



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, May 1st, 2023

SENATE PASSES ITS VERSION OF BUDGET

The Senate on April 26 voted for a \$49.92 billion state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year that includes \$4.4 billion more in spending authority than previously approved by the House of Representatives.

The two chambers must now hammer out a final budget by a constitutional deadline of 6 p.m. on May 5.

However, those negotiations had yet to begin by the

time lawmakers adjourned last week. When they return to the Capitol today, just a few days will remain for negotiators to work out the substantial differences between the two versions and bring the various appropriations bills that make up the budget to final votes in both chambers.

If lawmakers miss the deadline, the budget process must start over in a special legislative session. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

A \$2.8 billion plan to widen the entire length of Interstate 70 across Missouri that the Senate added to the operating budget accounts for much of the cost difference between the two plans.

Although the House omitted I-70 funding from the operating budget, it did authorize a more limited \$859 million plan to improve portions of the highway in a separate appropriations bill for capital improvement projects.

The Senate version also includes \$461 million to increase pay for home care workers who provide services to elderly or disabled Missourians in an effort to reverse a worsening shortage of workers in the field.

In addition, the Senate restored \$78 million to expand pre-school options throughout the state - funding requested by the governor but stricken by the House.

Even with the extra spending, the Senate plan still leaves \$2.5 billion from an unprecedented revenue surplus due in part to large increases in federal funding sitting untouched in the state treasury.

As happened in the House, Senate debate focused on whether to include language in the appropriations bills to prohibit “diversity, equity and inclusion” programs in Missouri.

Such efforts are increasing in both government and the private sector as a means of fostering stronger ties with historically marginalized groups and attracting and retaining workers.

Although the House inserted anti-DEI language in the bills, a Senate committee stripped it out. Hardline-conservatives attempted to restore the language on the Senate floor but following hours of debate were unsuccessful.

RESTORING PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY REJECTED

The House of Representatives on April 24 rejected legislation that sought to reinstate Missouri's presidential preference primary in time for the 2024 elections.

State lawmakers eliminated the primary last year as part of an omnibus elections bill.

Although House Bill 267 would have restored the presidential primary, it also would have shifted it to the municipal election day in April instead of its previous date in early March.

Opponents of the switch said delaying the primary a month would greatly reduce the state's influence on the presidential nominating process and unnecessarily politicize the nonpartisan contests for school board and city government offices that typically are the focus of April elections.

The bill failed on a vote of 65-56, with 31 lawmakers voting present. I voted no. A minimum of 82 yes votes was required to advance it to the Senate.

The measure's failure means Missouri remains on track to hold presidential caucuses next year for

allocating the state's delegates to the Democratic and Republican national conventions at which the parties' presidential nominees will be formally selected.

Under the caucus system, party loyalists gathering at local meetings throughout the state decide which candidates to support. With a primary, all registered voters get to participate. Before switching to the primary system for the 2000 presidential election, Missouri historically had been a caucus state.

AMENDING CONSTITUTION MAY GET HARDER

The Senate on April 27 voted 24-10 along straight party lines for a proposed constitutional amendment intended to make it harder to amend the Missouri Constitution.

The measure, which Republicans supported and Democrats opposed, returns to the House of Representatives which approved a substantially different version of it in February.

As originally passed by the lower chamber, House Joint Resolution 43 sought to raise the threshold for voter ratification of constitutional amendments from the simple majority that has been required since the 1800s to

a 60% supermajority.

The Senate version of HJR 43 would create a two-tiered system under which an amendment could be ratified by either a 57% statewide supermajority or by both a simple majority statewide and the approval of a majority of voters in at least five of Missouri's eight congressional districts.

The Senate version also would raise the bar for the General Assembly to put proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, requiring a measure to first be approved by 57% majorities in each chamber instead of simple majorities.


It also would prohibit the legislature from amending statutory proposals placed on the ballot via imitative petition within five years of passage unless 57% of lawmakers in each chamber support doing so.

The House can either grant final passage to the Senate version or seek to negotiate a compromise. If HJR 43 clears the legislature, it automatically will go on the November 2024 statewide ballot unless the governor exercises his constitutional authority to set an earlier election date. Ratification would require just a simple majority.



Recently we had the annual "Buy Missouri Market" at the Missouri Capitol and I had the pleasure to meet Walter Lester who was doing a food presentation to provide those attending the special

flavor of his spices as shown in the picture. Mr. Lester is a south Kansas City resident and runs Spiceman LLC. Check him out if you get a chance.



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BIRTHDAY | MEET & GREET
AND HISTORIC INDUCTION
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Wednesday, May 3, 2023

1pm - 6pm Open House | Meet & Greet
4pm Remarks and Historic
Induction Ceremony
- *Light Refreshments Served* -

Black Archives of Mid-America
1722 East 17th Terrace
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Hosted By: Brooks Family

For More Information Contact:
Jermaine Reed (816) 863-8914
info@jermainereed.com

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and are greatly
appreciated.
Write Checks to: "Black
Archives" - 50103
organizations. All
donations are tax
deductible.

6TH DISTRICT CLEAN UP EVENT

Join us for our annual 6th District Clean up event,
open to all KC residents.

**Sat., May 6
8 A.M. - Noon**

First Baptist Church of KCMO - 100 W. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114
Ruskin High School - 7000 E 111th St., Kansas City, MO 64134

ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Electronics (Anything with a circuit board and a plug) - items that will have a fee are attached.
- Tires (with or without rim)
- Document Shredder (on-site)
- Leaf/brush
- Bulky items & trash

ELECTRONIC ITEMS FEE

- CRT Monitors = \$5.00 each
- CRT TV's 26" or less = \$30.00 each
- CRT TV's 27" or greater = \$50.00 each
- Wood Console and True Big Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00 each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV'S = \$20.00 each
- Any Freon containing unit = \$10.00 each

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



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.

Community Listening Session featuring KCMO Chief of Police Stacey Graves

Thursday, May 11
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
United Believers Community Church
5600 East 112th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64137



[> RSVP HERE](#)

You are invited to the first of several quarterly “Community Listening Sessions” with Kansas City, Missouri Chief of Police Stacey Graves.

The Community Listening Sessions are a partnership between the Public Safety Coalition and the Police Department, facilitated by KC Common Good.

The Community Listening Session with Chief Graves will be modeled after the listening sessions the 16-member Coalition held prior to Graves’ selection as Chief of Police. She’ll open the session by sharing her ideas on ways to reduce KCMO’s high rate of violent crime, and then community members will engage in world café-style conversations around tables, reporting out their thoughts and concerns. The Chief is eager to hear what the community has to say.

Admission to the Community Listening Session is free, but please RSVP. We appreciate the willingness of both the community and Chief Graves to come together around this vital conversation, and hope to see you there.

The [Public Safety Coalition](#) consists of 16 business, civic, and interfaith organizations, convening since early 2022. The Coalition has facilitated community listening sessions during the search for Kansas City, Missouri’s Chief of Police, presented community feedback to the Board of Police Commissioners, and engaged in policy matters regarding public safety in Kansas City.



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

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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

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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 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. 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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Missouri House of Representatives

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