Listening Session**. The discussions will be future-focused, centered on the desired priorities for and possible qualifications of the next KCMO Chief of Police. The findings from the community sessions will be presented to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners at an upcoming Police Board meeting. **Walk-ins are welcome**, or you can RSVP at www.eventbrite.com; search for Kansas City Police Listening to register.

***Northland Community Listening Session**

Tue, March 29, 2022 6-8 PM
Northland Neighborhoods Inc.
5340 NE Chouteau Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64119

East Side Community Listening Session

Sat, April 2, 2022 10 AM-Noon
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center
3700 Blue Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64130

South Kansas City Community Listening Session

Sat, April 2, 2022 10 AM-Noon
Evangel Church
1414 E. 103rd St.
Kansas City, MO 64131

***West Side Community Listening Session**

Wed, April 6, 2022 6-8 PM
Mattie Rhodes Center
1701 Jarboe St.
Kansas City, MO 64108

***Northeast Community Listening Session**

Thurs, April 7, 2022 6-8 PM
Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
2657 Independence Ave
Kansas City, MO 64124

***Midtown/Downtown Community Listening Session**

Thurs, April 14, 2022 3:30-5:30 PM
KC Chamber Board Room at Union Station
30 W Pershing Road, First Floor
Kansas City, MO 64108

**virtual option available*

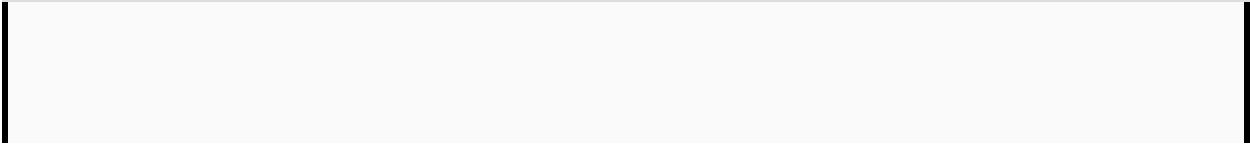
EVERY VOICE MATTERS

These sessions are presented by a coalition of business, civic, and interfaith organizations working together throughout Kansas City.

- Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City
- Black Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
- Civic Council of Greater Kansas City
- Downtown Council
- Getting to the Heart of the Matter
- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
- Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
- Hispanic Economic Development Corporation
- KC Common Good
- Northeast Chamber of Commerce
- Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Prospect Business Association
- South Kansas City Alliance
- South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

**Can't attend a session?
Scan the QR code below
and fill out the online survey.**







Brunch + Broadband



Hosted by

Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II
State Representative Michael Johnson
City Councilwoman Melissa Robinson

Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m.

Robert Mohart Center

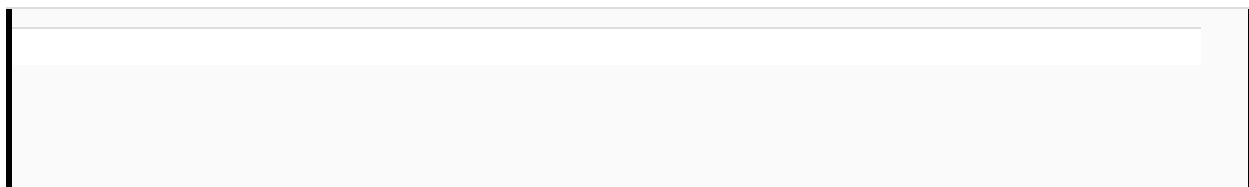
3200 Wayne, Kansas City, Missouri

Open to the Public, RSVP Requested

lisa.ross@kcmo.org or call

816-513-6513







GRANDVIEW
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
students • staff • community

Please join us for the

Jane Bryan Distinguished Alumni Awards Brunch

*Saturday, April 9, 2022
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

*Armacost Car Museum
4200 E. 135th Street
Grandview, MO 64030*

*Tickets: \$40/person; \$300/table of 8
Purchase ticket here: <https://forms.gle/4h5wUTdo2RFP9YFP8>
(Please note the venue does not allow children under 16)*

2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients:

*Andre L. Davis
Corporate & Community Engagement Executive
1985 Graduate*

*Ryan P. Hobbs
Assistant Professor at Penn State College of Medicine
2000 Graduate*

*Annette Turnbaugh
Missouri State Representative ♦ 1976 Graduate*

Little Blue River Cleanup April 16, 2022

9am-1pm @ Little Blue Valley Park

8259 S. Noland Rd. KCMO

Register Online

mostreamteam.org/calendar-of-events.html

or

SCAN ME





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CERTIFICATION**



Need Help Paying for Internet?

The COVID-19 pandemic has made internet access more important than ever. If you need internet access for work, school, job seeking, or accessing services, we may be able to help.

This program is open to people who live in the greater KC region. It is only open to households with limited incomes.

It can help you:

- Find affordable internet service
- Pay off an old balance
- Get caught up on your current internet service
- Pay for internet service for six months

Funds are limited. Apply Now!

Call **816-200-0599**, visit
<https://kcconnect.me>
or scan this code with your
mobile device. Some
restrictions apply.



Medicaid Enrollment

We can help!

Kansas City Health Department

2400 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108

Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

FREE assistance

from experts with

KC Care Health Center & Swope Health

(Since Medicaid was expanded to include more people,
you could be eligible!)



swopeHEALTH





SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night
5:00 - 7:30 PM

- Open to Ages 8-13
- Dinner Provided

9701 Marion Park Drive | KCMO 64137
2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



ONE TIME REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR!

FREE

Smoke Alarm

816-513-4648

KCFD

CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

For more Fire Safety information visit:

KCMO.GOV/FIRE

KIDS EAT FREE



MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

**UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
5600 E. 112 TERRACE, KCMO 64134**

FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 314.701.7245 OR EMAIL US
AT KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM

**THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*



South KC Mobile Food Pantries

Many 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 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.



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!**