

### WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE Monday, November 7th, 2022

### **U.S. SENATOR & AUDITOR TOP BALLOT**

Missouri voters will head to the polls Nov. 8 to choose a new U.S. senator and a new state auditor, as well as elect state lawmakers and members of Missouri's congressional delegation under newly established district boundaries.

The marquee race on this year's ballot is between Democrat Trudy Busch Valentine and Republican Attorney General Eric Schmitt for an open U.S. Senate seat. The winner will replace incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt who is retiring after two terms.

Also stepping down after two terms is State Auditor Nicole Galloway who is the only remaining Democrat statewide officeholder in Missouri. The major party candidates to replace her are Democrat Alan Green, a former state representative from Florissant, and State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick, who hails from rural Barry County in southwest Missouri.

Gov. Mike Parson appointed Schmitt and Fitzpatrick to their current offices to fill vacancies early in 2019, and both went on to win full terms in 2020. If either is elected to a new post this year, Parson would pick their successor, who would serve out the remainder of the term, which runs through 2024.

All 163 members of the state House of Representatives and half of the 34-member Senate are on the ballot. Legislative candidates will be running for the first time in new districts drawn earlier this year to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census.

Republicans currently outnumber Democrats 24-10 in the Senate and 114-49 in the House, counting several vacancies for the party that most recently held them. Candidates in Missouri's eight congressional districts also are running under new boundaries. The current partisan split of these positions is six Republicans and two Democrats.

Voters also will decide the fate of four proposed constitutional amendments in addition to determining if a special convention should be held to rewrite the Missouri Constitution.

**COURT TURNS AWAY PARK CHALLENGE** 

The long-awaited development of the Eleven Point State Park in southern Missouri might finally be able to proceed after the Missouri Supreme Court on Nov. 1 declined to take a case that sought to force the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to sell a portion of the property.

Although an Oregon County judge had ordered the sale, a three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals Southern District overturned that decision in July, ruling the lower court erroneously concluded the land acquisition violated state law. With the Supreme Court turning away the plaintiffs' appeal, the Southern District's ruling stands.

DNR acquired 4,167 acres of land along the Eleven Point River in south-central Missouri to establish the new park in 2016, during the administration of then-Gov. Jay Nixon. Several state lawmakers from the region subsequently spent years unsuccessfully trying to force DNR to divest itself of the property.

Because approximately 15% of the park is subject to a scenic easement under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that restricts development and public access, critics of the deal claimed the department lacked the legal authority to make the purchase. Ruling in 2021 in a lawsuit brought by park opponents, Oregon County Circuit Judge Steven Privette agreed, finding state law only authorizes DNR to acquire land that can be used by the public.

Privette ordered DNR to sell the portion of the property subject to the easement, but not the entire park.

However, the unanimous three-judge appellate panel ruled Privette misinterpreted the law and overturned his decision, calling it "erroneous and unsupported in statute, regulation, case law, and the historical practices of parks in Missouri."

The case is Van McGibney, et al., v. Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



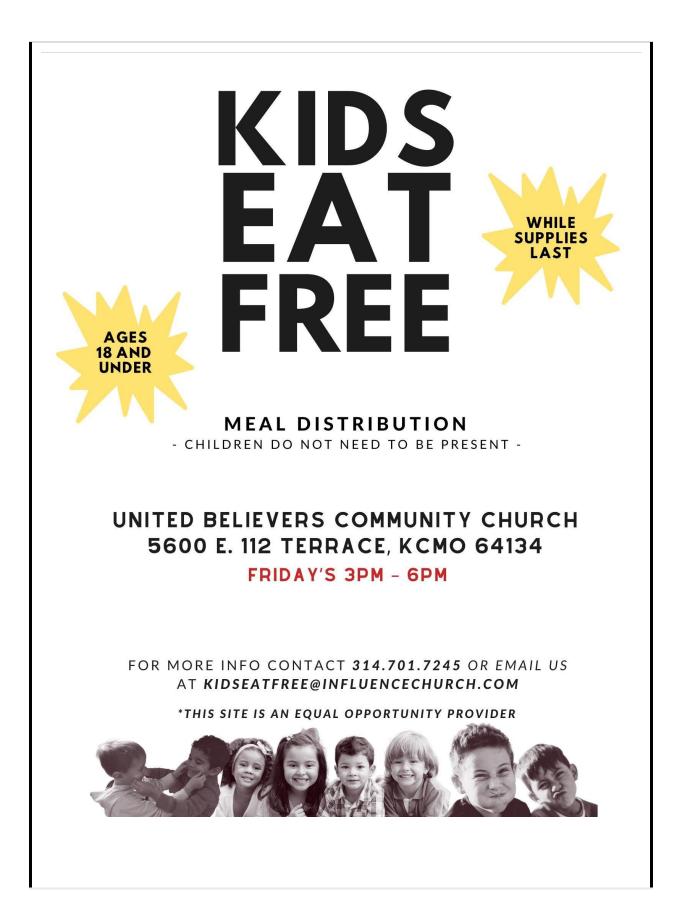




# Understanding and Accessing MISSOURI MEDICAID

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?
Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross <b>monthly</b> household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, <b>you may qualify</b> .		<b>GOOD NEWS!</b> Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!
合		Online: Visit <u>https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply</u> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal
1	\$1,481	<b>By Phone:</b> Call the Missouri Family Support Division at
2	\$2,003	(855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994 By Mail or Email:
3	\$2,525	Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:
4	\$3,048	Family Support Division 615 E 13th St
5	\$3,570	Kansas City, MO 64106 Or email to:
6	\$4,092	FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov



## 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 <u>info@cackc.org</u> 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. 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.

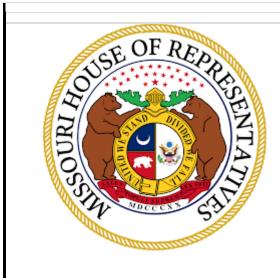
**United Believers Community Church**, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School,** 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 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. 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.





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