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Dear Neighbor,

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable 4th of July weekend!

Please wear a mask when interacting with others.

The media reported today that the Kansas City metropolitan area recorded the largest spike in new COVID-19 cases Wednesday since the pandemic began. We all need to do our part to stop the spread of this potentially deadly disease.

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*

## **Mark A. Sharp Weekly Capitol Report** **Thursday, July 2nd, 2020**

### **GOVERNOR FREEZES \$449 MILLION TO START NEW FISCAL YEAR**

As the 2021 state fiscal year was about to get underway, Gov. Mike Parson on June 30 unilaterally froze \$448.85 million in spending authority and deleted another \$11 million by issuing roughly 200 line-item vetoes in order to put the state budget in balance as state revenue collections continue to fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parson signed the remainder of the various FY 2021 budget bills into law.

The governor's action had been expected as it was widely acknowledged that the Republican-controlled General Assembly in May had enacted an unbalanced budget that authorized far more general revenue spending than the state expects to collect this year. The only question is how out of balance the legislature's budget will turn out to be.

**As with the cuts Parson imposed during the final months of FY 2020 which ended June 30, Parson again targeted education with his FY 2021 reductions, freezing spending for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by \$132.55 million and for the state Department of Higher Education by \$55**

**million..**

Parson said his budget actions will result in about 500 state jobs being eliminated with roughly 300 current state workers being laid off. The remaining 200 jobs represent vacancies that won't be filled.

On paper, the \$35.29 billion overall budget for FY 2021, which began July 1, appears to be a massive increase over the \$29.66 billion in appropriations lawmakers approved for FY 2020.

However, much of the supposed increase comes from the legislature intentionally over-appropriating billions in federal COVID-19 relief funding to provide Parson greater flexibility in determining how it should be spent. It's unclear exactly how much money the federal government actually will send Missouri's way. Parson's budget freezes and line-item vetoes didn't target the overinflated federal spending authority.

**While Parson can release the frozen spending later on in the fiscal year if state revenue collections improve, the vetoed spending authority can only be reinstated if the legislature votes to override the governor during its September veto session, which appears unlikely.**

Despite issuing the most line-item vetoes since 2001, the amounts of Parson's vetoes tended to be insignificant, with several dozen cutting less than \$100 in spending and more than a few cutting less than \$10. The bulk of the vetoes, including the low-dollar ones, involved eliminating a planned 6-cent mileage reimbursement increase which was sprinkled in many places throughout the state budget bills.

## **COURT SAYS BUDGET RESTRICTION VIOLATED CONSTITUTION**

The Missouri Supreme Court ruled 6-1 on June 30 that the Republican-controlled General Assembly unconstitutionally blocked Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid funds for women's health care

services unrelated to abortion.

Missouri law requires the state's Medicaid program to reimburse health care providers for eligible services rendered to Medicaid recipients. In recent years, however, Republican lawmakers have inserted language in the state budget to prohibit organizations affiliated with abortion providers from receiving Medicaid reimbursement for non-abortion related services in an attempt to defund Planned Parenthood.

The Supreme Court majority upheld a lower court's ruling that the restrictive budget language violates a state constitutional provision prohibiting the legislature from passing bills that contain multiple subjects. Under the state high court's longstanding precedent, that means budget bills must be limited to appropriating funding. If general legislation setting forth policy is added to a budget bill, then the multiple subject provision is violated, the court said.

**The court's decision doesn't allow taxpayer funding of abortion, which is prohibited elsewhere in law and wasn't at issue in this case. However, the ruling does mean the state can't exclude Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursement for other health care services.**

While abortions are performed at Planned Parenthood's St. Louis clinic, the overwhelming percentage of services the organization provides at that facility and others around the state are unrelated to abortion.

## **STATE DROPS EFFORT TO SHUT DOWN ABORTION CLINIC**

Gov. Parson's administration is dropping its year-long effort to close Missouri's only remaining abortion clinic and has decided not to appeal a May 29 administrative ruling that the state Department of Health and Senior Services had no legal grounds for refusing to renew its license, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported on June 29.

