



Dear Neighbor,

The final week of a legislative session is always bittersweet. While what I consider were many bad bills that have continued to gain traction over the years didn't pass, a lot of good bipartisan legislation didn't pass either.

**Blair's Law that I sponsored to make discharging a firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits (such as what happens all too frequently in Kansas City when people engage in celebratory or indiscriminate gunfire) was included in several omnibus crime prevention bills and four of these were overwhelmingly approved by the House.**

**Unfortunately, much of the Senate's time and attention this session was taken up by internal squabbles over congressional redistricting, and none of the bills that included Blair's Law were approved by the Senate before Friday's mandatory adjournment. (It didn't help that the Senate adjourned a day early.)**

**I will reintroduce it in next year's legislative session which**

**starts in January.**

This was a record setting year for the smallest number of bills passed by both chambers and sent to the governor for his signature to become law. Only 60 bills were passed, and 19 of these were “must pass” appropriations bills. Two proposed constitutional amendments also were passed that will be submitted to Missouri voters for approval.

**I was very happy my House Bill 2627 was one of those 60 bills. It started off to officially recognize February as Black History Month in Missouri, which was long overdue.**

Several amendments that I supported were added to the bill including officially recognizing November as Native American Heritage Month and naming the U.S. Highway 54 bridge over the Missouri River in Jefferson City for retiring U.S. Senator Roy Blunt.

**Increasing public safety will continue to be my top priority in next year’s legislative session, but I will not neglect the need to adequately fund public education from preschool through college and to do my best to assure the Kansas City metropolitan area at long last gets its fair share of state services and funding!**

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*



**During the final weeks of session, legislative activity happens quickly on the House floor. In this picture I was captured looking for bills to quickly add amendments to, which I was successful at. Blair's Law was added to several omnibus crime prevention bills late in session before the Senate adjourned early, effectively killing two bills carrying Blair's Law (House Bill 2697 and Senate Bill 834).**

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

Monday, May 16th, 2022

### **SENATE PASSES CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

The Senate on May 12 voted 22-11 to send a congressional redistricting plan to the governor and then abruptly called it quits for the year a day ahead of the constitutional adjournment deadline for the 2022 regular session of the General Assembly.

The late-session action allows Missouri to have new congressional districts in place for the Aug. 2 primary election.

**A small group of hardline conservative Republicans had blocked Senate action on redistricting all year amid their demands for a redistricting plan that would be gerrymandered to give Republican candidates an advantage in seven of the state's eight congressional districts. Republicans currently hold six of the eight seats.**

**Most Republicans, however, favored a redistricting plan likely to maintain the 6-2 status quo that has been in place for the last decade. Democrats argued that the status quo is itself the result of political gerrymandering and that a fair redistricting plan would result in five congressional**

**districts likely to favor Republican candidates and three likely to favor Democratic candidates.**

**With a House-approved redistricting bill stuck in a Senate committee, Senate Republican leaders invoked a rarely used constitutional procedure to bring the bill directly to the full chamber for debate. Although the hardliners decried the move as a “sneak attack,” they ultimately didn’t block a final vote on it.**

Since the Senate made no changes to the bill, which the House approved days earlier on a 97-47 vote, it goes straight to the governor, who is expected to sign it into law.

The legislature had to redraw the state’s congressional map to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census. Since a new plan wasn’t in place when the candidate filing period ended, candidates filed under the outdated congressional map adopted in 2011, sparking at least three lawsuits in state and federal courts seeking to block its use. If lawmakers had failed to enact a redistricting plan, the task likely would have fallen to the courts.

## **HOUSE APPROVES VOTER PHOTO ID BILL**

The House of Representatives on May 12 voted 97-47 to grant final passage to controversial legislation I voted against that would impose a photo voter identification requirement, make it harder to register people to vote, grant the secretary of state the power to withhold state funding from local election officials



and eliminate Missouri's presidential primary election. The bill now goes to the governor to be signed into law.

House Bill 1878, which the Senate approved a day earlier on a vote of 23-11, also would create a two-week period prior to an election in which Missourians could cast an absentee ballot without offering an excuse. Under existing law, voters must have a statutorily authorized reason for why they can't vote in person on election day in order to vote absentee.

