



Dear Neighbor,

This past Tuesday the Emerging Issues Committee voted out House Bill 2474, which expands eligibility for restitution payments to any persons found to have been wrongfully convicted and incarcerated. I'm grateful to Representative Ron Hicks from St. Charles County for sponsoring this legislation that we've both been working extremely hard on leading up to this session.

I would also like to express my humble gratitude that House Bill 1696 sponsored by Representative Rodger Reedy from Cass County was voted out of the Rural Community Development Committee unanimously Thursday morning.

The underlying bill allows persons to discharge a firearm from a motor vehicle while stationary, on private property, in an unincorporated area of the state to protect livestock from predatory wildlife or dogs.

Blair's Law is included in the bill which makes discharging a firearm within or into city limits with criminal negligence a serious state offense.

In other interesting legislation acted on this week, yesterday the

Missouri House passed an appropriations bill that adds roughly \$92 million in pay increases for state employees, raising the minimum wage for **some** state employees to \$15 an hour. This appropriation amount fell short of Governor Parson's proposed plan of allocating \$98 million to raise the minimum wage to \$15 for **all** state employees, which I supported.

A bill that could have a huge impact on Kansas City, Missouri and the rest of the state is House Bill 2544 which authorizes a sales tax exemption for the sale of tickets to matches that are part of the **2026 FIFA World Cup** soccer tournament if it is held in Jackson County. There is also a companion bill in the Senate, Senate bill 652.

This bill was presented in the Special Committee on Tourism and Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe came in to testify in favor. Lt. Governor Kehoe said, "We're all familiar with the Super Bowl coming up. This would be like having five Super Bowls. It would be a great return on investment for our state."

With just over 20 cities left in the running to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament, our city has to remain competitive with the likes of Denver, Washington D.C., Dallas and Los Angeles to name a few.

In order for Kansas City, Missouri, to stay in the hunt, first this legislation must be passed. FIFA protects their ticket buyers from sales tax increases right before tickets become available. Second, the Missouri legislature and state as a whole must refrain from passing legislation or doing anything that could be considered discriminatory.

FIFA favors areas that would welcome and be accepting to an extremely diverse crowd from all over the world that would be in town for 6-8 weeks.

Lastly, yesterday Speaker of the Missouri House Rob Vescovo appointed me as the ranking minority member on the Special Committee on Public Policy.

Other committees I sit on include:

- Crime Prevention
- Elementary and Secondary Education
- General Laws
- Joint Committee on Legislative Research
- Special Committee on Urban Issues

Locally in honor of Black History Month, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has free admission all month long, sponsored by the Kansas City Royals.

**Anyone in KCMO needing a smoke detector in their residence should call 816-513-4648 to make the request. The Kansas City Fire Department will install up to two smoke detectors with ten-year batteries in KCMO residences that need them for no charge.**

Lastly, many of our schools have a terrible shortage of substitute teachers. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a substitute teacher or finding work as a substitute teacher, please visit the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website or contact your local school districts.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation, they would like me to introduce or support or legislation they would like me to oppose, please email me at [Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto: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*



**Earlier this week on the Missouri House floor I visited with members of the Emerging Issues Committee, Representatives Ashley Aune (left), me (middle) and Robbie Sauls (right) and discussed House Bill 2474 which expands eligibility for restitution payments to any persons wrongfully convicted and incarcerated in the state of Missouri. That bill passed out of committee later that afternoon.**

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Friday, February 11th, 2022**

### **HOUSE APPROVES SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING**

The House of Representatives voted 114-11-25 on Feb. 10 to pass a nearly \$4.6 billion emergency supplemental spending bill that would distribute billions of dollars in federal pandemic relief funds to local public school districts, as well as fully fund Missouri's Medicaid program for the rest of the 2022 fiscal year.

**Gov. Mike Parson had wanted the bill passed by the legislature by Feb. 1, but the House Budget Committee delayed advancing it for four weeks.**

The House version of the bill authorizes significantly less spending authority than the \$5.27 billion Parson had requested, primarily by

not appropriating as much federal funds.

**One key difference that sparked significant debate is the House plan would provide a less generous pay increase to the lowest paid state employees. While Parson requested establishing \$15-an-hour as a base wage for state workers, the Budget Committee only included a \$12-an-hour wage floor for most departments. Both plans include a 5.5 percent pay bump for all state workers.**

I voted for the bill since these wage increases will help state government attract and retain employees, but I much preferred the governor's original proposal to establish a \$15-an-hour wage floor and give our lowest paid state employees a livable wage.

House Bill 3014 now advances to the Senate. Lawmakers must allocate about \$2 billion in federal funding that is set to expire in late March, or the state will lose the money.

