

Dear Neighbor,

With only four weeks left in the regular legislative session, in an effort to get proposals enacted into law before adjournment we have started to see a plethora of amendments added to seemingly unrelated bills.

This Wednesday we saw an amendment that seeks to allow any public school district to prohibit transgender girls from competing in girls' sports if approved by a public vote in the district added to an elections bill. Many of us thought the amendment was outside the scope of the underlying bill. (The Missouri State High School Activities Association which oversees high school sports in the state has reported that only two transgender girls have sought to play on girls' teams in Missouri in the last decade.)

The Missouri House spent about three hours debating this amendment that I opposed before a motion passed cutting off debate, leaving little time to discuss the major changes to our election laws being proposed in the underlying bill that many of us think are unconstitutional. The amended bill won first round approval on a voice vote, but still needs to pass a roll call vote to be advanced to the Senate for consideration.

This week House Bill 2627 that I sponsored was heard by the Senate Progress and Development Committee, where it was heard and voted on in the same hearing, passing with no opposition.

House Bill 2627 would officially establish February as Black History Month in Missouri and November as Native American Heritage Month. In the Senate committee two amendments were added to officially establish a week to recognize the accomplishments of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and another week to promote Sickle Cell Awareness. The amended bill has been added to the Senate consent calendar where it has to wait five legislative workdays before it can be brought up on the Senate floor for a vote.

Locally, if you missed any of the listening sessions to give your input on what qualities and qualifications you want our next police chief to have and on what the new chief's top priorities should be, you can click the link below and fill out and submit the online survey. The results will be presented to the Board of Police Commissioners well before it begins to narrow down the list of applicants to be our next chief to a smaller group of finalists.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZMMPPT

If you have young children, the Hillcrest Community Center at 10401 Hillcrest Rd. in my district is hosting an Easter egg hunt for children 1 to 10 years old from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16. Children should have a

container to collect the eggs, and are welcome to enjoy arts & crafts, games and refreshments at the free family event.

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.

Here are my committee appointments:

Crime Prevention
Elementary & Secondary Education
General Laws
Joint Committee on Legislative Research
Special Committee on Urban Issues
Special Committee on Public Policy: Ranking Minority
Member

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, you can contact my legislative aide Kaylee Bauer at <u>Kaylee.Bauer@house.mo.gov</u>.

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*



(Above) The Missouri Legislative Black Caucus was invited to the Governor's Mansion this week. I had a chance to chat with Governor Mike Parson and First Lady Teresa Parson at the event.

(Below) Minister of State of the United Kingdom for Europe and North America James Cleverly (right) addressed the House of Representatives where Rep. Michael Johnson (left) and me were able to talk with him about the importance of maintaining strong relationships with our allies afterwards.



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, April 15th, 2022

ELECTIONS BILL TARGETS TRANSGENDER GIRLS

The House of Representatives on April 13 gave preliminary approval to a wide-ranging elections bill that purports to allow the state to ignore federal election laws not approved by the legislature, fine election officials who follow federal law without legislative approval and impose a photo voter identification requirement, which the Missouri Supreme Court has twice struck down as unconstitutional.

The bill also includes an unrelated provision added by amendment to allow public school districts to prohibit transgender girls from participating in girls' sports if approved by a public vote.

House Bill 2140's many provisions includes one purporting to give the Missouri General Assembly the power to decide what federal election laws the state will follow. Related provisions seek to impose fines of \$5,000 per month on election officials who follow federal law without the legislature's permission. In addition, accepting federal election funding without approval could result in a \$1,000 fine, plus the amount of funding received.

All of these provisions likely violate the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which holds that federal laws are superior to state laws.

The bill also includes the latest attempt to impose a photo voter ID requirement. The state Supreme Court has ruled past attempts violated Missourians' voting rights, and the version in HB 2140 likely would meet the same fate.

The state high court has noted voter impersonation at the polls is the only type of voter fraud a photo ID requirement could prevent, yet allegations of this type of voter fraud faded away in the 1940s in Missouri with the demise of brazenly corrupt political organizations like the Pendergast machine in Kansas City.

Photo ID requirements disproportionately impact racial minorities and other groups that tend to support Democrats.

HB 2140's likely unconstitutional attempts to allow the legislature to nullify federal election laws received little discussion during the bill's debate, with most of the discussion about the adopted amendment that allows each public school district to put a measure on the local ballot that, if approved by voters, would ban transgender girls from participating in girls' sports.

According to the Missouri State High School Activities Association which oversees high school sports in the state, only two transgender girls have sought to play on girls' teams in the last decade.