**The Missouri Supreme Court has struck down previous efforts to create a photo voter ID requirement for placing an unconstitutional restriction on the right to vote. A lawsuit challenging the latest photo ID requirement is expected.**

If the March presidential preference primary is eliminated, Missouri would revert to the caucus system under which members of each party meet in person to determine which candidates should get the state's delegates to their respective party's national presidential nominating convention. Missouri switched to the primary system for the 2000 presidential cycle.

## **CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING BILL PASSES**

The House of Representatives on May 12 voted 109-28-11 to grant final passage to legislation that would increase state funding for charter schools without taking money from the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts. The Senate previously voted 29-5 in favor of the measure, which now goes

to the governor.

The final version of House Bill 1552 that I voted for calls for adjusting the statutory formula for distributing state funding to local schools so that charter schools would receive additional funding without reducing the amount of money going to the local public school districts where they are located.

**The plan, the result of a compromise reached in the Senate, would cost about \$62 million in additional funding for the upcoming fiscal year. As originally proposed, the bill would have redirected millions of dollars in state funding from the Kansas City and St. Louis public school districts to the charter schools in their jurisdictions.**

Charter schools are public schools that operate independently of their local school district and are exempt from many state education regulations. At present, they are allowed to operate only in Kansas City and St. Louis.

**HB 1552 also includes reforms on how charter schools operate, such as requiring they be run by a not-for-profit entity and a mandate that only Missouri residents can be charter school board members.**

In addition, the bill also updates the rules for operating on-line virtual schools.

**SUPPORTERS FILE TWO INITIATIVE PETITIONS**



Supporters of separate initiative petitions to legalize recreational marijuana in Missouri and create a system of ranked-choice voting in state and federal elections turned in signatures by the May 8 deadline in hopes of getting their proposals on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot.

The Missouri Secretary of State's office now must verify that each petition has sufficient valid signatures to go before voters.

The initiative process allows voters to bypass the General Assembly to independently propose and enact legislation. Putting a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot requires a minimum of about 172,000 signatures from registered Missouri voters.

According to the Associated Press, supporters of the marijuana initiative said they collected more than 385,000 signatures, while backers of the election proposal touted gathering more than 300,000 signatures.

**The recreational marijuana measure follows up on a successful 2019 initiative petition that legalized marijuana for medical use. In addition to legalizing recreational marijuana use for those age 21 and over, it also would expunge past convictions for marijuana-related crimes – other than driving under the influence – for non-violent offenders.**

**Under the election initiative, candidates for the state**

**legislature, statewide state office or Congress would appear on the same primary ballot without regard to political party, with the top four candidates advancing to the general election.**

**During that election, voters could vote for multiple candidates, ranking who they like best in order of preference. If no candidate received a majority of first choice votes on the first tabulation, the candidate with the fewest votes would be eliminated and their second choice votes would be redistributed among the other candidates. That process could be repeated once if necessary until a candidate received a majority of the first choice votes cast coupled with the second choice votes of eliminated candidates.**

The signature verification process typically takes months, but there is an expedited process the secretary of state can use to get it done in a couple of weeks. If that process is used, it's possible the petitions' signatures could be verified in time for the governor to exercise his authority to move one or both measures to the Aug. 2 primary ballot.

## **HOUSE KILLS PLAN TO RESTRICT WHAT'S TAUGHT**

On a strong bipartisan vote of 60-81, the House of Representatives rejected adding a so-called "Parents Bill of Rights" to the Missouri constitution that would allow parents to block their children being taught about things their parents

find objectionable.

**Critics said the proposal was a thinly veiled attempt to allow certain parents to block their children and their classmates from being taught about aspects of American history that many people would like to forget or ignore such as slavery and ongoing racism, making it impossible to accurately teach the full scope of American history and to fully understand the origins of many current societal problems.**

All Democrats voting opposed House Joint Resolution 110, as did 36 Republicans.

## **LAWMAKERS OKAY POWER LINE REGULATIONS**

Work on a controversial large power transmission line being constructed across northern Missouri will continue, but constructing similar projects could be much harder in the future under legislation the House of Representatives sent to the governor on a 111-32-1 vote on May 10. The Senate had previously voted 19-4 in favor of the bill.