## **COURT NIXES REFERENDUM RESTRICTIONS**

The Missouri Supreme Court on Feb.8 struck down two state laws Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft used to block Missouri voters from having the final say on legislation enacted in 2019 to criminalize most abortions after just eight weeks of pregnancy.

**The court's 5-2 decision sided with a lower court's holding that the laws interfere with the state constitutional right to force a statewide vote on laws passed by the legislature if enough voters sign referendum petitions in the time allowed.**

On the last day of the 2019 legislative session before I took office, the Missouri General Assembly enacted House Bill 126, which enacted much tighter restrictions on abortion. Opponents of the bill quickly filed a referendum petition to force a statewide vote on the



law. The petition's backers faced a 90-day deadline to collect the roughly 100,000 signatures from registered voters needed to put HB 126 on the ballot.

Ashcroft initially delayed the effort by declaring the petition violated constitutional procedures. After the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District ruled Ashcroft overstepped his authority and ordered him to certify the petition, he then engaged in further delay by taking the full 51 days state law gave him to complete the job. By the time he finally did so, petition backers had just two weeks to collect the necessary signatures by the deadline, a likely impossible task by that point.

**To prevent such a scenario from reoccurring, petition supporters then challenged the constitutionality of the law allowing the secretary of state to delay the certification process and a related statute prohibiting petitions from being circulated prior to that time.**

(Although the referendum on HB 126 didn't move forward, a federal court subsequently blocked the law from taking effect.)

**Writing for the majority, Judge Mary Russell noted that while the legislature can enact laws that assist with the implementation of a referendum, laws that interfere with it are unconstitutional.**

"The Missouri Constitution guarantees the right of referendum to *all* Missouri citizens, not just those capable of raising the necessary funds to complete a signature-collection effort within the tightest of timeframes," Russell wrote.

**In the dissenting opinion, Judge W. Brent Powell said he would have upheld the statutes since the plaintiffs didn't prove the laws interfere with the right to referendum in all possible circumstances. The majority countered that the fact they**

**interfere at all is constitutionally impermissible.**

The case is *No Bans on Choice, et al., v. Ashcroft*.

## **COURT HEARS GUN LAW CHALLENGE**

The Missouri Supreme Court heard arguments Feb. 7 in a case challenging a 2021 law that purports to declare certain federal gun laws invalid and unenforceable in Missouri and imposes penalties on local law enforcement agencies that assist federal authorities in investigating violations of such laws.

The arguments Feb. 7 primarily focused on procedural questions, with little discussion of the case's merits.

**The General Assembly enacted the law in question, House Bill 85, last May on party line votes with no Democratic support. The following month, St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jackson County filed a lawsuit claiming HB 85 violates the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which prohibits individual states from invalidating federal laws.**

**In a highly unusual move, an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice appeared before the state high court to argue in support of striking down the new law, saying it has chilled cooperation between state and federal law enforcement officials in criminal investigations.**

In addition to purporting to nullify certain federal gun laws, HB 85 authorizes federal gun law offenders to sue Missouri law enforcement agencies for a minimum \$50,000 per occurrence, plus attorney fees, for assisting federal authorities in their arrests.

The bill also subjects any local government agency to similar fines



merely for hiring a former federal agent who previously enforced or attempted to enforce any gun laws listed in the bill as unconstitutional, or who knowingly gave material aid and support to such efforts after the bill's June 12, 2021, effective date, regardless of whether that person is hired in a law enforcement capacity.

The law is labeled the "Second Amendment Preservation Act." The court will issue its ruling on the law's constitutionality on a later date.

### **INITIATIVE PETITION LIMITS ADVANCE**

The House of Representatives voted 98-53 on Feb. 10 in favor of a proposed constitutional amendment that would make it extremely difficult to use the initiative petition process to propose and enact laws and constitutional amendments independently of the General Assembly. All but a handful of Republicans supported the measure, which all Democrats voting opposed.

**House Joint Resolution 79 would drastically increase the number of signatures from registered voters required for an initiative petition to qualify for the ballot.**

For example, the minimum number of signatures needed for a proposed constitutional amendment would skyrocket from about 172,000 under current law to roughly 434,000.

**Also, proposals that did manage to make it to the ballot would need approval from at least two-thirds of voters to pass instead of the current simple majority.**

HJR 79 now advances to the Senate. If it clears the General Assembly, it automatically would go on the Nov. 8 ballot for voter approval.

**The bill includes deceptive ballot language that tells voters the measure would “allow only citizens of the United States to qualify as legal voters.” That requirement already is part of the Missouri Constitution.**

## **COURT ORDERS MARIJUANA INFO DISCLOSURE**

The Missouri Supreme Court unanimously ruled the state Department of Health & Senior Services must disclose information submitted by successful applicants for medical marijuana licenses in an administrative challenge brought by an applicant who was denied a license.

