



Dear Neighbor,

During this blessed season, I am spending the time when I am not doing things with my family studying the legislation that has been introduced for consideration during the 2022 regular session of the Missouri General Assembly that will begin on **Wednesday, January 5**, and adjourn on **Friday, May 13**.

Already there have been 640 bills pre-filed in the Missouri House to repeal or make changes in existing Missouri laws or enact new laws and 362 bills pre-filed in the Senate.

There have been 39 proposed amendments to the Missouri constitution pre-filed in the House and 17 pre-filed in the Senate.

Legislation is still being pre-filed every day during the work week, and many more proposals will be introduced once the session starts. While many proposals are similar to others, few are short in length, so carefully reading legislation before discussing and voting on it is very important.

The difference of one word, such as between shall and may, can make a world of difference!

Please contact me at Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov if there is legislation you would like me to consider sponsoring, co-sponsoring or supporting or

legislation you would like me to oppose.

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

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE
Thursday, December 23rd, 2021

JUDGE REJECTS COUNTIES' MOTIONS

Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green on Dec. 22 denied motions to intervene from five counties seeking to appeal his recent decision striking down several state health department regulations.

The counties are expected to appeal Green's denial of their intervention, thus still getting the issue before a higher court.

Although significant, Green's Nov. 22 decision was limited to declaring unconstitutional four state regulations authorizing the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to delegate responses to public health emergencies to local officials.

However, Attorney General Eric Schmitt has used Green's ruling as the basis for demanding that all local governments immediately cease all coronavirus mitigation efforts.

The targets of Schmitt's legal threats have included school districts and other agencies that derive their authority to act against the spread of contagious disease, not from the disputed regulations, but from state laws that weren't challenged in the case and are still in full effect.

While some local officials have given in to Schmitt's threats, others have been defiant, saying the attorney general has no legal authority to unilaterally override the relevant state laws.

Although the state health department wanted Schmitt to appeal Green's ruling on its behalf, Schmitt refused, and the department opted not to hire outside legal counsel to continue the case. That left it to local governments impacted by the decision to take up the cause.

Jackson and St. Louis counties filed the original motion to intervene on Dec. 13, and later were joined by the health departments in Cooper, Livingston and Jefferson counties. In their motion, the counties said Green's ruling created "chaos" throughout the state by throwing the validity of coronavirus mitigation efforts into question at a time when the new and highly contagious omicron variant is causing case numbers

to skyrocket across the country.

Even though Schmitt has been attempting to enforce Green's ruling for the last month, it didn't actually take effect until Dec. 22. If the counties do appeal, a higher court could block enforcement while the case is pending.

MoDOT SUES TO ENFORCE SPENDING POWER

The Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission is suing the state in an effort to enforce its constitutional authority to spend State Road Fund revenue without a legislative appropriation.

The commission wants to provide raises for Department of Transportation employees to combat high turnover rates, but the legislature hasn't approved an appropriations increase for that purpose.

The Missouri Constitution generally prohibits state agencies from spending money without a legislative appropriation specifying the amount and purpose of the spending. However, MoDOT is unique since it has a constitutionally dedicated funding source in the State Road Fund, the revenues of which the constitution says "shall stand appropriated without legislative action."

Despite this language, the General Assembly traditionally appropriates money from the Road Fund each year, just as it does from other revenue sources under its direct control.

The commission, which is the independent governing authority for MoDOT, sued the Missouri Office of Administration on Dec. 3 after that agency ignored the commission's requests to approve monetary transfers from the Road Fund pursuant to the "stands appropriated" provision for the purpose of increasing worker pay.

A similar case – though one with an important distinction – already is pending before the Missouri Supreme Court. In that case, the Missouri Conservation Commission claims it has the constitutional authority to spend revenue from a dedicated state conservation sales tax without a legislative appropriation. Unlike with the Road Fund, however, there is no constitutional language that says the conservation sales tax revenue "shall

stand appropriated without legislative action.”

No hearing date has yet been set in the Road Fund case, *Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission v. Kenneth Zellers*.

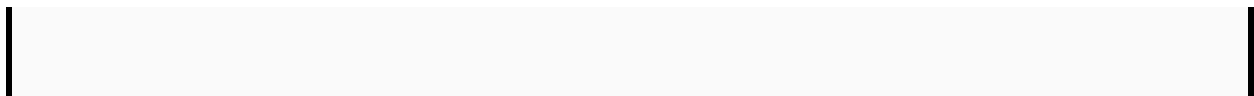
MINIMUM WAGE INCREASING TO \$11.15

The standard statewide minimum wage for most Missouri workers will increase to \$11.15 an hour on Jan. 1, a jump of 85 cents from the current rate of \$10.30 an hour. The bump will be the fourth of five phased-in increases approved by voters in 2018, with the final one taking Missouri’s minimum wage to \$12 in 2023.