The administration had been expected to appeal the decision to state circuit court, but the paper cited officials with both the Health Department and Missouri Attorney General's Office, which represented the agency in court, as saying no appeal will be pursued.

The Health Department attempted to shut down the Planned Parenthood-operated clinic in St. Louis last year by refusing to renew its license, which was set to expire on June 1, 2019. The clinic obtained a court order allowing it to remain open while various legal proceedings unfolded.

**Following the decision by the Administrative Hearing Commission, which is the first stop for administrative disputes involving state agencies, the Department issued a new license to the clinic on June 25 that will allow it to operate through 2021.**

### **PARSON SIGNS LAW RAISING BAR ON PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

Gov. Mike Parson on July 1 signed legislation into law that makes it more difficult for successful plaintiffs in civil lawsuits to recover punitive damages and also imposes additional hurdles to bringing lawsuits under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, the state's main consumer protection law.

**Senate Bill 591 substantially raises the burden of proof in order to win punitive damages, which allow a jury to punish a civil defendant for particularly egregious behavior that harmed the plaintiff. The bill also makes it easier for companies sued over unlawful merchandising practices to have the cases against them dismissed.**

The Senate voted 21-9 in favor of the bill on March 2 before the House of Representatives granted it final passage on May 12 by a vote of 98-51. **I voted against it.** SB 591 will take effect Aug. 28.



# #MASKUPKC

77.6% of Kansas City's COVID19 cases are in people ages 20-59



**VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE**

**Wednesday, July 8**





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## **Free Virtual Nutrition, Everage, Yoga and SNAP Classes through CAC in July**

Community Assistance Council is offering classes (virtual for now) to help support individual, family and community wellness and stability. These online classes are open to all (unless noted otherwise); CAC clients are especially encouraged to sign up. Visit our website with all of the class info and registration links. [www.cackc.org](http://www.cackc.org)

### **Eating Smart \* Being Active**

This FREE program is offered through CAC by the University of Missouri Extension Family Nutrition Education Programs. The Interactive online lessons focus on food prep, nutrition and physical activity. Participants receive great information and a certificate at the end. It's not required to "attend" all class but it is helpful. EVERYONE is invited to sign up. Participants do not need to be current CAC clients or meet any income or geographic guidelines. All Eating Smart \* Being Active classes are on Fridays, starting July 10, 1 to 1:45 pm. Register [HERE](#) and you will receive a ZOOM link for each class.

### **Lesson 1: Welcome to Eating Smart • Being Active Get Moving! - Starting July 10**

- Learn cooking skills and knife safety.
- Explore fun ways to be active.

### **Lesson 2: Plan, Shop, \$ave - July 17**

- Ways to plan and shop for healthy meals and snacks that fit in your budget.

### **Lesson 3: Fruits and Veggies - Half Your Plate - July 24**

- Increase amounts and types of vegetables and fruits your family eats every day.

### **Lesson 4: Make Half Your Grains Whole - July 31**

- Ensure your family consumes at least half of their grains as whole grains.

### **Lesson 5: Go Lean With Protein - August 14**

- Learn about lean protein foods and food safety.

### **Lesson 6: Build Strong Bones - August 21**

- How to get enough calcium from low-fat or nonfat dairy foods or other foods.

### **Lesson 7: Make a Change/Celebrate! Eat Smart and Be Active - August 28**

- Pick up tips for limiting fat, sugar and salt.
- Discuss feeding children; celebrate knowledge, skills for making healthy choices.

### **Evergy's Income Eligible Programs - July 15**

- **1 class - 1 - 2 pm, July 15**
- For anyone with facing possible nonpayment of their Evergy bill.
- Recommended for but not limited to low-income, south KC residents.
- Online through ZOOM, presented by Maria Lopez, Evergy
- Register [HERE](#).
- Download Connections flyer [HERE](#). Download Economic Relief Program flyer [HERE](#).

