



Dear Neighbor,

It was an exciting second week of session as the Speaker of the Missouri House, Representative Dean Plocher, and Minority Floor Leader, Representative Crystal Quade, began appointing members of their respective political parties to standing committees and special committees.

The Speaker of the Missouri House appoints chairs of all standing committees and special committees, and he also appoints members from both political parties to special committees.

The Minority Floor Leader cannot appoint any chairs of committees. She can only appoint members of her political

party to standing committees. However, with Special Committees she can make recommendations to the Speaker's office on which members from her party she wants to be appointed by the Speaker.

It is with great humility that I can share that the Speaker of the Missouri House has chosen me to be the sole Democrat to chair a committee for the 102nd General Assembly in the Missouri House, and I'm the only African-American to chair a committee in either the House or Senate. I will be chairing the Special Committee on Urban Issues, and I'm humbled that the Speaker has placed his trust in me to run this committee.

I have prided myself on being a fair representative and earning respect from members on both sides of the aisle in my first three years in the Missouri House. Even when we don't share the same views on policy, I've done so respectfully and have never stooped to personally attacking other legislators in committee or on the House floor.

I know that our Speaker wants to make reducing crime in our state a priority, and I've already requested to his office that my House Bill 109 (Blair's Law) which creates a state offense for discharging a firearm into or within city limits with criminal negligence to be assigned to either the Special Committee on Urban Issues, which I chair or to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety, which I sit on. I should know more about this request this week.

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 committee appointments as of now:

Special Committee on Urban Issues, Chair
Special Committee on Election Contests
Crime Prevention and Public Safety
Consent and House Procedure
Appropriations - General Administration

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, you can contact my legislative aide Rachael Cunningham at Rachael.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 Missouri Legislative Black Caucus hosted its annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on the first floor of the Capitol Rotunda this past week. This was the first time we've been able to host the event at the People's House since the Covid-19 pandemic started. As the Treasurer of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus, I explained the purpose of the evening's event. In my closing comments, I recited a quote from Dr. King's memorial that inspired me to run for office when I visited Washington, D.C., in 2018, pictured below.



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, January 16th, 2023

PARSON SEEKS PAY HIKE FOR STATE WORKERS

Gov. Mike Parson on Jan. 11 announced he will seek an 8.7% pay raise for all state government workers, with an additional \$2-an-hour night shift bonus for staff at residential facilities such as prisons, veteran homes and mental health institutions.

Parson said the increase is necessary to offset high inflation and help stem a recent exodus of state workers to higher-paying private sector jobs that has left the state with about 7,000 open positions.

Parson wants the raises to take effect as of March 1. His office estimates his pay plan will cost an additional \$151.2 million, including \$82.4 million in general revenue, over the final four months of the 2023 fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Lawmakers must approve the spending in a supplemental appropriations bill for the raises to take effect.

Although Missouri traditionally has had a low-paid state government workforce, attracting and retaining employees became a more serious problem when private-sector salaries

shot up in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, and the state began hemorrhaging workers.

For FY 2022, the state initially had budgeted just a 2% cost of living adjustment for state workers that didn't kick in until halfway through the fiscal year. The state ended up providing an additional 5.5% boost just three months later in an effort to be competitive. However, even those bumps combined barely kept up with inflation.

Parson will announce his priorities for the FY 2024 state operating budget during the annual State of the State address, which is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on Jan. 18 before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly in the House of Representatives chamber.

FY 2024 begins July 1.

NET STATE REVENUE UP 9.5%

Net state general revenue collections were up 9.5% through the first six months of the 2023 fiscal year compared to the same period in FY 2022, going from \$5.7 billion last year to \$6.24 billion this year.

Year-to-date revenue collections had been up 14.5% over the previous fiscal year through the first five months of FY 2023.

Net general revenue collections for December 2022 declined 9.3% compared to those for December 2021, going from \$1.19

billion last fiscal year to \$1.08 billion this year. According to the Missouri Office of Budget and Planning, however, the decline for December 2022 is due to a distribution error that artificially inflated collections for December 2021.

Although a technical error might account for the December decline, actual collections for the remaining six months of FY 2023 are expected to sharply decline due to an income tax cut that took effect Jan. 1 and dropped Missouri's top individual tax rate from 5.3% to 4.8%.

Because of the expected major reduction in state revenue collections, state budget officials expect overall revenue growth of just 1.4% by the time FY 2023 ends on June 30.

AUDITOR VOWS TO INVESTIGATE SCHOOLS

Shortly after being sworn in on Jan. 9, new State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick pledged to investigate public school districts for allegedly teaching so-called "critical race theory", a move that appears to exceed the authority of his office.

Fitzpatrick, a Republican who had served as state treasurer since 2019, won election as auditor in November.

The Missouri Constitution restricts the state auditor to auditing the finances of state agencies and local governments, including school districts. It also bars the legislature from expanding the auditor's role, saying: "No duty shall be imposed on him by law which is not related to the supervising and auditing of the receipt and expenditure

of public funds.”

Critical race theory is an area of academic study generally taught at the college level that examines the lingering impact of racism on institutions. It is not taught in K-12 public schools in Missouri.

However, some politicians often use CRT as shorthand for any instruction or discussion of past or present racism in society. Fitzpatrick made investigating schools on the subject one of the themes of his election campaign.

Fitzpatrick replaces Nicole Galloway, who did not seek election to a third term as auditor and was the last remaining Democrat holding statewide office in Missouri. Republicans now control all six statewide executive branch elected offices for the first time since 1932. Democrats had held a majority of those offices as recently as 2016, and last controlled all six in 2000.

New 9:00AM Meeting Time!

Coffee
and
Urban Renewal Plan
CONVERSATION



with

COUNCILWOMAN PARKS-SHAW

&

**6th DISTRICT COUNCILWOMAN
ANDREA BOUGH**



11900 Blue Ridge Blvd.



9:00 AM SATURDAY
JANUARY 21ST

sponsored by



RYANA PARKS-SHAW
COUNCILWOMAN - 6TH DISTRICT



APPLY
TODAY!

COHORT 12

Neighborhood Leadership Training

UMKC - Center for Neighborhoods

Spring 2023

If you are active in your neighborhood organization the Center for Neighborhood's Cohort Neighborhood Leadership Training can help you develop crucial community-building skills.

Cohort 12 will be a **FREE**, 12-week series of classes, workshops, and fellowship **occurring between February 25th and May 20th**.

Tuesday night regular sessions will focus on our Four Pillars of Neighborhood Vitality; Leadership + Governance, Health + Safety, Planning + Development, and Communications + Technology. Three Saturday workshops will include hands-on lessons in a UMKC computer lab and asset-walk training in a nearby neighborhood.

Tuesday evening classes are held weekly with dinner served at 5:00 PM and classwork beginning at 5:30 PM.

Saturday workshops are usually scheduled 10 AM – 12 PM.

The deadline to apply is midnight on January 31st.

We hope you'll join us this spring!

[Click Here to apply today!](#)



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

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



Cradle KC **CHC** Community Health Council of Wyandotte County

The graphic features a light pink background with decorative elements like a sunburst, a flower, and a crescent moon. A baby is shown in the bottom right corner, drinking from a white bottle. The text is in a mix of bold and regular fonts, with some words in a larger, more playful font.

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



AGES
18 AND
UNDER



WHILE
SUPPLIES
LAST

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 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. 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.



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KcCrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



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