



## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Tuesday, April 11th, 2023**

### **DEMOCRATIC SENATORS PUSH FOR OUSTER**

Senate Democrats are urging Gov. Mike Parson to remove the chairman of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights alleging he misled a Senate committee during recent testimony while lobbying on behalf of a religious organization in opposition to legislation directly relating to the commission's duties.

All 10 Democratic senators signed the April 3 letter to Parson asking him to immediately remove Timothy Faber from the commission which investigates complaints of illegal discrimination in housing,

employment and places of public accommodation.  
Parson appointed Faber to the commission in 2021.

**On March 29, Faber testified before the Senate General Laws Committee against a bill to amend the Missouri Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The law currently is limited to barring discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex or age.**

**During his testimony, Faber identified himself only as a lobbyist for the Missouri Baptist Convention and didn't disclose his role as commission chairman until pressed by committee members.**

“His attempt to obfuscate his position erodes the trust legislators require from members of Missouri’s boards and commissions,” the Democratic senators said in their letter. “This is especially troubling considering Mr. Faber specifically referenced the commission without disclosing his role on it. While Mr. Faber has a right to express his personal views or the views of other organizations with which he may be affiliated, his decision to place these roles before his duties as chairman makes it clear he can no longer continue in this capacity.”

**During his testimony, Faber said protecting LGBTQ**

**Missourians from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations would violate the religious liberty of those morally opposed to homosexuality.**

He repeated that sentiment in a subsequent interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, in which he also claimed he had no intent to deceive by not identifying himself as chairman of the Human Rights Commission.

“When we begin looking at such things as sexual orientation and gender identity, it is going to inevitably create conflict with religious liberty,” Faber told the paper. “Religious liberty is a constitutional right. Sexual orientation and gender identity are not constitutional rights.”

Faber’s questionable ability to fairly hear complaints before the commission is at the moment somewhat of a moot point since the panel hasn’t been able to function for months due to the lack of a quorum. Although the commission is supposed to have 11 members, only four of those positions currently are filled since Parson hasn’t made appointments to the remaining seven spots.

## **RULING AGAINST ANTI-UNION ACTION STANDS**

The Missouri Supreme Court on April 4 declined to hear

an appeal by Gov. Mike Parson's administration in a case involving its action that weakened the labor union representing prison guards – an action a lower court declared “unconstitutional, arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable.”

The high court turned down the appeal in a one-sentence order. As a result, a prior ruling by the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District against the administration will stand.

**The case originated in December 2019 when the Missouri Office of Administration, which handles payroll for state agencies, informed the Missouri Corrections Officers Association it would no longer withhold dues from the paychecks of the organization's roughly 1,300 members. The move was widely seen as an attempt to weaken the union by making it difficult to collect dues.**

The Parson administration originally argued it could no longer withhold the dues because the union's contract with the Missouri Department of Corrections had expired, although negotiations on a new contract continued.

**However, since the state routinely withholds fees for other non-union employee organizations, OA soon shifted its rationale to claim the corrections officers**

group wasn't an employee organization since it included retirees who aren't active state workers.

**Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem found this claim to be a pretext since OA continued to withhold dues and fees at the behest of other employee groups that include non-employee members.**

Beetem ordered OA to resume payroll deductions for unionized corrections workers. A three-judge appellate panel unanimously affirmed Beetem's decision in December.

The case is *Missouri Corrections Officers Association Inc. v. Missouri Office of Administration*.

## **HOUSE OKAYS PETITION RESTRICTIONS**

On a straight party-line vote of 109-49, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives sent legislation to the Senate on April 6 imposing a wide range of procedural restrictions on the initiative petition process in the Missouri constitution that allows Missourians to bypass the General Assembly to propose legislation and place it directly on the ballot for statewide voter approval.

**The changes appear to violate prior Missouri Supreme Court precedent prohibiting laws that interfere with or impede the initiative petition process or attempt to thwart it with technical formalities.**

House Bill 703 seeks to impose a number of new technical requirements, including dictating the font type and size on petitions, specifying the shade of ink used for signatures and limiting who can circulate petitions.

