



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, October 17th, 2022

JUDGE DISMISSES PHOTO VOTER ID LAWSUIT

Cole County Judge Jon Beetem on Oct. 12 dismissed a lawsuit challenging Missouri's new photo voter identification law after ruling the plaintiffs lack the legal standing to bring it.

Although a direct appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court is expected, barring its swift action, voters will be required to produce a government-issued photo ID in order to cast a ballot in the Nov. 8 general election.

The Missouri Supreme Court has twice struck down previous photo voter ID laws for unconstitutionally interfering with voting rights.

Beetem didn't reach the merits of the arguments in the current case. Instead, he determined the only two individual voters named as plaintiffs failed to show they are harmed by the law since both have government-issued photo IDs they can use to vote in the upcoming Nov. 8 election.

Beetem also said the main plaintiffs – the Missouri chapters of the League of Women Voters and the NAACP – likewise lack standing since the harm they alleged their members would suffer is too speculative.

The General Assembly enacted the photo ID requirement earlier this year as part of larger legislation, House Bill 1878, which many critics claim includes additional restrictions on voting access. A second lawsuit brought by the League of Women Voters and the NAACP challenging other aspects of the bill remains pending before Beetem.

That lawsuit alleges those provisions of the bill violate free speech rights by placing tight restrictions on voter registration drives and banning people from encouraging others to cast an absentee ballot.

STATE STILL STRUGGLING TO FILL JOBS

Roughly 14% of authorized state government jobs remained vacant this summer as Missouri struggled to hire workers in a tight labor market while often offering lower wages than prospective employees can earn elsewhere.

Governor Mike Parson has pledged to increase state worker pay, but whether it will be enough to compete – and if the state can afford to do so after enacting a major income tax cut – remains to be seen.

As of July 15, state agencies had more than 7,500 job openings out of an authorized workforce of 53,903 fulltime employees, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported on Oct. 6. The high number of vacancies came even though two across-the-board pay increases took effect earlier this year – a 2% bump in January and another 5.5% hike in March.

The legislature also authorized a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for state government jobs as part of an effort to stem the growing exodus of state workers.

Missouri has long ranked near the bottom of the 50 states in average pay for state government employees, a situation the executive and legislative branches of state government have too often ignored. And due to the current high rate of inflation, even the pay bumps granted this year may fail to keep up with rising costs.

In response to questioning at an Oct. 5 news conference at which he signed legislation into law slashing Missouri's individual income tax rate from the current 5.3% to 4.5% over several years if revenue growth benchmarks are met, Parson said he plans to propose further pay increases in order to better compete with the private sector for workers, the Post-Dispatch reported. He did not offer specifics about his pay plan.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ON THE BALLOT

Missouri voters on Nov. 8 will decide whether to approve having a convention to overhaul or replace the 77-year-old state constitution.

The question automatically appears on the general election ballot every 20 years and simply asks: **“Shall there be a convention to revise and amend the Constitution?”**

Missouri voters strongly rejected having a constitutional convention the last three times the question was on the ballot, most recently in 2002 when just 34.5% voted in favor. The question also failed in 1962 with 36.3% in support, and in 1982 when only 30.5% voted in favor.

As is the case this year, there were no organized campaigns for or against it in those prior elections.

If voters approve the convention question this time, delegate elections would be held early next year. There would be 83 delegates in all, with 68 delegates – two from each of Missouri’s 34 state senate districts – elected by voters in those districts.

Each political party could nominate only one candidate, and the highest two vote getters would be elected. This would likely result in 34 Democrats and 34 Republicans being elected unless minor party candidates place among the top two in any districts.

The remaining 15 delegates would be elected statewide by

voters, creating the possibility – and perhaps probability – that a single political party could sweep those positions and dominate the convention by endorsing and campaigning for a slate of candidates even though candidates would not have their party affiliation on the ballot. In today's political climate in Missouri that would most likely be the Republican Party.

The convention would operate independently of the Missouri General Assembly and would even have the power to appropriate money to pay for its expenses without legislative approval. Delegates could choose to propose an entirely new constitution or simply offer amendments to the existing one, just as the legislature and citizen groups through the initiative petition process regularly do.

There is no timetable for how long a convention could last, but no vote could be held on a new constitution or proposed amendments until after the convention adjourns. The convention would set a special election to take place no sooner than 60 days and not later than six months after final adjournment.

Voter ratification of a new constitution or individual amendments would require simple majority support.

Missouri voters last approved calling a convention in 1942 with 57.9 percent in support following a bipartisan campaign by business, political and academic leaders stressing the need to replace the Reconstruction-era state constitution enacted in 1875. The resulting convention lasted a little over a year and produced Missouri's current constitution, which took effect shortly after voters ratified

it with 62.7% support in February 1945.

Voters with 55.4% support also approved calling a constitutional convention in 1920. After proceedings spanning 18 months, that convention failed to agree on a total constitutional rewrite and instead referred 21 individual amendments to voters who ratified just six of them.