**The Grain Belt Express is a 780-mile transmission line to carry energy generated by wind turbines in Kansas across Missouri and Illinois before hooking into a power grid in Indiana.**

After lengthy court battles, Missouri regulators finally granted the project the go-ahead a few years ago, but some rural

lawmakers have sought to derail the project ever since then by blocking the use of eminent domain to acquire the necessary land.

**Under House Bill 2005, future projects would face additional regulatory hurdles before being allowed to use eminent domain, and landowners would have to be paid 150 percent of fair market value for their property instead of just fair market value. The Grain Belt Express line, however, would not be subject to the new restrictions.**

MISSOURI  
HOUSE  
DEMOCRATIC  
CAUCUS



FRESHMAN  
**CHAMPION**  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

*Mark Sharp*

for striving to guarantee each and every Missourian lives,  
works, and recreates in a safe and secure environment

REP. CRYSTAL QUADE  
Minority Floor Leader

REP. INGRID BURNETT  
Caucus Chair

**I was selected by other Freshmen Democrats in the Missouri House as the Freshman Democrat who has been a champion of Public Safety. It was an honor to be recognized by my colleagues and I will continue to push for common sense public safety legislation.**

# MAY is Law Enforcement Appreciation Month

JOIN US AT THE MARTIN CITY  
COMMUNITY TREE

200 E 135th Street, KCMO 64145

*Rünnig*  
COMPANY  
ESTABLISHED 1924



*Thank You!*

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!

**FREE**

RAIN? NO PROBLEM - WE'LL MOVE INSIDE!

Thanks to our sponsors:

**5** THIRTIETH ANNUAL  
**TRUSTEE**  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

**K** KANSAS CITY  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**KCPD**



# *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

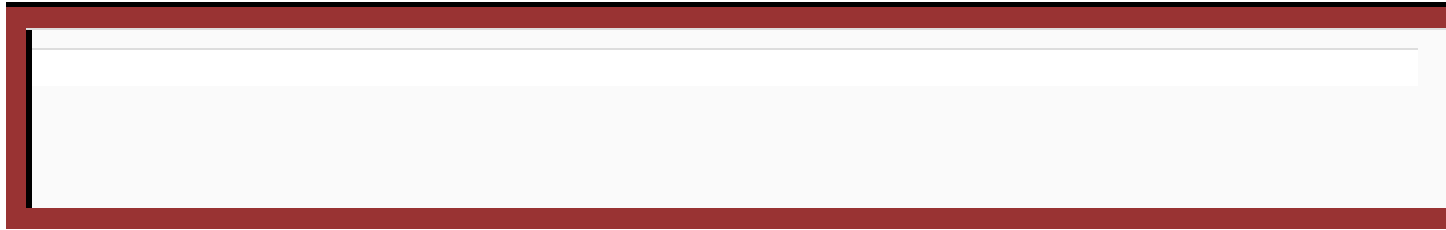
### SPONSORS:

**KCMO - Public Works**



**KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI**

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





# URBAN BUS TOUR

**Saturday, May 21, 2022  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.**

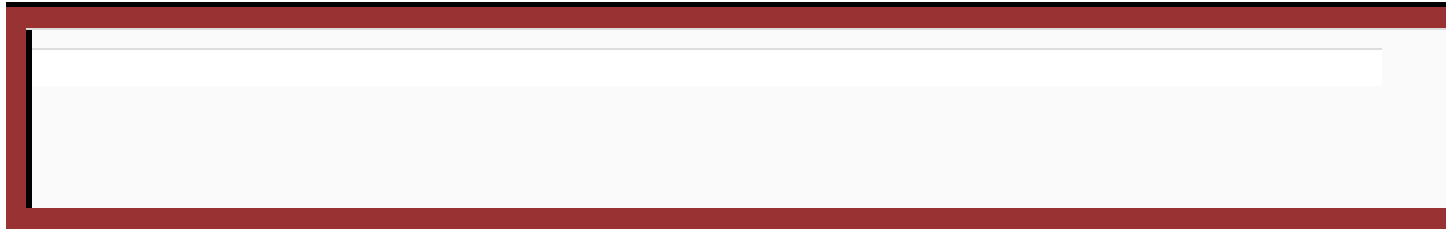
*In partnership is with the  
Missouri Black Legislative Caucus*



We will tour the new CBKC development sites throughout the community.