The bill also purports to require signatures to be thrown out in the event a court rewrites a petition's ballot title, even though a 1978 Supreme Court ruling held that a ballot title isn't constitutionally required to circulate a petition.

## **SPORTS BETTING STALLS AGAIN IN SENATE**

After several hours of debate, the Senate on April 5 set aside legislation seeking to legalize sports gambling in Missouri after failing to overcome the opposition of a few senators who want lawmakers to also address the proliferation of unregulated video lottery terminals around the state.

It is unclear if the Senate will return to the measure during the final weeks of the 2023 legislative session.

Senate Bill 30 would authorize Missouri's 13 licensed casinos to operate sports books on their premises, as well as offer online wagering. It also would impose a 15% tax on sports bets. The House of Representatives recently approved similar legislation but set the tax rate at only 10%.

The effort to legalize sports gambling in Missouri has failed for years as some lawmakers insist on linking the issue to the regulation of video lottery terminals which are slot machine-style games that have become common in gas stations, bars and other locations.

The Missouri Gaming Commission and the State Highway Patrol, which respectively are responsible for regulating the state's casinos and enforcing its gambling laws, consider VLTs illegal slot machines.

Although some local prosecutors have successfully brought criminal cases involving VLTs, others have been reluctant, claiming the machines are legally ambiguous.

## **JUDGE REJECTS WAITING PERIOD CHALLENGE**

A federal judge on March 30 rejected a constitutional challenge to Missouri's prohibition on former state legislators and legislative staffers working as paid



lobbyists until two years after the end of their legislative service.

Missouri voters added the restriction to the state constitution in 2018 as part of a wide-ranging ballot initiative relating to legislative ethics and redistricting.

Rocky Miller, a former Republican state representative from Lake Ozark, filed a lawsuit challenging the restriction shortly after he termed out of the House of Representatives in January 2021, claiming it violated his First Amendment rights to free speech.

**In ruling against Miller and a current House staffer who also was a plaintiff in the case, U.S. District Judge Doug Harpool said the lobbying waiting period is justified to prevent corruption or its appearance and therefore doesn't violate the free speech rights of former lawmakers or staffers.**

**“A former public official's acceptance of a lobbying position months or even days after departing government, makes reasonable the belief that those officials may have exchanged political favors for their positions – and salaries – as lobbyists,” Harpool wrote. “The appearance of impropriety is a reasonable and natural conclusion in such a situation.”**



Miller could appeal the decision to the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The case is *Rockne “Rocky” Miller, et al., v. Elizabeth Ziegler, et al.*

## HIGHWAYS COMMISSIONER RESIGNS

Brian Treece from Columbia unexpectedly resigned from the Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission on March 28, a little over seven months after Gov. Mike Parson appointed him to the post.

In an April 5 statement to the Missouri Independent, Treece, a longtime lobbyist in the state, said he stepped down from the commission which oversees the Missouri Department of Transportation due to concerns about possible conflicts of interest with his job as vice president of strategy and development for EquipmentShare, a heavy equipment rental company.

**“In the interests of good government, I felt I should resign to avoid any perception of bias that could undermine public confidence in the great work of the department and its employees,” Treece told the Independent.**

## HOUSE REJECTS BUSINESS TAX CREDITS

The House of Representatives on April 6 rejected legislation to expand certain tax credits for businesses. The measure failed on a vote of 70-57 with 30 lawmakers voting present, well short of the 82 votes needed to advance the measure to the Senate. I voted for it.

**House Bill 939 sought to expand the statutory cap on an existing tax credit program that assists businesses with job retention from \$6 million to \$10 million a year.**

It also would have created a new \$10 million-a-year tax credit to help railroads finance needed track improvements.



