



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, May 8th, 2023

LAWMAKERS PASS BUDGET BY DEADLINE

Lawmakers raced to grant final passage to a \$51.51 billion state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year on May 5 ahead of a constitutional deadline on that date to avoid starting the process over in a special legislative session.

This year marks the fifth consecutive time the General Assembly has teetered on the brink of missing the budget deadline – something that only happened once in 1997.

The final budget largely reflects the Senate’s more generous spending plan which taps Missouri’s unprecedented multi-billion revenue surplus to address a host of long-neglected needs throughout the state. The original House version included about \$3.2 billion less in spending authority.

A \$2.8 billion plan to widen the entire length of Interstate 70 across Missouri is arguably the budget’s most ambitious feature. While Gov. Mike Parson had proposed a more limited \$859 million plan to improve portions of the highway in the Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis areas – a position backed by the House – the Senate insisted on the more expansive undertaking, as well as including funding to begin planning a similar expansion of Interstate 44.

The final budget also provides a substantial increase for Missouri’s public colleges and universities, achieves the funding minimum called for by the statutory formula for distributing state funding to local public school districts and for the second year in a row fully funds the state’s share of districts’ student transportation costs. The budget also increased funding to expand pre-kindergarten offerings at public schools.

Lawmakers also bumped state reimbursements for home care workers who assist elderly and disabled Missourians in an effort to boost their average pay from about \$12 an hour to \$14 an hour. However, the compromise funding level is substantially less than the amount sought by the Senate, which had hoped to pay the high-demand workers a more competitive \$17 an hour.

Extremely controversial language inserted by the House but deleted in the Senate to prohibit all state agencies and any individual or company that contracts with the state from promoting “diversity, equity and inclusion” remained excluded from all the final appropriations bills.

Gov. Mike Parson has until July 1 to act on the various bills that make up the state budget. Unlike with standard legislation - which the governor must either sign into law, veto or let become law without his signature - the governor has line-item veto power over appropriations bills that allows him to strike spending items he doesn't like while signing the remainder of a bill into law. Parson issued 32 line-item vetoes last year and has issued exactly 300 since taking office in 2018.

TRANSGENDER CARE BAN PUT ON PAUSE

A St. Louis County circuit judge on May 1 issued a temporary restraining order blocking Attorney General Andrew Bailey from enforcing an emergency rule seeking to prohibit nearly all gender-affirming medical care for transgender Missourians of all ages, indicating Bailey's action amounts to unconstitutional legislating by an executive branch official.

“This Court finds that the Plaintiffs have met their burden regarding their likelihood of success on the merits, as this is (a) novel use of the Attorney General’s power to promulgate emergency rules under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act that has never previously been subjected to judicial scrutiny and may impermissibly invade a function reserved for the legislature,” Circuit Judge Ellen Ribaud wrote in her order.

Bailey promulgated the administrative rule seeking to tightly restrict transgender medical care in early April, citing authority granted to his office under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, a consumer protection law traditionally used to crack down on deceptive business practices or the sale of defective products.

A group of plaintiffs that includes medical providers and transgender Missourians sued to challenge the validity of the rule, arguing Bailey grossly overstepped his authority and is attempting to enact substantive law under the guise of an administrative rule.

Bailey's rule was slated to take effect April 27, but Ribaudó placed it on pause a day earlier while she considered the temporary injunction.

Ribaudó has scheduled a hearing for July 20 on whether to issue a temporary injunction that would continue to block the rule's enforcement while the lawsuit remains pending.

The case is *Southampton Community Healthcare, et al., v. Andrew Bailey*.

HOUSE VOTES TO END CORPORATE INCOME TAX

After majority Republicans shut down debate following just a few minutes of discussion, the House of Representatives on May 1 voted 99-41 to advance legislation that would cut state and local tax revenue by several billion dollars a year when fully implemented.

This new round of cuts would be in addition to a major income tax cut that just took effect in January and eventually is estimated to cost the state in excess of \$2 billion annually in lost revenue.

The House version of Senate Bill 247 calls for eventually completely eliminating the state's 4% corporate income tax depending on the state hitting targets in overall general revenue growth.

Missouri's individual income tax rate already is slated to be reduced to 4.5% under the recent tax cuts and SB 247 would further cut it to 4.05%.

SB 247 also calls for several other tax cuts and exemptions that are estimated to cost the state treasury another \$1.67 billion a year, along with depriving local governments of an estimated \$677 million in revenue.

The original version of SB 247 the Senate passed in March was limited to a few relatively minor provisions primarily targeted at providing tax relief for senior citizens.

The two chambers must negotiate a final version of the

bill in order to grant it final passage before the legislative session ends on May 12.

HOUSE NARROWLY VOTES TO EXPAND PSC

The House of Representatives voted 82-72 on May 1 for a controversial plan to expand the 5-member Missouri Public Service Commission to 11 members and require 3 of those new positions to be restricted for persons with ties to agriculture.

The PSC is the regulatory authority for Missouri's investor-owned public utilities.

Supporters of House Bill 1044 said expanding the Commission and ensuring some of its members will protect the interests of farmers is appropriate since eminent domain is often used to secure agricultural land for power transmission lines.

Critics said if the state starts designating Commission spots for representatives of an interest group, others – particularly large industrial power users – will soon demand specific representation as well.

TAX BREAKS PASS FOR FILM/TV PRODUCTION

The House of Representatives voted 113-45 to grant final passage to legislation to provide tax breaks intended to lure film and television productions to Missouri, while creating other entertainment industry jobs.

The Senate previously approved the bill on a 20-12 vote in February so it now goes to the governor for his consideration.

Supporters of Senate Bill 94 say it would bolster Missouri's economy and reputation by attracting more film and television productions and increasing the number of entertainment jobs based in the state.

Opponents note that Missouri tried similar tax breaks in the 2000s and the financial costs to the state exceeded the economic return.



Last week my mother Olufemi Sharp was able to come visit me at the Capitol and I had the pleasure of introducing her as my special guest. Pictured here are me, Olufemi Sharp and the Chair of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus, Representative Marlene Terry.

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.

5TH DISTRICT CLEAN UP EVENT

**Sat., May 13
8 A.M. - Noon**

Multiple Locations

BULKY ITEMS, TRASH & LEAF/BRUSH

- **Southeast High School** - 3500 E Meyer Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64132
- **Center Academy For Success** - 8434 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131
- **3001 East 81st St**, Kansas City, MO 64132
- **5915 Park Ave**, Kansas City, MO 64130

TIRES

- **Southeast High School** - 3500 E Meyer Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64132
- **Center Academy For Success** - 8434 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131

ELECTRONIC ITEMS DROPOFF W/ FEE & DOCUMENT SHREDDER

- **Center Academy For Success** - 8434 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131
- 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
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- **8800 Blue Ridge Blvd**, Kansas City, MO 64138

For more information:
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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?		How do I apply?
<p>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.</p>		<p>GOOD NEWS!</p> <p>Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!</p> <p>Online: Visit https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal</p> <p>By Phone: Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994</p> <p>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</p>
		
1	\$1,481	
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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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**Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or
ideas!**