Missouri’s standard minimum wage had been \$7.85 an hour until Missouri voters enacted Proposition B in November 2018 with 62.3 percent support. The initial increase of 75 cents an hour called for by Proposition B took effect in 2019. It has been followed by 85-cent-an-hour bumps each year since. For the past year, the standard minimum wage has been set at \$10.30 an hour.

State agencies and local governments – counties, municipalities, school districts and other political subdivisions of the state – are exempt from paying the wage increases Proposition B mandates for private sector employers. Government employers are still required to pay workers the old state minimum wage of \$7.85 an hour, which is higher than the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

Because of high vacancy rates in state jobs caused in part by low pay, Gov. Mike Parson on Dec. 6 proposed establishing a \$15 minimum wage for state employees. Lawmakers would have to approve the spending for Parson’s pay proposal during the upcoming legislative session, which begins Jan. 5.



DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR HICKMAN MILLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH | 5-9PM
12348 S US HIGHWAY 71, GRANDVIEW, MO, 64030

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **BNZY8G3**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



KC PET PROJECT ♥

KITTENS *For* CHRISTMAS

A POP-UP ADOPTION EVENT

\$75 Kitten Adoptions

Friday, December 24th

11AM - 3PM

KC Campus for Animal Care

7077 Elmwood Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64132

We are excited to announce Kittens for Christmas that will be held tomorrow at KC Pet Project at the KC Campus for Animal Care on Friday, December 24th. We will open early at 11:00am for kitten adoptions and will close at 3:00pm. We will have many kittens available for adoption just in time for the holiday.

We will have coffee and drinks for our guests, plus retail items to take home your new kitten. Adoptions will be \$75 for kittens and includes their spay/neuter surgery, microchip, and more. Bring your whole family and adopt a kitten (or two) for Christmas.

KC PET PROJECT

**Home
for the
Holidays**
adoption
special

December 13th - 24th

\$30 adoptions

*Adult dogs over 30lbs and adult cats

At the Kansas City Campus for Animal Care, Zona Rosa Adoption Center, Petco Adoption Center, and pets in foster homes

There's still time to adopt during the Home for the Holidays Adoption Special!

Through Christmas Eve, all dogs 30 pounds or more and adult cats will be \$30 at our KC Campus for Animal Care, Zona Rosa Adoption Center, and Petco Adoption Center on 95th (cats only).

Pets in foster homes qualify for this special as well. Get the ultimate gift of a new best friend this holiday season, and helps us clear out our shelter for the holiday. To view all of our adoptable pets, [click here](#), or download our free mobile app.

Our locations will all close early on Christmas Eve at 3:00pm and will be closed for business on Christmas Day.

13TH ANNUAL GRANDVIEW C-4

*A night for
Family Fun*



Thursday, January 27, 2021

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

A fundraiser to support teacher grants, student scholarships and other programs, this event is hosted through TriviaHub.

Gather your team through a zoom platform (together or apart) and join us for a competitive game of fun!

BE A SPONSOR

Mensa - \$1,000

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event
- Logo recognition on-screen during event

Genius - \$500

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

Brainiac - \$250

- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

FORM A TEAM

Team of 8 - \$100

Gather 8 friends, family or coworkers for a night of fun!

DONATE GOODS OR SERVICES

With a virtual format, we will gladly accept donations of gift cards or certificates to offer as prizes throughout the evening!

Register online at:

<https://forms.gle/4GwtMKdpgBW8UCbn8>

For questions call 913.522.9943

Presented by:





WAYS TO APPLY FOR MEDICAID IN MISSOURI

Medicaid expanded to change the income rules, which raised the amount of money you can make to qualify. This means more adults, including parents and those without children, qualify for free or low-cost health insurance through Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet).



3 WAYS TO APPLY WITH THE FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION:

- 1** Online at mydss.mo.gov
- 2** By phone at: 855-373-4636
- 3** By mail with paper application:
Family Support Division
615 E 13th St, Kansas City, MO 64106

You can apply
for Medicaid
any time of
year--there is
no deadline!

Need help? The COVER Missouri Coalition is here!



