



Dear Neighbor,

With just four weeks remaining there is not much time left in the 2023 Regular Legislative Session to pass critical legislation for the state of Missouri.

The good news is that there are some important bills that are moving closer to crossing the finish line including legislation that I have filed to establish Blair's Law to make the unlawful discharge of a firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits a serious state offense. This legislation is named for Blair Shanahan Lane who was struck and killed by celebratory gunfire in 2011 on the 4th of July holiday.

For those that want to follow the progress of Blair's Law, please follow these bills:

House Bill 109, **House Bill 301**, **House Bill 1108**, **Senate Bill 189** and Senate Bill 343.

Blair's Law has been added to three other major public safety bills to ensure it has the best chance of passing this session.

Another important piece of legislation that I've filed this year will allow the Board of Police Commissioners for the Kansas City Police Department to update non-competitive pay scales for all ranks of officers. There are two versions of this bill, one introduced in the Missouri House and the other introduced in the Missouri Senate.

For those who want to follow this important legislation, follow these bills:

House Bill 640 and Senate Bill 119.

Please join me **from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 21, at United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Ter., for a community meeting to develop strategies to reduce recent increases in violent crime committed by youth in the south Kansas City area.** The event is sponsored by the Police Department's Community Engagement Division and the South Patrol Division. As Pastor Darron Edwards of the church said, **"People who are impacted by the problem know the best solutions to the problems they face."**



I explained chances are good this year for passing Blair's Law that I sponsored to deter celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire by making such gunfire within or into city limits a serious state offense at last Monday's South Kansas City Alliance meeting. Listening, from left, are Senator Greg Razer who has sponsored Blair's Law in the Senate and Representative Anthony Ealy who has co-sponsored my bill. Blair's Law is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who was killed here during the July 4th holiday in 2011 as the result of being hit by celebratory gunfire while she was playing outside.





WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, April 17th, 2023

HOUSE OKAYS GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE BAN

The House of Representatives on April 13 voted 103-52-1 for legislation to prohibit gender-affirming care for minors.

Only two House Republicans joined unanimous Democrats in opposing House Bill 419, with another Republican voting present.

However, the Senate's Republican leader cast doubt on whether the measure can clear the upper chamber and urged the House to grant final passage to Senate Bill 49, the slightly less onerous version senators approved last month.

House Bill 419 would ban gender-affirming surgery for minors, which currently only happens in rare situations, and also outlaw the use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors.

Senate Bill 49 is similar but would allow those who

have already starting transitioning to continue treatments. In addition, the Senate version's ban on puberty-blockers and hormone therapy would expire in 2027 unless renewed by lawmakers.

During a news conference shortly after the House vote, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, noted the Senate was able to pass its bill only after reaching a compromise with some Democrats following a days-long filibuster. Rowden said he was unsure the House version could win final Senate passage.

“We don’t get second chances on huge, huge issues like that very often,” Rowden said, according to the Missouri Independent.

Also on April 13, the House General Laws Committee voted to advance SB 49, as well as Senate Bill 39, which would prohibit transgender athletes from competing on sports teams that correspond with their gender identity. The sports participation ban would apply not only to K-12 athletics but also college sports, likely putting Missouri colleges and universities out of compliance with NCAA rules relating to transgender athletes.

During their own news conference, House Republican leaders were noncommittal on when or if the full House would take up the Senate bills for debate.

The House on April 11 voted 107-41 to grant preliminary approval to its version of the transgender sports ban but hasn't yet taken the second vote that's required to advance it to the Senate.

HOUSE EXPANDS WHERE GUNS CAN BE CARRIED

The House of Representatives on an April 13 voice vote granted first-round approval to Republican-sponsored legislation that would allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry firearms on public transit and in churches.

It currently is against the law to carry concealed guns on buses or other public transit, or in churches without the pastor's permission. House Bill 282 would legalize both practices for concealed carry permit holders.

A second, recorded vote is necessary to advance HB 282 to the Senate.

4-DAY SCHOOL WEEKS MAY BE LIMITED

The Senate on April 13 passed legislation that would prohibit many public school districts from switching to

4-day school weeks unless local voters approve the move.

Senators added the provision to a larger bill that now advances to the House of Representatives.

Lawmakers first authorized local school boards to switch to a 4-day schedule a little more than a decade ago.

Initially there were few takers, but in recent years the idea has gained in popularity as a way for cash-strapped districts to save money on student transportation and building operations, even though the impact on student academic performance has been a concern.

More than a quarter of the state's 518 school districts have since made the switch. Although small rural districts make up the bulk of those with 4-day schedules, some larger suburban districts are now considering the change.

Under current law, any local school board can vote to adopt a 4-day school week.

Senate Bill 411 would require school districts located in whole or in part in a charter county or in cities with populations greater than 30,000 residents to get voter approval to make the switch. Missouri currently

has five charter counties – Clay, Jackson, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis.