This FREE program is offered by Evergy. July 15th is the last day for the moratorium on disconnects. This virtual session will be a great way to talk about new pay arrangements in order to keep the power on. In addition to speaking about the new payment arrangements, Maria Lopez from Evergy will go over Evergy's income eligible programs (ERPP and Weatherization). As well as LIHEAP, the adjustable due date program and the medical program. This is not a one-on-one assistance session, it is an overview of available programs.

### **Virtual Beginner Yoga - July 21**

- **1 class - 1 - 1:30 pm, July 21 (other sessions available as needed)**
- For anyone who interested in trying yoga for mental and physical health.
- Participants do not have to meet income or geographic guidelines.
- Online through ZOOM, presented by Megan Feighny.
- Register [HERE](#).

Led by a certified yoga instructor. The FREE class that introduces the history of yoga, fundamental principles of alignment, and breathwork. This class is for anyone seeking an introductory or gentle yoga class that goes slow and offers clear teachings of the mechanics of the primary poses, providing modifications, and teaches the how and why of yoga. No experience necessary.

### **SNAP Application Assistance - July 22**

- **1 class - 1 - 2 pm, July 22 (other sessions available as needed)**
- For anyone who would like assistance with completing a SNAP (food stamps) application.
- Recommended for but not limited to low-income, south KC residents.
- Online through ZOOM, presented by Marisa Marchitelli-Hepper,

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Harvesters.

- Register [HERE](#).
- The online, fillable SNAP application is available [HERE](#).

This FREE program is offered by Harvesters - The Community Food Network.

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## 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 four sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**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.

**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 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.

**Martin City K-8 School**, 201 E. 133<sup>rd</sup> St., from 11 a.m. until food runs out on the third Saturday of the month. This event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church.

**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.



**SWOPE HEALTH IS SEEKING  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO HOST**



# COVID-19 TESTING

**Swope Health** is offering Coronavirus testing at **NO COST** to individuals who are experiencing symptoms of the disease: cough, fever, headache, tiredness, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell; who have been in close contact or exposure to someone with COVID-19 over the past 14 days; or are considered high-risk, including those with an underlying chronic disease or condition that can weaken the immune system, healthcare or daycare personnel, individuals older than age 65, or persons living with a disability.

**There are NO COSTS incurred by COVID-19 testing hosts.**

## **COVID-19 testing sites require:**

- Large outdoor parking lot or area with a separate entrance and exit for drive-through and walk-up testing.
- Volunteers or security to assist with traffic flow.
- Access to bathrooms for testing staff.

## **Swope Health qualified staff will provide:**

- Testing supplies and services.
- Patient registration forms and follow-up test results.
- Traffic cones, tables and chairs.

If you are interested in hosting a COVID-19 testing event, contact **Marielena Marroquin** at [mmarroquin@swopehealth.org](mailto:mmarroquin@swopehealth.org) or **Amy Kuhnlein** at [akuhnlein@swopehealth.org](mailto:akuhnlein@swopehealth.org)

**swope**HEALTH

[www.swopehealth.org](http://www.swopehealth.org)   

## 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](https://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.

**On August 4,  
Missouri votes to  
expand Medicaid.**



**Website for Essential Companies Hiring NOW!!**

Missouri faces unprecedented times due to the impacts of COVID-19. Here at the Department of Economic Development, we recognize that many of the low-income, at-risk citizens your organizations work with will be hit the hardest and be the first to lose employment. With that in mind, we wanted to direct your attention to the Missouri Now Hiring website <https://missourionestart.com/now-hiring>. Missouri One Start is connecting unemployed workers to essential companies who are

staffing up to meet the increased demand for their products and services. There you will find a list of companies that are hiring right now. This site takes workers directly to the hiring/application pages of the respective companies. The list is updated on an ongoing basis, so checking back daily is advised. Please link your clients in-need to this website so our workers can make it past this situation as painlessly as possible.

## 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](http://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 employment 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 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>

## **GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS 816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator**

**SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young  
Homicide**

**KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.**

**Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.**

**KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.**

**A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.**

**Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at [www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com), or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.**



**Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards**

**Tips Hotline**

**816-474-8477**

**Web Tips**

**[www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**



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