**I'm pictured here presiding at last Monday's hearing of the House Special Committee on Urban Issues that I chair that heard four House bills that we recommended for passage the following Wednesday.**



**Representative Richard Brown of Kansas City presents House Bill 34 that he sponsored to allow motorists to turn left at a red light after coming to a complete stop when turning onto a one way street.**



**Representative Jerome Barnes of Raytown presents House Bill 104 he sponsored which lowers the age from 75 or older to 70 or older that allows persons to apply to be excused from jury duty. He also presented House Bill 108 that he sponsored that adds to the definition of “special victim” a sports official such as a referee or umpire assaulted while performing such duties or as a direct result of those duties.**




**Representative Kevin Windham of Hillsdale presents House Bill 1325 which designates the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of August each year as “Pennytown Day” in remembrance of Pennytown, MO, once the largest African-American community in central Missouri.**



# CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOUTH VIOLENCE?



**Friday, April 21, 2023  
6pm-7:30pm**

 **UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
5600 East 112th Terrace  
KCMO 64137

- Focus On What Is Happening
- Build & Bridge To Deter It From Continuously Happening

**#KCUNITED**

*Voice Your Concerns With The Community Engagement Division of The Kansas City Police  
Department & South Patrol Division*



# FAIR HOUSING & EQUITY SUMMIT

**FREE  
EVENT!**

**FRIDAY,  
APR 21**

**8 AM TO  
2 PM**

**KAUFFMAN  
CONFERENCE CTR**

4801 Rockhill Rd

## **MORNING SPEAKER**

Dr. Alisa Warren, Executive Director,  
Missouri Commission on Human Rights

## **ADDITIONAL INFO**

We'll also provide free vendor resources,  
cont. breakfast, lunch, and parking.

## **LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

Will Jordan, JD, Executive Director,  
Metropolitan St. Louis Equal  
Housing & Opportunity Council

## **REGISTER BY APR 17**

Call 816-219-5316 or email  
kimberly.harris@kcmo.org or  
taylor.matzek@kcmo.org

## **WORKSHOP TOPICS**

Tenant and landlord resources, equity  
in housing, appraisals, Hispanic  
resources, and quit/claim deeds

To register, let us know your name,  
organization or company, email  
address for each attendee, and any  
special accommodations needed.



The City of Kansas City, Missouri's,  
Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity  
(CREO) and Housing Departments



DE-CLUTTER AND DO GOOD AT THE NEXT

# UN-DUMPSTER DAY

## DONATION DRIVE & EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023  
SOUTH-BROADLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
7850 HOLMES RD, KANSAS CITY MO 64131

DONATION  
DROP OFF  
8AM-12PM



FAMILY FRIENDLY EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

PAPER SHREDDING & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF 8AM-12PM

LIVE DJ & SPECIAL GUEST DARRON STORY FROM 107.3

UPCYCLED ART & FUNCTIONAL OBJECT POP-UP MAKERSPACE

FIND OUT MORE AT [REUSEFULL.ORG](https://reusefull.org)





# Neighborhood Accountability Board Training

searching for ways to be engaged in or  
supportive of your community?

The Center for Conflict Resolution is offering our Neighborhood Accountability Training to provide community members the opportunity to learn how to be part of restorative justice processes that happen in the Kansas City community.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards allow for all parties affected by harm, such as shoplifting, underage drinking and more, to share their side of the story and work together on a solution that makes this right, brings about accountability, and prevents future harm.

**Saturday, May 6th, 2023 | 9 AM- 4 PM**  
**6285 The Paseo 64110**

To register for this training, send email to [dbayless@ccrkc.org](mailto:dbayless@ccrkc.org) or go to our website, [www.ccrkc.org](http://www.ccrkc.org) for more information. Free for Jackson County residents, \$50 for out of county.



Funding for this training provided by Jackson County COMBAT.



Hickman Mills  
Educational  
Foundation

# 4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**JUNE 2, 2023**  
SHAMROCK HILLS GOLF CLUB



## THE BAY WATER PARK

### WE'RE HIRING...

- Pool Managers
- Lifeguards
- Concession Attendants
- Front Desk Attendants
- Deck Attendants
- and more!



scan here to apply

# \$15/hour

\*starting wage for lifeguards

### SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH US!

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www.midwestpool.com • 816-350-2628 • 12500 E US Hwy 40 STE L, Independence, MO 64055

# Formula Distribution!!



Cradle **kc**   Community  
Health Council  
of Wyandotte County

CHC and Cradle KC are a formula distribution site! We have a variety of infant formula available. If we do not have the type of formula you need, we can request it.

Scan the QR code to  
submit your  
request

ee.

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**



# 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](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 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. 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.

**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/>



**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](mailto:mark.sharp@house.mo.gov)**

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