



Dear Neighbor,

I'm writing a day later than usual this week since the House and Senate stayed in session five days this week, not adjourning until Friday. We are scheduled to do the same thing next week which is the last week of the 2022 regular legislative session before final adjournment 6 p.m. Friday, May 13.

**I was extremely pleased that the House and Senate reached agreement by Friday's constitutional deadline on our state's \$44.73 billion operating budget for fiscal year 2023 which begins July 1.**

While I was disappointed the approved budget didn't approve more funding for general state aid to public education, **I was very pleased the budget did include an additional \$214 million to fully fund the state's share of student transportation costs for public school districts for the first time in three decades.**

**I was pleased it also included \$27 million to increase minimum starting pay for public school teachers to \$38,000**

**a year as proposed by Governor Mike Parson.** This is a long overdue step forward, but still not enough to assure competitive salaries for our teachers.

**Underpaying our teachers due primarily to inadequate levels of state aid to our local school districts makes it difficult for our school districts to attract and retain the brightest and best teachers and shortchanges our children.**

While many state officials say the state school foundation formula used to distribute state aid to public K-12 education is fully funded, that is only because the state moved the goal posts on what constitutes being “fully funded”. **We can and must do better to assure the best possible future for our state and our children.**

The Speaker of the House appointed me as one of five House members to serve on the joint House-Senate conference committee for Senate Bill 681 (which is an omnibus elementary and secondary education bill) to try to work out differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

While our committee has not finished its work, I am very pleased that it appears that “open enrollment” language is going to be removed from the bill that would allow parents to transfer their children from their home school districts to other school districts willing to take them. This could be very detrimental to school districts in less affluent areas that adjoin districts in wealthier areas that might appear very attractive to many parents.

A better solution to assure all Missouri parents can enroll their

children in high-performing schools would be for the state to live up to its responsibility to adequately fund K-12 public education and distribute such funding fairly, recognizing the higher costs of education in urban areas.

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).

**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 [Kaylee.Bauer@house.mo.gov](mailto:Kaylee.Bauer@house.mo.gov).

**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*





**I enjoyed joining my friend and colleague Rep. Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit) playing on the Missouri Highway Patrol's Blue Bloods team in this week's annual General Assembly charity softball tournament, *especially since our team won.***

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Saturday, May 7th, 2022**

### **LAWMAKERS APPROVE \$44.73 BILLION BUDGET**

Lawmakers on May 6 granted final approval to the nearly \$44.73 billion state operating budget for the 2023 state fiscal year, completing the process just hours ahead of a constitutional deadline and avoiding a special legislative session to finish the job.

**Lawmakers also signed off on a separate bill allocating \$2.9 billion in federal pandemic relief funds, along with a plan to provide \$500 million in tax rebates to certain Missouri taxpayers.**

**The final budget includes some big spending increases**

**proposed by the Senate but left out of the House's original spending plan, including an additional \$214 million to fully fund the state's share of local public school districts' student transportation costs for the first time in three decades and \$27 million to increase minimum pay for public school teachers to \$38,000 a year.**

Despite a record revenue surplus, however, basic state funding for local school districts remains flat from the current fiscal year.

**The budget also fully funds the state's Medicaid program, including a constitutionally mandated eligibility expansion Missouri voters approved in 2020. Some Republicans had continued to resist funding the expansion until the Missouri Supreme Court ruled last year that the state constitution required the state to provide those services.**

**In addition to the normal operating budget, lawmakers approved a bill to spend \$2.9 billion in federal relief funds, with significant amounts going for a wide range of infrastructure improvements, including broadband expansion and the removal of lead pipes from water systems.**

Lawmakers passed three other bills providing \$903.66 million in spending authority for various capital improvements.

Lawmakers also endorsed a plan to set aside \$500 million in general revenue for income tax rebates to individuals earning less than \$150,000 a year, or \$300,000 annually for married couples.



The governor is expected to sign the various appropriations bills into law sometime before the 2023 state fiscal year begins on July 1.

The state constitution gives the governor line item veto authority that empowers him to veto specific appropriations he doesn't support while approving all the other spending authority in appropriations bills.