CALL 800-466-3213



MISSOURI JOBS WITH JUSTICE

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

	LOCATION	HOURS	DO I NEED AN APPOINTMENT?	NOTES
COVID-19 Vaccine for the unvaccinated	University Health 2 2211 Charlotte St., KCMO 64108	Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:20pm	No	
COVID-19 Vaccine for the unvaccinated	University Health Lakewood Medical Center, 7900 Lee's Summit Rd, KCMO 64139	Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm	See above.	
COVID-19 Pfizer Booster	University Health 2 2211 Charlotte St., KCMO 64108	Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:20pm	No	The CDC has approved a booster for any adult who received their first two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago, or a single dose of the J&J vaccine at least two months ago.
COVID-19 Pfizer Booster	University Health Lakewood Medical Center, 7900 Lee's Summit Rd, KCMO 64139	Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm	No	See above.
COVID-19 Moderna Booster	University Health Lakewood Medical Center, 7900 Lee's Summit Rd, KCMO 64139	Monday - Thursday 8:00am-3:00pm	Yes	Call 816-404-CARE (2273)
COVID-19 Moderna Booster	University Health 2 2211 Charlotte St., KCMO 64108	Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:00pm	Yes	Call 816-404-CARE (2273)
COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-12 years old	University Health 2 2211 Charlotte St., KCMO 64108	Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:20pm	Yes, please call 816-404-CARE (2273)	A parent must accompany the child.
COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-12 years old	University Health Lakewood Medical Center, 7900 Lee's Summit Rd, KCMO 64139	Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm	See above.	See above.
Influenza Vaccine	University Health 2 2211 Charlotte St., KCMO 64108	Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:00pm	No	Please bring an insurance card or information, a UH discount card, or a Medicaid card. If you pay out of pocket, the cost is \$40. Visit mdsave.com to save.
Influenza Vaccine	University Health Lakewood Medical Center, 7900 Lee's Summit Rd, KCMO 64139	Monday-Friday Inside the medical center 7:00am-3:00pm Or COVID-19 drive up testing site Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm	No	See above.
COVID-19 Testing	University Health Truman Medical Center (downtown campus)	Mon-Tues 8:00am-3:30pm Wed-Fri 8:00am-4:15pm Sat 8:00am-12:00pm	Please call 816-404-CARE (2273) to schedule.	Go to the parking garage entrance on Charlotte St. which is directly across from University Health 2, located at 2211 Charlotte Street.
COVID-19 Testing	University Health Lakewood Medical Center, 7900 Lee's Summit Rd, KCMO 64139	See above.	See above.	Enter parking lot A on the campus located at 7900 Lee's Summit Road.

- The Jackson County Health Department has numerous vaccine and testing clinics available. See <https://jacohd.org/events/> . More information is available at <https://jacohd.org/> .

- The **Center for COVID Recovery** is open to treat patients who experience long-term effects from the disease. For more information, visit <https://www.trumed.org/covid-19/center-for-covid-recovery/> ; please share this information with anyone who continues to struggle after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

Department of Natural Resources offers home weatherization assistance

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, DEC. 21, 2021 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has weatherization assistance available to increase energy efficiency and improve the health of your home. As families spend more time at home during winter, they tend to use more energy, which means energy efficiency benefits become even more critical.

The department's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is critical to meeting heating and cooling needs of Missourians with low-incomes, especially as many seniors and other vulnerable households shelter at home due to COVID-19. WAP makes homes more energy efficient, safer and healthier.

To apply for assistance, clients should contact their local weatherization agency. The agency will ask applicants to complete the appropriate forms, including income documentation, to verify eligibility. Once the client is verified as eligible, an auditor from the agency will conduct an energy audit of the home to determine what measures will produce the greatest energy savings. The next step is for the agency crew or contractor to install the energy-efficient measures on the home. After the weatherization is complete, a quality control inspector will examine the home to check quality and completeness of the work.

Eligibility is based on the family unit's size and total income. A single person with a maximum income of \$25,760 is eligible and a home with two residents must have a maximum income of \$34,840 to qualify. Local weatherization agencies can provide further information about maximum family income and other details regarding program eligibility.

Properly insulating and sealing air leaks can help many homes save as much as 30% in winter heating costs. Home weatherization not only saves homeowners money and leaves them with a more comfortable living space, it also reduces the pollution associated with generating energy used for heating.

Weatherization leads to significant health benefits. Read the @ENERGY "Home Rx" report available at bit.ly/2iUEQ59. Residents with asthma reported fewer hospitalizations and emergency room visits after weatherization and families' out-of-pocket medical expenses decreased by an average of \$514, according to @ORNL. Children missed fewer school days after their homes received energy efficiency services from WAP. Weatherization returns \$2.78 in health-and-safety related benefits for every \$1 invested.

For more ways to weatherize your home visit the department's Weatherization webpage at dnr.mo.gov/energy/weatherization or contact the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Energy at 855-522-2796.

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. (There will be no pantry in January.)

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., the new date during December was Monday December 20th from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. In the new year food distribution will continue on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



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WEB TIPS

KcCrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



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