Of the four state constitutions Missouri has had since the first one was ratified in 1820, the current Constitution has been in use the longest, and voters have amended it 131 times.

Another four proposed amendments will appear on the November ballot.

PARSON WON'T ISSUE BLANKET PARDONS

Shortly after President Joe Biden issued a blanket pardon on Oct. 6 to all those convicted of simple possession of marijuana under federal law and encouraged governors to do the same with state-level offenses, Gov. Mike Parson indicated he won't follow suit.

“Governor Parson has used his state constitutional authority to grant pardons to individuals who demonstrate a changed lifestyle, commitment to rehabilitation, contrition and contribution to their communities rather than as a blanket approach to undermine existing law,” the governor’s spokeswoman said in a statement, according to the Missouri Independent.

Missouri voters will have the final say on whether the criminal records of low-level marijuana offenders can be cleared when Amendment 3 to legalize and regulate recreational marijuana use by adults age 21 and older appears on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot.

The measure provides for persons convicted of certain non-violent marijuana related offenses to have their records expunged and to allow such persons to petition for release from incarceration and from parole and probation.

PUBLIC WORKS

Sixth District Clean Up

Open to all KCMO residents

Saturday, October 22, 2022: 8 AM - Noon

Location:

**Ruskin High School
7000 E 111TH ST
Kansas City, MO, 64134**

Accepted items:

- Bulky items/Trash
- Leaf and Brush
- Tires
- Clothes/Tools
- Document Shredding
- Free Electronic Collection:
 - All Desktop and Laptop Computers
 - Computer Flat Screen Monitors
 - Wires, Cables, Networking Equipment, Ink, Toner

There will be a cash charge for electronic items listed below:

- All flat Screen TVs- \$20
- Wood Console TVs, DLP Rear Projection TVs- \$40
- CRT Monitors-\$40
- Small Personal Printers- \$20
- Large Printers/Copiers- \$40

Location:

**South-Broadland Presbyterian
7850 Holmes Rd
Kansas City, MO, 64131**

Accepted items:

- Bulky items/Trash
- Leaf and Brush
- Tires
- Electronics (Will be at both locations)
- Document Shredding



**Councilmembers
McManus & Bough**
Sixth District



**KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI**

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

Parenting Skills Training

A CAPA Parent Education Class

Parenthood isn't always easy and CAPA understands that sometimes parents need a helping hand. CAPA's **Parenting Skills Training Class** is offered to families with one main goal:

**To help parents develop skills that
create strong and resilient families.**

Topics Include:

- ♥ Positive discipline techniques
- ♥ Effective communication skills
- ♥ Problem-solving skills
- ♥ Child development
- ♥ Conflict management

Upcoming Virtual Classes

Fall/Winter 2022 Sessions

Saturday, Oct. 15 & 22

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 29

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 5 & 12

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3 & 10

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 17

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Internet required. Once registered, you will receive a link to connect using Zoom. Visit <https://zoom.us> for use and compatibility information.

If needed, a certificate of completion will be provided to those individuals who have completed all sessions of a scheduled class.



To register, call Lexi Wright,
Community Education
Manager, at (816) 534-0623 or
sign-up online at:
capacares.org/what-we-do/education



capa capacares.org



JOIN US FOR A **SPOOKTACULAR** OPEN HOUSE

📍 11501 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64134



Join CommunityAmerica and Metropolitan Community College to take a peek at our new Hickman Mills Community Access Center.

Saturday, October 22nd
1 - 3pm

This free event will feature:

- Giveaway Items including: Chiefs Tickets, a MCC Scholarship and more!
- Community Organization Booths
- Food Truck
- Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin Decorating
- Face Painting
- Balloon Artist
- Halloween Treats
- And a special guest appearance from your favorite Kansas City Mascots!



Costumes are encouraged but not required.



METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We Got It Covered & Yeu Body Care Present

5TH ANNUAL WARM UP



KC



Free blankets, clothes, shoes, coats,
hygiene products and more!
babies, men, women, teens & kids!

Free activities for the kids while
you shop.

- arts and crafts
- bounce house
- soft play for babies
and more!

OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH

3039 TROOST KCMO 64109

OCTOBER 22ND 11AM-3PM



Shiloh M.B.C



Urban Success

Thank you to all of our sponsors!



OPERATION
Breakthrough



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

LISTEN AND SHARE

HOW THE OVERTURNING OF
ROE V. WADE AFFECTED YOU



JOIN THE GENDER EQUITY TASK FORCE OF THE KC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO LISTEN & SHARE YOUR PERSONAL STORIES ABOUT YOUR REACTION TO THE OVERTURNING OF ROE V. WADE, ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE RESOURCES AND ABORTION IN OUR METRO AREA. THIS IS NOT A DEBATE OR A PLACE TO TRY TO CONVINCE OTHERS TO BELIEVE AS YOU DO; THIS IS A LISTENING SESSION.

