



Dear Neighbor,

I was extremely disappointed last Thursday when the Missouri House passed a proposed constitutional amendment that will make it extremely difficult to approve constitutional amendments proposed by citizen led initiative petitions.

If House Joint Resolution 43 passes both branches of the legislature and is approved by a simple majority of those voting in a statewide election, it will require constitutional amendments proposed through the initiative petition process to be approved by 60% of those voting instead of a simple majority.

Something that was repeated often by backers of HJR 43 during debate on the House floor was that they want to protect the state's constitution by making more difficult for "outside money" to successfully bankroll petition drives to amend the constitution.

What HJR 43 would actually do is make it very difficult for our state's own citizens to amend our constitution to enact urgent reforms that the legislature has failed to address such as expanding Medicaid to provide health care coverage for impoverished Missouri families.

These reforms are generally proposed as constitutional amendments instead of state laws to prevent the legislature from easily repealing reforms the majority of legislators oppose. Constitutional amendments can only be repealed or modified by other constitutional amendments which require statewide voter approval.

This afternoon the House Rules – Regulatory Oversight Committee voted 9-0 to recommend passage by the full House of House Committee Substitute for House Bills 640 & 729 to remove the extremely outdated salary caps for the Kansas City

police chief and all other officers of all ranks in the department that have become non-competitive.

This legislation also eliminates the discriminatory language in state law that prohibits the Board of Police Commissioners from hiring anyone as chief who is more than 60 years of age.

This measure was recommended for passage last week on a 5-0 vote by the Special Committee on Urban Issues that I chair. It is expected to come up for debate by the full House relatively soon.

I sponsored HB 640, and Rep. Chris Brown sponsored HB 729.

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.

Here are my current House committee appointments:

**Special Committee on Urban Issues
Subcommittee on Appropriations - General
Administration
Consent and House Procedure**

**Crime Prevention and Public Safety
Special Committee on Election Contests
I also serve on the Joint Committee on Legislative
Research**

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, you can contact my legislative aide Racheal Cunningham at Racheal.Cunningham@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



The leadership team of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus poses with Gov. Mike Parson at the Governor's Mansion during an event last week for the entire Democratic Caucus to discuss the Governor's legislative agenda. I am the Black Caucus treasurer, and our other officers, from left, are Rep. Marlene Terry, chair; Rep. Yolonda Fountain Henderson, secretary; and Rep. Michael Johnson, vice chair.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, February 6th, 2023

AMENDING CONSTITUTION MAY BECOME HARDER

On a straight party-line vote of 108-50, the Republican-dominated House of Representatives on Feb. 2 advanced a proposed constitutional amendment that would require a 60% super-majority of voters to approve future state constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petition.

However, if this particular measure clears the legislature and makes it onto the statewide ballot, only a simple majority will be needed for ratification – the same approval margin for constitutional amendments that has been in place in Missouri since 1820.

Because the legislature can't unilaterally alter constitutional provisions, some Republican legislators have prioritized making it harder to amend the Missouri Constitution through the initiative petition process after voters in recent years ratified a string of constitutional changes such lawmakers had opposed, including Medicaid expansion, recreational marijuana legalization

and legislative ethics reform.

While the primary purpose of House Joint Resolution 43 is to require support from at least 60% of voters to ratify future constitutional amendments proposed through the initiative petition process, the proposed ballot language for the measure falsely claims it would prevent non-citizens from voting. That is the first thing mentioned in the proposed ballot language.

However, the Missouri Constitution already restricts voting to U.S. citizens.

The new super-majority requirement – the main purpose for the measure – isn't mentioned until the very end of the ballot language.

HJR 43 now advances to the Senate. If approved by the upper chamber, it will go on the November 2024 statewide ballot unless the governor exercises his constitutional authority to set an earlier election date.

LEGAL NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA SALES STARTED

Recreational marijuana sales to adults began at some

Missouri dispensaries Friday, Feb. 3 – three days before today’s deadline for state regulators to approve the first round of license conversion requests by existing medical marijuana sellers to expand into the recreational market.

Missouri voters ratified a constitutional amendment legalizing recreational marijuana use and possession for those age 21 and older in November, and it took effect Dec. 8. However, legalized sales for recreational use didn’t begin instantly since the amendment gave the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services which oversees the state’s legal marijuana industry up to 60 days to approve licenses for recreational sales.

All of those initial licenses went to facilities that were already approved to sell medical marijuana. For those that applied on Dec. 8 to convert their licenses, the department had to approve those applications no later than today. Facilities that filed after Dec. 8 will be authorized to sell recreational marijuana no later than 60 days after their filing date.

Although adult recreational marijuana use and possession is now generally legal in Missouri, many restrictions remain, including a ban on public consumption and a prohibition on use by minors, with violations punishable by a maximum \$100 civil fine.

Civil fines for possessing more than 3 ounces of marijuana range from \$250 for a first offense to \$1,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

Recreational marijuana sales are subject to a 6% state sales tax. However, cities and counties are also allowed to levy additional sales taxes of up to 3%, subject to local voter approval.

In my legislative district, Jackson County and Kansas City have already put 3% sales taxes on the sale of recreational marijuana on the April 4 ballot, so if both measures pass retail recreational marijuana sales will be subject to a combined sales tax of 12%.

BLACK SENATORS OPPOSE SENATE BILL 4

On the first day of Black History Month, the Missouri Senate on Feb. 1 began debating Senate Bill 4 that would prohibit K-12 public schools from teaching about “critical race theory”, a concept generally only taught at the college level that examines the historical and continuing impact of racism on American institutions and society.

“Critical race theory” is currently not taught in public elementary or secondary schools in Missouri.

The Senate set the bill aside after Black senators spent about three hours airing their opposition to it, but the Senate is expected to return to it at a later date.

The bill was recommended on Jan. 24 for Senate passage by the Senate Education & Workforce Development Committee.

Formula Distribution!!



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

ee.

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 to 3:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Walk -In, Call for an appointment, or Order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



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