



Dear Neighbor,

Members of the Missouri General Assembly had the week off for our annual one-week Spring Break in March after being in session for nine straight weeks starting in January.

When we return, the Missouri General Assembly will have just eight weeks left in the 2022 regular session that **so far has only seen one bill pass and be signed into law.**

There are numerous items of legislation that are pending that I think will be good for the state, but also several items that I think will have bad consequences if approved.

I will provide details about the significant bills that are progressing toward passage in these weekly reports throughout the rest of the session, as well as a wrap up of the significant legislation that was passed after the 2022 session adjourns.

Allow me to call your attention to a flyer in this report about **a virtual ZOOM forum for candidates for the Hickman Mills Board of Education from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22**, being co-sponsored by the Kansas City League of Women Voters and the South Kansas City Alliance. The LWV will conduct the

forum and has a well-deserved reputation of conducting such forums impartially without showing any favoritism.

**Also, there will be a listening session to hear what qualities and qualifications south Kansas City residents want a new KCMO police chief to have from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 2, at Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., which is on the north side of I-435 east of Holmes Rd.**

The South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the South Kansas City Alliance are hosting the session which is one of six scheduled around the city organized by a coalition of business and civic groups that includes the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.

**A written summary of public comments at the sessions will be submitted to the Board of Police Commissioners at it begins a national search for a new chief this spring to replace Chief Rick Smith who is retiring.**

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](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*

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Friday, March 18th, 2022**

### **COMMISSION FINALIZES SENATE DISTRICTS**

With less than two weeks remaining for candidates to file for the Aug. 2 primary elections, a panel of state appellate judges on March 15 finalized the new state Senate districts that will be used for the next decade. Missouri's legislative districts must be redrawn every 10 years to reflect population shifts shown in the most recent U.S. Census.

The Judicial Redistricting Commission took over the process in

late January after a previous commission evenly split between Republican and Democratic party members deadlocked on a new plan for Missouri's 34 Senate districts. The judicial commission consists of six judges of the state Court of Appeals appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court.

**The judicial commission's plan makes few radical changes and mainly just shifts the borders of the previous Senate map, which had been in use since 2012, to ensure the new districts have roughly equal populations under the 2020 Census and comply with other constitutional requirements. Senate Republicans currently hold a 24-10 advantage over Democrats.**

Without new districts in place when candidate filing opened in February, candidates filed under the outdated 2012 Senate map. Because district lines subsequently changed, some filed candidates now will live in different districts. Under the state constitution, however, the standard in-district residency requirement for candidates is relaxed this year since the new Senate map was finalized less than one year prior to the Nov. 8 general election.

Because the four-year terms of senators are staggered, only the 17 even-numbered districts are on the ballot this year. The senators from the 17 odd-numbered districts will continue to serve through 2024, when elections will be held for those seats under the new map.

**A separate bipartisan commission finalized Missouri's 163 new House of Representatives districts in January. The General Assembly is responsible for redrawing the state's eight congressional districts, but a redistricting bill stalled in the Senate.**

The candidate filing period closes at 5 p.m. on March 29.

## **UNCERTAINTY CLOUDS LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Missouri General Assembly returns from its annual spring recess on March 21 with an uncertain outlook for the 2022 legislative session's final eight weeks due to a small group of hardline conservative Republican senators so far blocking passage of almost all bills in the upper chamber. The session adjourns on May 13 at 6 p.m.

The Senate hardliners have stalled proceedings since the session began in January. They initially blocked a congressional redistricting bill they maintained wasn't favorable enough for their party but soon expanded their obstruction to other bills. On many days, they have prevented the Senate from acting on any legislation at all.

**During the first 10 weeks of session, the Senate sent just seven bills to the House of Representatives, and five of those passed on the last day before the spring break. Activity in the House too has been slow compared to previous years. Heading into the last day before the break, the House only had sent 20 bills to the Senate before a flurry of activity nearly doubled that number to 38.**

**Lawmakers have granted final passage to just one bill – a \$4.6 billion supplementary appropriations bill that the governor signed into law Feb. 24. That measure distributes billions of dollars in federal pandemic relief funds to local public school districts, fully funds the state's expanded Medicaid program for the rest of the 2022 fiscal year and authorizes long overdue pay raises for state employees among other spending allocations.**

The \$46.72 billion state operating budget for the 2023 fiscal year has yet to be approved by the House Budget Committee, and it is unclear when that action will occur. After the committee acts, the budget process will then move to the full House before shifting to the Senate. Lawmakers face a May 6 constitutional deadline for granting final approval to the budget bills. Fiscal year 2023 begins July 1.

### **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING LAWSUIT FILED**

A group of voters filed a lawsuit in Cole County Circuit Court on March 11 seeking to have Missouri's current congressional districts declared unconstitutional since they are outdated and don't have equal populations based on the 2020 U.S. Census.

**The lawsuit comes as the Missouri Senate remains stalled on a plan for redrawing the state's eight congressional districts even though candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary elections is set to end March 29.**

The House of Representatives passed a congressional redistricting bill on Jan. 19 that likely would preserve the current 6-2 partisan split in the state's congressional delegation favoring Republicans.