The House passed the amendment on a near party-line vote of 89-40-3, with just a few Republicans joining most Democrats in opposition. I voted against it.

HB 2140 won initial passage on a voice vote. A second, recorded vote is necessary to advance it to the Senate.

This year's legislative session ends May 13.

PROPOSAL THREATENS MEDICAID EXPANSION

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted 8-5 on April 13 to advance a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at undoing a voter-mandated expansion of eligibility for the state's Medicaid program to cover more uninsured Missourians.

The committee's action puts the measure as close as one Senate vote away from going on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot for voter consideration.

Voters amended the state constitution in 2020 to expand Medicaid coverage, but some Republican lawmakers tried to block its implementation the following year by refusing to provide sufficient funding in the state budget to cover the additional recipients. The Missouri Supreme Court later ruled the constitution still requires the state to provide services to the expanded population, and the legislature later appropriated the necessary funding.

House Joint Resolution 117 would accomplish what the Supreme Court said isn't currently allowed by amending the constitution to empower lawmakers to block services to the expanded population by withholding funding.

The committee's four Democrats were joined by one Republican in opposing the bill.

TEACHING ABOUT RACISM MAY BE LIMITED

The House of Representatives on April 12 granted first-round approval to legislation restricting how the history of racism in America is taught in public schools.

House Bill 1858 sparked extensive debate over the rights of parents to direct their children's education versus the practical reality that in a classroom of two dozen or more students, a teacher can't customize lessons for each child based on what their parents want or don't want taught.

Critics also faulted some of the bill's supporters for attempting to minimize, if not outright ban, teaching about the vicious and often deadly racism that marred much of our country's history and continuing racial injustices.

A second vote is required to advance the bill to the Senate. The bill is one of many filed this year seeking to limit how schools teach about racism, with some of the measures attempting to ban specific books and authors.

LAWMAKER TO BECOME INDEPENDENCE MAYOR

Representative Rory Rowland resigned from the House of Representatives on April 14 after winning election as mayor of Independence the week before.

Rowland had served in the House ever since winning a

2015 special election to fill a vacant seat. He is scheduled to take office as Independence mayor April 18.

Rowland's departure leaves the House with seven vacancies. The seats will remain vacant through the end of the year and will be filled for full two-year terms in the Nov. 8 general election.

SLASHING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ADVANCES

The House of Representatives voted 94-41 on April 14 to advance legislation to the Senate that would slash the maximum number of weeks of unemployment benefits in Missouri from the current 20 weeks to as low as eight weeks.

The vote was along straight party lines, with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed.

The legislation is similar to a bill cutting the maximum length of unemployment benefits that the legislature passed in 2015 which was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon. An attempt to override the governor's veto initially appeared successful, but the Missouri Supreme Court later ruled the Senate's override vote was invalid because it missed the constitutional window for taking its override vote, thus nullifying its passage.

Subsequent attempts to cut unemployment benefits have been made annually ever since but so far have failed to win final passage.





of addit dogs 50 pounds of more and addit cats

At the Kansas City Campus for Animal Care, Zona Rosa Adoption Center, Petco Adoption Center (cats only), and pets in foster homes.

KC PET PROJECT ♥













RIBBON CUTTING!

4:30 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 19 2022 1401 E 77TH TERRACE, KCMO 64131

Join Marlborough Community Land Trust in celebration of the newest addition to Kansas City's perpetually affordable community land trust.

HAPPYHOURTO FOLLOW!







GreenLight Fund | Kansas City PRESENTS



A VIRTUAL LAUNCH OF YOUTH GUIDANCE KANSAS CITY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 20 7PM YOUTH GUIDANCE GUIDING KIDS TO BRIGHT FUTURES

Join us for a free event as we welcome the Youth Guidance **Becoming a Man (BAM®)** and **Working on Womanhood (WOW®)** programs to Kansas City.

BAM® and WOW® provide school-based group counseling and mentoring for students in grades 6-12 to support social-emotional learning and mental health.

FEATURING:

A screening of *Launching Opportunity*, a short film telling the story of Youth Guidance's launch in Kansas City, followed by a panel of community leaders discussing how Kansas City can support well-being and success for young men and women of color.

PANELISTS INCLUDE:



Garrett M. Webster, Sr. Executive Director Youth Guidance Kansas City



Mayor Quinton Lucas Kansas City, Missouri



Manager of Community Partnerships and Events Kansas City Royals



Derek A. Jordan Sr. Principal Smith-Hale Middle School Hickman Mills C-1 School District



Samantha Trujillo WOW Counselor Youth Guidance Kansas City



Anthony Purville BAM Counselor Youth Guidance

Register now!







