



Dear Neighbor,

Monday, March 6, the House Special Committee on Urban Issues I chair without dissent recommended passage of House Bill 102 sponsored by Representative Donna Baringer from St. Louis City.

This bill requires any person filing to run for an office that performs county functions in St. Louis City (the only city in Missouri not within a county) to provide the election authority appropriate copies of tax receipts or no-tax-due statements that indicate the candidate has paid all taxes due.

In the Missouri Senate there has been movement on two different bills involving Blair's Law designed to deter the celebratory gunfire that plagues KCMO and other Missouri cities by making discharging a firearm within or into city limits with criminal negligence a serious state offense instead of just a city ordinance violation.

House Committee Substitute for House Bill 301 is an omnibus crime bill that includes Blair's Law that was added to it by amendment on the House floor at my request by my friend Representative Michael Johnson who is a co-sponsor of House Bill 109, the stand alone version of Blair's Law that I sponsored.

Since its House passage, a Senate Committee Substitute for HCSHB 301 was recommended for Senate passage by the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on March 6.

In addition, Senate Bill 343 is the stand alone Senate version of Blair's Law sponsored by my Senator, Greg Razer, and it has a hearing scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, before the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee.

This will be the last week of legislative business before the General Assembly goes on Spring Break next week, so we are about midway through this year's regular session which adjourns May 12.

So far the Missouri House has only passed a handful of measures this session. Two of these include bills that I have sponsored or the language from bills I have sponsored.

Besides Blair's Law, House Bill 640 I sponsored to remove the out-of-date salary caps in state law for all Kansas City police ranks and the discriminatory

language in state law that prohibits hiring anyone as police chief who is over 60 years of age passed the House as part of House Committee Substitute for House Bill 640 and House Bill 729 sponsored by Representative Chris Brown.

This legislation is designed to aid our police Department's efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified police officers so we will no longer keep losing some of our best officers to nearby jurisdictions with higher salaries.

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.

Here are my current House committee appointments:

Special Committee on Urban Issues, Chairman

Subcommittee on Appropriations - General Administration

Joint Committee on Legislative Research

Special Committee on Public Policy, Ranking Minority Member

Consent and House Procedure

Crime Prevention and Public Safety

Special Committee on Election Contests

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



Representatives Maggie Nurrenbern and Patty Lewis (from left) join me on the side gallery to say hello to my daughter who was the highlight of the legislative day that afternoon.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

HOUSE FAVORS ST. LOUIS POLICE TAKEOVER

Just a little over 10 years after Missouri voters by a large margin voted to end a little more than 150 years of state control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the House of Representatives on March 1 granted preliminary approval on a voice vote to legislation to put the city's police department back under state authority.

Although supporters of the bill tout it as necessary to stem violent crime in the city, there is scant evidence it would have that impact. When the state previously controlled the St. Louis City police department there were several periods when crime was worse than it is today. In addition, crime rates also are up in Kansas City, where the police department is state controlled, as well as in many other Missouri communities with local police oversight.

Opponents of the bill criticized it as a faulty solution and noted the recent increase in violent crime throughout Missouri has coincided with the weakening of the state's gun laws during recent years.

House Committee Substitute for House Bills 702, 53, 213, 216, 306 & 359 would put a five-member Board of Police Commissioners in charge of the St. Louis City police department. The governor would appoint

four commissioners, with the city's mayor filling the fifth spot, as is done in Kansas City.

The state's first takeover of the St. Louis police department occurred at the outset of the Civil War as Missouri's secessionist governor sought to limit the power of pro-Union St. Louis City officials and suppress the local Black population. State control lasted until 63.9% of Missouri voters approved a November 2012 ballot measure restoring local authority in 2013.

A second House vote is necessary to send the measure to the Senate.

HOUSE SEEKS HIGHWAY SPENDING CONTROL

The Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission would lose its constitutional control of state road funds under legislation that won first-round approval in the House of Representatives on March 1 by a voice vote. A second vote is necessary to advance the measure to the Senate.

Since its creation nearly a century ago, the six-member commission has enjoyed constitutional protection from legislative interference with how tax revenue earmarked for highways and bridges is allocated.

Although lawmakers must approve the vast majority of state spending, revenue in the State Road Fund stands appropriated "without legislative action" and can only be

spent as determined by the commission, which is the governing authority for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

House Committee Substitute for Joint Resolution 37 would subject spending from the road fund to legislative approval and delete the existing language granting the commission “sole discretion” to determine how the money is allocated, thus allowing lawmakers to determine which projects receive funding.

As a proposed constitutional amendment, the measure would automatically go on the November 2024 ballot for voter ratification if it clears both legislative chambers.

BILL LIMITS FOREIGN FARM OWNERSHIP

The House of Representatives on March 2 voted 130-3 with 22 members voting present to advance legislation placing restrictions on foreign companies buying Missouri agricultural land. I voted for it.

Supporters of the bill said limiting foreign control over agricultural production in Missouri – particularly by Chinese companies, given that country’s increasingly adversarial relationship with the U.S. – is vital to national security.

House Committee Substitute for House Bills 903, 465, 430 & 499 limits the amount of agricultural land that can be in foreign hands and prohibits companies with ties to

five countries – China, Iran, North Korea, Russia and Venezuela – from acquiring Missouri farmland in the future.

At present, China owns nearly half of the Missouri farmland currently under foreign ownership.

The legislation now advances to the Senate for further consideration.



135th Street in Martin City

No entry fees to participate

**2023 PARADE THEME:
HAPPY GO LUCKY!**

Entries are strongly encouraged to incorporate the "Happy Go Lucky" theme into their entry to have the best chance of winning a prize.

Parade Entry Prizes

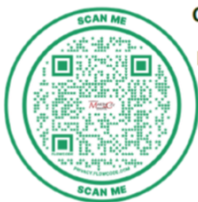
1st Place = \$300
2nd Place = \$200
3rd Place = \$100

Corporate Sponsorships Are Also Available!

Find more information and registration form at
[Martincity.org/st-patricks-parade/](https://martincity.org/st-patricks-parade/)

For questions call (816) 308-1023 or
email manager@martincity.org

Deadline for entries is February 26, 2023



★ ★ EARLY VOTING ★ ★



United Believers Community Church
5600 East 112 Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64137

First day- March 21st
Last day- April 1st

Weekdays, March 21-31:

10am - 6pm

Saturday, April 1:

8am - 12pm
(This is the only Saturday)



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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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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 10 a.m. until food runs out 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.

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/>

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN CRIME COMMISSION



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