However, a small group of hardline conservative Republicans has blocked the bill in the Senate over their insistence on adopting a redistricting plan they think is likely to result in a 7-1 Republican advantage by shifting areas in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District represented by Emanuel Cleaver that generally support Democratic candidates to surrounding congressional districts and replacing them with areas in those districts that normally favor Republican candidates.

Senate Republican leaders contend that plan would dilute Republican voting strength in what are now solid Republican districts and potentially allow Democrats to gain congressional seats.

**With no new districts in place, congressional candidates are filing under the current map enacted in 2011. However, since both the Missouri Constitution and federal law say congressional districts must be based on the most recent Census, the lawsuit contends the 2011 map – based on the 2010 Census – is unconstitutional and cannot be used for the 2022 elections.**

Although the lawsuit, *Howard v. Ashcroft*, asks a state judge to draw new districts given the legislature's failure to do so, it isn't clear that the legal authority for such action exists. While federal law allows a three-judge panel of federal judges to draw a state's congressional districts if its legislature is unable to do so, there is no similar mechanism in Missouri law for judicial redistricting of congressional districts. Federal panels drew Missouri's congressional districts in both 1972 and 1982.

With the legislature set to return from its annual spring recess on March 21, there is still time for lawmakers to send a congressional redistricting bill to the governor to be signed into law before candidate filing closes the following week. However, given the conservative hardliners resistance to date, that outcome is not expected.

### **SCHMITT SUES SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSN.**

Attorney General Eric Schmitt on March 15 sued a private nonprofit organization seeking to force it to turn over



documents under the state's Sunshine Law which makes most government records publicly accessible.

**Schmitt filed the lawsuit in Boone County Circuit Court seeking records from the Missouri School Boards' Association, a private nonprofit group that provides training and other services to public school boards and advocates on behalf of public education at the state and federal level.**

However, Schmitt contends MSBA is a "quasi-governmental body" under the Sunshine Law since it receives its funding from public school districts and performs a public function by providing statutorily mandated training for school board members.

**An attorney for MSBA told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that a Missouri attorney general has never before sued a private, nonprofit entity for allegedly violating the Sunshine Law.**

Schmitt is seeking records pertaining to advice MSBA gave to member districts regarding COVID-mitigation strategies, as well as anti-racism education.

The case is *State ex rel. Schmitt v. Missouri State School Boards Association*.

## **COURT STRIKES DOWN SURVIVORS' RIGHTS LAW**

The Missouri Supreme Court on March 15 unanimously upheld a lower court's ruling that a 2020 state law creating a Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights unconstitutionally infringes on the free speech rights of defense attorneys and the due



process rights of criminal defendants.

**State Public Defender Mary Fox challenged the law claiming it required defense attorneys to provide certain information and disclosures to sexual assault victims that would put them in the position of advocating for the victim, thus creating a conflict with their duty to represent their clients.**

The rejected statutory provision was enacted as part of larger legislation, Senate Bill 569, which contained other provisions relating to sexual assault investigations. The Supreme Court also upheld the trial judge's ruling that the remainder of the bill doesn't violate constitutional procedural requirements.

The case is *Fox v. State of Missouri*.



MARTIN CITY CO



**Please join us for**  
Coffee and Conversations  
with the Kansas City  
Police Department

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022**  
**7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

**Coffee**  
**With A Cop**



Martin City Coffee  
13115 Holmes Road  
Kansas City, MO 64145



# Hickman Mills School Board Candidate Forum

**Tuesday / Mar 22 / 7 - 8:30 PM**

Join Zoom via [lwk.org/calendar](https://lwk.org/calendar)  
or at [facebook.com/lwk/](https://facebook.com/lwk/)



**Co-sponsor: South Kansas City Alliance**



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF KANSAS CITY/JACKSON-CLAY-PLATTE COUNTIES



**MARCH  
23RD**



# **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: THE RFP PROCESS**

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT  
RFPS & DOING BUSINESS WITH THE CITY**



**WEDNESDAY MARCH 23RD  
5:00PM - 6:30PM**



**MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**VIRTUAL**

**REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE OR CALL OR  
EMAIL NEPHATERI HILL: (816) 513-7921  
OR NEPHATERI.HILL@KCMO.ORG**



CELEBRATING  
**WOMEN'S**  
HISTORY  
MONTH

VIRTUAL ZOOM  
LUNCH & LEARN  
SPEAKER SERIES

JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/91348421906](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/91348421906)

**THURSDAY  
MARCH 24  
12-1 P.M.**

GUEST SPEAKER:

**ALISE  
MARTINY**

PRESIDENT OF THE  
GREATER KANSAS CITY  
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION  
TRADES COUNCIL





# PBRR 32

Project Blue River Rescue

**April 2, 2022 9-1 at  
Lakeside Nature Center**

**REGISTER ONLINE**

[LakesideNatureCenter.org/events](https://LakesideNatureCenter.org/events)

or

**SCAN ME**





GRANDVIEW  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION  
students · staff · community

Please join us for the

## *Jane Bryan Distinguished Alumni Awards Brunch*

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*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)*

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### *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](https://mostreamteam.org/calendar-of-events.html)

or

**SCAN ME**



# 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. 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.

**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.



**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**

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**Jefferson City, Mo 65101**

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