MONDAY OCT. 24
5-7PM

WESTPORT ROANOKE COMMUNITY CENTER
3601 ROANOKE RD. KANSAS CITY, MO 64111



WOMEN, GIRLS, AND BIRTH GIVERS



**KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI**

JACKSON COUNTY PARKS + REC BLUE RIVER PARKWAY MASTER PLAN



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN US! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Learn about the future of this 2,200-acre Jackson County Park along the Blue River, talk with the experts, ask questions, and give us your feedback!

OPEN HOUSE DATES:

Wednesday, October 26; 4:30 - 7:00 pm
Kansas City South Patrol Station
Meeting Room
9701 Marion Park Drive
Kansas City, MO 64137

Thursday, October 27; 4:30 - 7:00 pm
Linwood YMCA
3800 Linwood Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64128



For more information, visit
www.makeyourdayhere.com/blueriverparkwayplan

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th UN-DUMPSTER DAY 8a-12p
Southeast High School - 3500 E Meyer Blvd KCMO 64132

Items accepted

- Small and large appliances in good working order (no dishwashers)
- Arts, books, and crafts supplies
- Baby supplies (no car seats or cribs)
- Bicycles in good working order
- Shredded documents, tires with or without rims.
- Building materials
 - Large, usable pieces of sheetrock and wood
 - Tile or wood/LVP flooring (new and in the box)
 - Reclaimed wood with nails and screws removed
 - No scrap wood, sheetrock or other building materials
- Wearable men's, women's and children's clothing
- Clothing hangers
- Bedroom, living room and dining room furniture
- Games and puzzles | Gardening equipment | Home decor

New hygiene products, such as soap, shampoo,

deodorant, tampons/pads

Kitchenware | Linens and towels

Medical equipment, such as crutches, wheelchairs

Clean and usable mattresses

Musical instruments | Office supplies | School supplies

Sports equipment (no treadmills, exercise bikes or ellipticals)

Hand tools and power tools in good working order

Flat screen TVs in good working order (no console TVs)

Toys

In addition, PCs for People will be on site to accept electronics and computers*.

***Electronics Recycling Guidelines**

Items PCs for People will take at NO charge to you:

- All desktop and laptop computers
- Computer flat screen monitors
- Wires, cables, networking equipment, ink, toner

Items PCs for People will take but requires a charge to recycle for you:

- Flat Screen TVs up to 40 inches - **\$20**
- Flat Screen TVs over 40 inches, Wood Console TVs, DLP Rear Projection TVs - **\$40**
- CRT Monitors - **\$40**
- Small Personal Printers - **\$20**
- Large Printers/Copiers - **\$40**

Items PCs for People does not accept:

- Air Conditioners
- Batteries - of any kind
- Broken Glass
- Computer Discs
- Dehumidifiers
- Electric Fixtures
- Fluorescent Lights or Bulbs
- Large Household Appliances
- Liquid or Chemical Waste
- Microwave Ovens
- Paint Cans
- Packing Materials
- Fire Extinguishers
- Refrigerators
- Small Household Appliances
- Smoke and Fire Detectors
- VHS/Cassette Tapes, CDs, DVDs, nor their cases
- Wood Speakers

This is a RE.USE.FULL event. Please visit www.reusefull.org **DONATE YOUR STUFF**

Thank you to our Charity Partners:



**OCTOBER
29TH**

DRIVE THRU

TRUNK

OR

TREAT



1:00 - 3:00 PM

**KCPD SOUTH PATROL DIVISION
9701 MARION PARK DR, KCMO 64137**

ALL AGES WELCOME!



SAVE THE DATE!

KCMO 5th District
Fall Picnic

*November 5th
12 P.M.*

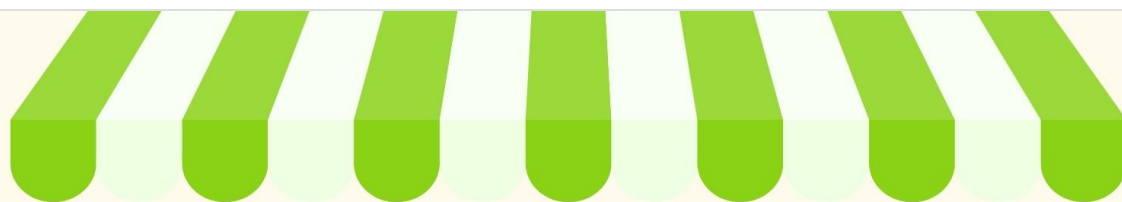
Coming Soon by Registration Only!



KS

RYANA PARKS-SHAW
COUNCILWOMAN - 5TH DISTRICT





FREE MEALS

Breakfast & lunch

MONDAY - FRIDAY
UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
5600 E. 112TH TERR
KANSAS CITY, MO 64134

BREAKFAST SERVED
@9AM DAILY
LUNCH SERVED
@11AM DAILY
AGES K-18



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



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



State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives

Room 102-BA

201 W Capitol Ave

Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Phone

573-751-9469

Email

mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

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