## **SENATE COMBINES ELECTION LAW CHANGES**

The Senate appears poised to approve legislation imposing a strict photo voter identification requirement, overcoming Democratic opposition by agreeing to also create a no-excuse absentee voting period two weeks prior to an election.

Once the Senate takes a final vote, if approved the bill will return to the House of Representatives, which can either accept the Senate changes or seek to negotiate further changes.

**As originally approved by the lower chamber, House Bill 1878 which I voted against was largely limited to requiring voters to show a government-issued photo ID in order to cast a ballot. The Missouri Supreme Court has twice ruled such laws violate the constitutional rights of legal voters who do not possess and cannot easily obtain a photo ID.**

The Senate, however, on May 4 added numerous amendments to the bill, including a controversial provision that would grant



the secretary of state the unprecedented power to withhold funding from local election authorities who, in the secretary of state's opinion, aren't satisfactorily maintaining accurate voter rolls. The power of the purse traditionally is reserved for the legislature and governor through the state budget process.

HB 1878 also purports to prohibit the General Assembly from changing state election laws within 26 weeks prior to a presidential election. This provision likely would be unenforceable, however, since lawmakers have no authority to statutorily restrict the power of future General Assembly sessions to enact laws.

**To overcome a Democratic filibuster, the Senate agreed to the amendment establishing a two-week period prior to an election when voters can cast an absentee ballot without offering a statutorily authorized reason. Under existing law, voters must have an authorized excuse for voting absentee, such as being absent from their local election authority's jurisdiction on election day or being physically incapacitated.**

A provision was added stating that if the bill's photo voter ID requirement is struck down, which seems likely given Missouri Supreme Court precedent, then the absentee ballot provision could not be implemented.

## **HOUSE VOTES TO RAISE SMOKING/VAPING AGE**

The House of Representatives on May 4 voted to raise the statewide legal age for using tobacco products or vaping from

18 to 21 in order to comply with a federal law requiring states to do so by June 2023 or face the loss of federal funds.

Lawmakers added the provision to an omnibus health care bill that I voted for, which the House passed on a vote of 97-31.

The measure, Senate Bill 710, originally was limited to health care plans for public school students who suffer from seizures. However, the House added dozens of other provisions relating to health care.

Negotiators for the two chambers are expected to strip out many of the House changes before final votes on the bill are taken.

## **HOUSE TRIES AGAIN ON REDISTRICTING**

A House committee approved a revised congressional redistricting bill on May 4 in a last-ditch attempt to approve new districts in time for this year's elections.

**The full House of Representatives is expected to consider the bill May 9, but final passage remains uncertain since it also would have to go through the full approval process in the Senate by the time this year's legislative session ends at 6 p.m. on May 13.**

The House in mid-January approved a different measure, House Bill 2117, to redraw Missouri's eight congressional districts to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census. Lawmakers had intended to pass the bill before

candidate filing for the Aug. 2 congressional primaries opened in late February.

Due to infighting among Senate Republicans, however, HB 2117 stalled in the Senate for two months before senators eventually passed a radically different version of the bill on March 24. Although the House sought to negotiate a compromise, the Senate refused, and the process has been in limbo ever since.

House Bill 2909 is an attempt to satisfy the demands of Senate Republican hardliners who have voiced their desire to create seven Congressional districts likely to favor Republican candidates rather than the six districts that currently do.

**However, since the bill chops up many Missouri cities and counties, it's unclear if the new plan will have enough votes to clear the House, which barely passed the earlier congressional redistricting bill with only a handful of votes to spare.**

No House Democrats supported HB 2117 and Democrats are expected to also oppose HB 2909 since it further divides some areas that tend to support Democratic candidates.

**Candidates for now are filed under the outdated congressional map adopted in 2011. At least three lawsuits have been filed in state and federal courts seeking to block elections under the 2011 map and asking judges to draw new districts that comply with constitutional requirements.**

## **VOTERS TO DECIDE FATE OF NEW DEPARTMENT**

Missouri voters will decide later this year whether to create a Missouri Department of the National Guard after the Senate voted 32-0 on May 5 to put the question on the statewide ballot.

The House of Representatives had previously approved House Joint Resolution 116 which I voted for about a month ago on a vote of 126-2-3.