Districts in less populous areas could still opt for a 4-day week without going to voters.

HOUSE VOTES FOR ANOTHER FEE HIKE

The House of Representatives on April 12 gave preliminary approval to legislation imposing a 50% increase on the fees the private contractors that run the state's license offices can charge Missourians for obtaining or renewing their driver's licenses or license plates. The proposed hike comes just four years after lawmakers approved legislation doubling the fees.

The office operators charge the fees to pay for their operating expenses and earn a profit. House Bill 424 would increase the fees for two-year license plates or a six-year driver's license from \$12 to \$18.

These fees are in addition to the actual charge for the plates or license which goes to the state and would not increase under HB 424.

In 2019, lawmakers doubled the fees from \$6 to \$12, providing what had been the first increase in more than two decades.


Supporters of the latest fee hike say it's necessary due to the inflationary pressures that recently have increased the contractors' operational expenses. Opponents say it's too soon to impose another large fee hike on Missouri motorists.

A second vote is needed to advance the bill to the Senate.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOUTH VIOLENCE?



**Friday, April 21, 2023
6pm-7:30pm**

 **UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH**
5600 East 112th Terrace
KCMO 64137

- Focus On What Is Happening
- Build & Bridge To Deter It From Continuously Happening

#KCUNITED

*Voice Your Concerns With The Community Engagement Division of The Kansas City Police
Department & South Patrol Division*

FAIR HOUSING & EQUITY SUMMIT

**FREE
EVENT!**

**FRIDAY,
APR 21**

**8 AM TO
2 PM**

**KAUFFMAN
CONFERENCE CTR**

4801 Rockhill Rd

MORNING SPEAKER

Dr. Alisa Warren, Executive Director,
Missouri Commission on Human Rights

ADDITIONAL INFO

We'll also provide free vendor resources,
cont. breakfast, lunch, and parking.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Will Jordan, JD, Executive Director,
Metropolitan St. Louis Equal
Housing & Opportunity Council

REGISTER BY APR 17

Call 816-219-5316 or email
kimberly.harris@kcmo.org or
taylor.matzek@kcmo.org

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Tenant and landlord resources, equity
in housing, appraisals, Hispanic
resources, and quit/claim deeds

To register, let us know your name,
organization or company, email
address for each attendee, and any
special accommodations needed.



The City of Kansas City, Missouri's,
Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity
(CREO) and Housing Departments



DE-CLUTTER AND DO GOOD AT THE NEXT

UN-DUMPSTER DAY

DONATION DRIVE & EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

SOUTH-BROADLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
7850 HOLMES RD, KANSAS CITY MO 64131

DONATION
DROP OFF
8AM-12PM



FAMILY FRIENDLY EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

PAPER SHREDDING & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF 8AM-12PM

LIVE DJ & SPECIAL GUEST DARRON STORY FROM 107.3

UPCYCLED ART & FUNCTIONAL OBJECT POP-UP MAKERSPACE

FIND OUT MORE AT [REUSEFULL.ORG](https://reusefull.org)



Neighborhood Accountability Board Training

searching for ways to be engaged in or
supportive of your community?

The Center for Conflict Resolution is offering our Neighborhood Accountability Training to provide community members the opportunity to learn how to be part of restorative justice processes that happen in the Kansas City community.

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, brings about accountability, and prevents future harm.

Saturday, May 6th, 2023 | 9 AM- 4 PM
6285 The Paseo 64110

To register for this training, send email to dbayless@ccrkc.org or go to our website, www.ccrkc.org for more information. Free for Jackson County residents, \$50 for out of county.



Funding for this training provided by Jackson County COMBAT.



4TH ANNUAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 2, 2023
1:00 PM SHOTGUN START

SHAMROCK HILLS GOLF CLUB
3161 SW M 291 HWY, LEE'S SUMMIT, MO

SPONSORS:
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CSD CREDIT UNION

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ENTRY FEE:
\$100 PER PERSON • \$400 PER TEAM



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Formula Distribution!!



Cradle **kc**  Community Health Council of Wyandotte County

CHC and Cradle KC are a formula distribution site! We have a variety of infant formula available. If we do not have the type of formula you need, we can request it.

Scan the QR code to submit your request



contact us at 913-371-9298 if you have questions



Understanding and Accessing MISSOURI MEDICAID

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

Am I eligible?

Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross **monthly** household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, **you may qualify**.



1

\$1,481

2

\$2,003

3

\$2,525

4

\$3,048

5

\$3,570

6

\$4,092

How do I apply?

GOOD NEWS!

Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!

Online:

Visit <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal

By Phone:

Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994

By Mail or Email:

Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:

Family Support Division
615 E 13th St
Kansas City, MO 64106

Or email to:

FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov

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 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 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 816-908-7800 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 10 a.m. until food runs out 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 3:30 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., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

Serve and Lift Center – South KC, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



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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

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