The constitutional amendment Missouri voters ratified in 2018 legalizing medical marijuana also granted the health department regulatory authority over the industry, and the agency has faced widespread criticism over how it has performed the task.

**Accusations that an inconsistent scoring process allowed the health department to grant licenses to favored recipients while denying them to similarly situated applicants resulted in hundreds of appeals to the Administrative Hearing Commission which handles administrative disputes involving state agencies.**

**One unsuccessful applicant, Kings Garden Midwest, sought other applicants’ information as part of its appeal, but the department argued it couldn’t be compelled to disclose it because of a constitutional provision requiring such information to be kept confidential.**

**However, the Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Judge George Draper III, said the constitution expressly allows such information to be disclosed during the license denial appeals**

**process.**

“Because applications are not judged solely on their own merits but are ranked competitively against other applications, the only way to determine whether Department denied King’s Garden’s application in an arbitrary or capricious manner is to compare its applications against information from those of successful applicants,” Draper wrote. “Without all of the information that formed the basis of Department’s decision, no meaningful review is possible.”

**Because of the court’s decision, the department must disclose the information in other pending appeals.**

The case is *State ex rel. Department of Health and Senior Services v. Slusher*.

## **PROPOSAL TARGETS MEDICAID EXPANSION**

The House Budget Committee voted 22-9 along straight party lines on Feb. 7 with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed to advance a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at thwarting a voter-approved expansion of eligibility for Missouri’s Medicaid program.

The proposed amendment now goes to the full House of Representatives for further debate.

**After the legislature refused for years to expand Medicaid coverage despite the availability of federal funding to cover the lion’s share of the cost, supporters used the initiative petition process to put the issue directly to voters, who in 2020 ratified a constitutional amendment requiring the state to implement expansion.**

Some Republican lawmakers continued their resistance in 2021 by refusing to provide spending authority for expansion in the 2022 fiscal year state budget. However, the state Supreme Court subsequently ruled the constitution still requires the state to provide services to the expanded population.

**House Joint Resolution 117 would empower the legislature to block services to the expanded population by withholding funding – the exact maneuver the Supreme Court ruled isn't currently allowed under the state constitution.**

If the proposal clears the legislature, it would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot for voter approval.

### **COMMITTEE KILLS “MAKE MURDER LEGAL ACT”**

A Senate committee voted 4-3 on Feb. 10 to defeat legislation that Stoddard County Prosecutor Russell Oliver dubbed the “Make Murder Legal Act” because it sought to create a “**presumption of reasonableness**” in state law whenever a person kills someone and claims:

-It was necessary to protect themselves, another person or an unborn child from death, serious injury or a forcible felony, **or**

-It was necessary to protect themselves or others from the use or imminent use of any level of unlawful force by anyone who unlawfully enters, attempts to unlawfully enter or remains after unlawfully entering a residence or vehicle the person is lawfully occupying or private property they own, lease or have been given specific authority to occupy.

**Senate Bill 666 provided that anyone using or threatening to use deadly force under these circumstances would be “immune from**

**criminal prosecution and civil action” unless it was used or threatened to be used against a law enforcement officer in the performance of his or her official duties.**

Persons have no duty to retreat from any place they have the legal right to be when they feel threatened under current Missouri law.

**Testifying against the bill when it was heard by the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety Committee were representatives of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, Missouri Police Chiefs Association and Missouri Sheriffs United.**



CELEBRATING  
**BLACK**  
**HISTORY**  
**MONTH**

VIRTUAL ZOOM  
LUNCH & LEARN  
SPEAKER SERIES



**THURSDAY, FEB. 3, 12-1 P.M.**

**DR. KIMBERLY BEATTY**

CHANCELLOR, METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/92779251298](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/92779251298)



**THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 12-1 P.M.**

**BOB KENDRICK**

PRESIDENT & CEO, NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM

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**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 12-1 P.M.**

**E. FRANK ELLIS**

FOUNDER, SWOPE HEALTH

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**THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 12-1 P.M.**

**EMANUEL CLEAVER II**

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

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STORY <sup>2</sup> OF THE**  
**NEGRO LEAGUES**



◀|| FREE ADMISSION FOR FEBRUARY ||▶

# 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!

The background of the entire flyer is a solid purple color. It is decorated with stylized, overlapping leaf patterns in shades of red, orange, and yellow, reminiscent of tropical foliage like monstera leaves. These patterns are positioned around the edges of the purple central area.