**For organizational purposes the Guard currently is part of the Department of Public Safety, but by law it operates independently of that agency, and its adjutant general already reports directly to the governor.**

**The proposed constitutional amendment will go on the Nov. 8 general election ballot, unless the governor exercises his authority to put the measure on the Aug. 2 primary ballot.**

Missouri currently has 16 state departments.

# GENESIS FAMILY & JOBS FAIR!

*A FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!*

**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
- 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 (Healthy Nutritious Food)
- A. Phillip Randolph (Voter Registration & Rights)

**For information:**

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







# *Sixth District*

## Spring Clean Up Event

**May 14, 2022: 8 AM - NOON**

Join us for our annual Sixth District Clean up event that is open to all KCMO residents

### **Location:**

**Ruskin High School  
7000 E 111TH ST  
Kansas City, MO, 64134**

### **Accepted items:**

Bulky Items/Trash  
Leaf and Brush  
Tires  
Clothes  
Tools

Document Shredding  
Electronic Collection

### **There will be a cash charge for electronic items listed below:**

- CRT monitors \$5/ea
- CRT TVs 26" or less \$30/ea
- CRT TVs 27" or greater \$50/ea
- Wood console & true big screen/projection TVs \$50/ea
- LED/LCD/Plasma TVs \$20/ea
- Any freon containing unit \$10/ea

### **Location:**

**South-Broadland Presbyterian  
7850 Holmes Rd  
Kansas City, MO, 64131**

### **Accepted items:**

Bulky Items/Trash  
Leaf and Brush  
Tires  
Document Shredding



**Councilmembers  
McManus & Bough**  
Sixth District



**KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI**  
PUBLIC WORKS

For more information,  
contact Robert Woods  
at 816-513-8442



# MAY is Law Enforcement Appreciation Month

JOIN US AT THE MARTIN CITY  
COMMUNITY TREE

200 E 135th Street, KCMO 64145  
*RunKC* Parking Lot  
ESTABLISHED 2021



The Martin City Community Improvement District and the  
South KC Chamber of Commerce invite you to join us

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**  
**3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

to show our appreciation for all of the men and  
woman of our local law enforcement and...

- Check out cool cars, equipment, motorcycles, rollover vehicle, and more
- Thank an officer
- Complimentary refreshments for all
- All are encouraged to donate a backpack



Co-Hosted by:  
EXPERIENCE  
**MARTIN CITY**  
MARTINCITY.ORG





Disney  
**ENCANTO**

**May 20th | 7:00 PM**

KCPD South Patrol  
9701 Marion Park Drive, KCMO, 64137

**BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET**

 • POPCORN  
• HOT DOGS  
• PRE SHOW ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL!

RAIN? NO PROBLEM - WE'LL MOVE INSIDE!

Thanks to our sponsors:





# *Fifth District*

## CLEAN UP

**May 21, 2022 - 8 AM - NOON**

### LOCATIONS

- Southeast High School  
3500 E Meyer Blvd  
KCMO, 64132:  
Tires (with or without rims), trash,  
bulky items, leaf & brush, glass  
collections
- 3001 East 81st Street  
KCMO, 64132:  
Trash, bulky items, leaf & brush, tires
- 8800 Blue Ridge Blvd  
KCMO, 64138:  
Trash, bulky items
- Center Academy for Success  
8434 The Paseo  
KCMO, 64131:  
Tires (with or without rims), trash,  
bulky items, leaf & brush, glass  
collection, clothes, and tools, toys

### SPONSORS:

**KCMO - Public Works**



**KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI**

For more information, contact  
Robert Woods at 816-513-8442





**MIDWEST**  
**POOL**  
MANAGEMENT

**NOW HIRING**

**LIFEGUARDS & MORE!**

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**(816) 350-2628**  
**FOLLOW US ON:**



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CERTIFICATION**



## 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!)



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

*\*THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*



## South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

**Community Assistance Council**, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org) for appointments or questions.

**Red Bridge Area Food Pantry**, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 913-313-0250 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

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**

**201 W Capitol Ave**

**Jefferson City, Mo 65101**

**Phone**

**573-751-9469**

**Email**

**[mark.sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:mark.sharp@house.mo.gov)**

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