LISTEN TO OUR YOUTH SPEAK ABOUT
SHARING INSIGHT AND INFORMATION
ABOUT VIOLENCE, VIOLENCE PREVENTION
AND THE ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN ORDER
TO FEEL SAFE IN KANSAS CITY.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2022

TIME: 4:30PM - 6:00PM

LOCATION: 1522 HOLMES ST. KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @ARTSTECH-KC OR ARTSTECH



on KC

APR 29

St. Regis Catholic Church (Outdoor Event) Middle School Youth St. Regis Catholic Church. 8941 James A. Reed Road. KCMO

MAY 27

St. Luke's/St. James United Methodist Church A Family & Community Day (Outdoor Event) 9420 James A. Reed Road, KCMO

JUNE 24

Hickman Mills Community Alliance (HMCA) Middle School Youth Pool Party (Location to be announced - KCMO)

JULY 22

Hickman Mills Community Alliance (HMCA) Elementary School Youth Pool Party (Location to be announced – KCMO)

AUG 26

Hickman Mills Community Alliance (HMCA) / KCPD South Patrol All School Aged Youth (Back To School Event) KCPD South Patrol Division located at 9701 Marion Park Drive, KCMO

SEPT 16

Youth Lock-In (Destiny Life Center/U-Roc/Pardon Scholars/Hickman Mills Community Alliance (HMCA) High School Teens
KCPD South Patrol Division located at 9701 Marion Park Drive, KCMO

OCT 21

Hickman Mills Community Alliance (HMCA) Young Adults (ages 21-30) KCPD South Patrol Division located at 9701 Marion Park Drive, KCMO

NOV 18

Calvary Community Outreach Network/Calvary Temple Baptist Church High School Teens (Grades 9-12) Calvary Community Wellness Center at 3002 Holmes, KCMO

DEC 9

Hickman Mills Community Alliance (HMCA) Young Adults (ages 21-30)
KCPD South Patrol Division located at 9701 Marion Park Drive, KCMO

IF your church/organization would like to host a "Lights On KC" event for the 2023 calendar year, please contact us at 816 497-4886 or email:

<u>Concernedclergykc@gmail.com</u> to get on the schedule

"Lights On KC" is a Violence Prevention Initiative designed to provide safe recreational activities for Youth & Young Adults

ALL "Lights On KC" events will provide free food!

Volunteers & Resource Vendors are always needed!













JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE!





Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City at Smith-Hale Middle School!

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 - 10:30 AM 9010A OLD SANTA FE RD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64138

Join Boys & Girls Club executives,
Hickman Mills School District
representatives, and city leaders as we
celebrate the ribbon cutting of a new
Boys & Girls Club at Smith-Hale Middle
School. Special Club naming ceremony
included.



RSVP to Jason Roth |



816-462-0132 jroth@helpkckids.org



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Fri., May 13 9am-2pm

Genesis School, 3800 East 44th Street, Kansas City, MO 64130

Valuable resources from community partners for parents and community members featuring:

- Apprentice Ready Program (Info on entering skilled trades)
- KCFD Local 42 (Info on jobs with K.C. Fire Dept.)
- Bare Essentials Home Care & Child Care (Employment/Jobs)
- Blessed Health & Home Care (Employment/Jobs)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Coco's Kid'z
- The Art of Dance De Barker
- KC Digital Drive

For information:

Keith Brown, LINC Site Coordinator, kbrown@genesisschool.org, (816) 921-0775

- Black Health Care Coalition (Memory Screenings)
- MORE2 (Medicaid Expansion, Voter Registration & more)
- Essential Families (Mental Wellness)
- Greater Kansas City Black Nurses Association (COVID Update & Vaccination Recommendation)
- · Kansas City Public Library
- · Snacking Well (Heatlhy Nutritious Food)
- · A. Phillip Randolph (Voter Registration & Rights)









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!)











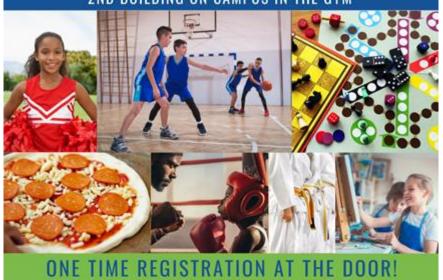


SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

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





KIDS EAT FREE



AGES 18 AND UNDER

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 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

6-474-8477



KCcrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP





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!