## ***VIRTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD TRAINING***

**The Center for Conflict Resolution is offering our FREE, Neighborhood Accountability Training online to provide community members the opportunity to be a part of restorative justice processes that happen in their communities around Kansas City.**

**Neighborhood Accountability Boards allow for all parties affected by harm, such as shoplifting, underage drinking and more, to share their side of the story and work together on a solution that makes this right.**

***FEBRUARY 18TH, 2022 9 AM - 4 PM  
FREE ONLINE ZOOM TRAINING***

**To register for this training, send email to [dbayless@ccrkc.org](mailto:dbayless@ccrkc.org) or go to our website, [www.ccrkc.org](http://www.ccrkc.org) for more information.**

**Internet, Zoom, and computer access required.**

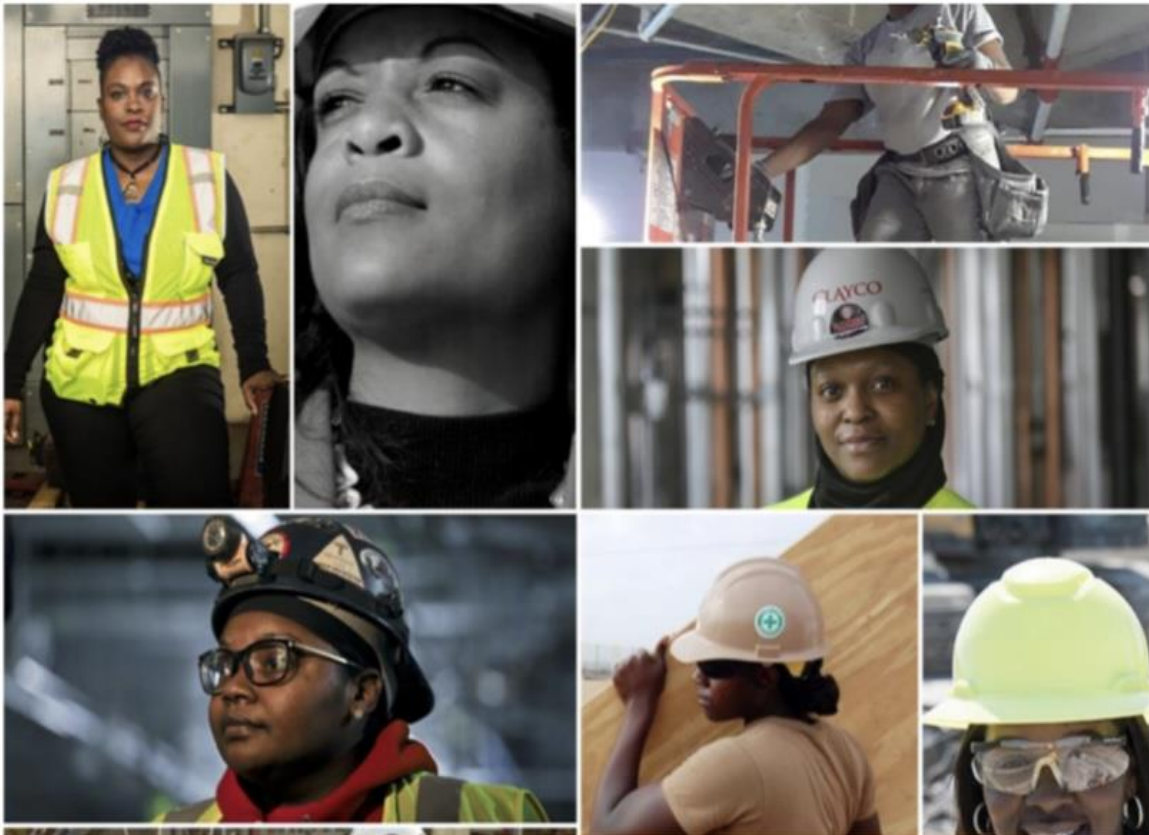



STRATEGIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INC.

# KC Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program Enrolment Dates



OPEN TO MINORITY AND WOMEN (AGES 18-50)  
START DATES FOR CLASSES FEB 21 AND APRIL 4, 2022  
PRE-REGISTER ON  
[HTTP://MO.JOBS.MO/GOV](http://mo.jobs.mo/gov)  
THEN SET APPOINTMENT BY CALING (816) 433 -4682



[www.strategicwfd.com](http://www.strategicwfd.com)

Email: [workforce@strategicwfd.com](mailto:workforce@strategicwfd.com)

Office Add: 111 W, 10th St. Kansas City, MO 64105



# FREE

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MISSOURI

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**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](mailto:KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM)

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## 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. 103<sup>rd</sup> 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. 111<sup>th</sup> 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. There will be no mobile food pantry in February.

**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. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



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**P3Tips.com**



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**Missouri House of Representatives**

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