We will meet in the **CBKC Offices parking lot at 4001 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64130.** The KCATA bus will depart at 9 a.m. Please arrive 10 minutes early.

**RSVP (by May 19) to: [community@cb-kc.org](mailto:community@cb-kc.org)**







## M.O.M. CONFERENCE



### SPONSORS:

- Strategic Workforce Development, Inc.
- Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church
- The International Black Hat Society

**FREE**

**MAY 21ST**

**10:00 a.m.**

**2:00 p.m.**

### FOOD

**Free lunch**

Grocery packages by:  
Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist  
Church &  
Harvesters Food Network

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

### RESOURCES/VENDORS

- Affordable housing
- Healthcare
- Personal safety and security
- Healthy diets

A resource fair for Moms,  
Dads, and Caregivers!

The Robert J. Mohart Multipurpose FOCUS Center

and MORE!

### DYNAMIC SPEAKERS

3200 Wayne Ave, Kansas City, MO

**Free Eventbrite registration here!**

<https://momconferencekc.eventbrite.com>

# The Lights Are Back On!

Join us as we relaunch "LightsOn KC"- a community violence prevention initiative.

With safe,  
recreational activities for families/youth/  
young adults.



**St. Luke's / St. James UMC**  
**9420 James A Reed RD,**  
**KCMO 64138**



**Free Outdoor Event For Families In KC**

**Friday May 27, 6p-9p**

Dinner served from 6p-7p, Snacks, Beach Blanket Volleyball, Craft  
Projects, Scavenger hunt, Karaoke, Free Library Books & Giveaway  
Board Games, Inflatable Obstacle Course & more..



*If there is rain, the event will be held indoors.*





SWIMMING | FOOD TRUCKS | MORE!

# FREE DAY AT THE BAY

Swim for **FREE** at South KC's  
Premier Waterpark, or join us for  
some food and dry fun!



## The Bay Water Park

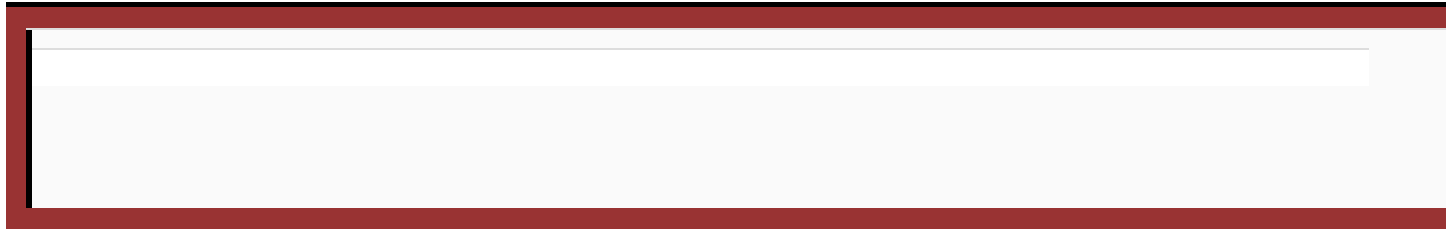
7101 Longview Rd  
KC MO 64134

**June 18th,  
12:00-6:30PM**

**Sponsored By:**

KC Parks, Ruskin Heights HOA, Ruskin  
Hills HOA, Kirkside HOA, Southern  
Communities Coalition, Hickman Mills  
United Neighborhoods, Fairwood HOA







**MIDWEST**  
**POOL**  
MANAGEMENT

**NOW HIRING**

**LIFEGUARDS & MORE!**

**BAY  
BUDD  
GROVE  
GORMAN  
BRUSH CREEK  
LINE CREEK  
SPRINGS**

**APPLY**  
**WWW.MIDWESTPOOL.COM**  
**(816) 350-2628**  
**FOLLOW US ON:**



**FREE!**  
**LIFEGUARD  
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



**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](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**

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**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!**