

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023

HOUSE & SENATE DIFFER ON I-70 FUNDING

The House of Representatives has endorsed a \$859 million plan to expand portions of Interstate 70, while a Senate committee instead approved spending \$2.8 billion to widen the entire length of Missouri's main east-west highway from the Kansas City area to the edge of the St. Louis region.

Gov. Mike Parson proposed the less-ambitious version in January when he first presented his state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year to the legislature. Parson's plan calls for adding an extra lane to I-70 in both directions through Columbia, as well as extending extra lane stretches from the state's

two main metropolitan areas.

House Budget Committee Chairman Cody Smith stripped the governor's plan from the budget bill for the Missouri Department of Transportation, but promised to include it in separate legislation (House Bill 19) providing spending authority for a variety of capital improvement projects.

The House on April 20 voted to advance that measure as well as three other capital improvement spending bills to the Senate. The four bills collectively authorize \$5.45 billion in capital improvement spending.

A day earlier, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to restore the I-70 project to the regular MoDOT funding measure (House Bill 4) along with expanding its cost and scope.

That bill and the other 12 appropriations measures that make up the FY 2024 operating budget now head to the full Senate for debate. Once the Senate approves the bills, negotiations can begin with the House on a compromise FY 24 budget plan.

Because the process fell weeks behind its normal schedule in the House, lawmakers have little time to spare to grant final passage to all of the appropriations bills by a constitutional deadline of 6 p.m. on May 5.

The new fiscal year starts July 1.

BILL LIMITS SPORTS PARTICIPATION

Transgender athletes would be prohibited from competing on school-sponsored sports teams that don't match their birth gender under legislation the House of Representatives advanced to the Senate on April 17.

The bill passed on a near-party line vote of 106-46, with one lawmaker voting present. Just one Republican joined Democrats in opposing the bill.

House Bill 183 targets sports teams from grades six through 12, as well as college athletics.

Public school districts and universities would lose a portion of their state funding for allowing transgender youth to participate on a team that corresponds with their gender identity rather than their birth gender, while private universities would be subject to fines of up to \$1 million.

A similar Senate bill has already cleared that chamber, as well as a House committee, and awaits action by the full House.

In the 11 years since the Missouri High School Activities Association first adopted a policy governing participation by transgender athletes, only a dozen

participation by transgender athletes, only a dozen have been cleared to play.

PARSON NOMINATES MU CURATORS

Gov. Mike Parson on April 17 nominated a major donor to the University of Missouri-Columbia along with one of the lead attorneys in St. Louis' lawsuit over the relocation of the St. Louis Rams football team to Los Angeles and a Kansas City-area orthodontist to fill three open seats on the University of Missouri Board of Curators, the nine-member governing authority for the four-campus University of Missouri system.

Dr. Jeanne Sinquefield of Westphalia holds a doctorate in demography from the University of Chicago. She and her husband are prolific donors to the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Music where the Sinquefield Music Center is named in their honor.

Robert Blitz of St. Louis is a partner in the Blitz, Bardgett and Deutsch law firm, which negotiated a \$790 million settlement with Rams ownership and the National Football League in 2021 over fraud claims related to the team's move to Los Angeles in 2016.

Robert Fry of Greenwood is a graduate of UMKC. He has operated Fry Orthodontic Specialists since 1977.

The Senate must vote to confirm the nominations before the current legislative session ends on May 12 in order for the three to begin serving on the Board.

HOUSE OKAYS RIGHT TO HUNT AND FISH

The House of Representatives on April 17 advanced to the Senate a proposed constitutional amendment that would enshrine the right to hunt and fish in the Missouri Constitution.

The measure passed on a vote of 108-28, with 13 lawmakers voting present.

Supporters of House Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution 20 said it's necessary to protect the rights of Missourians from possible future encroachment. Opponents said the measure could undermine the authority of the Missouri Conservation Commission, the independent panel charged with overseeing the state's wildlife and establishing rules for hunting and fishing.

The House has passed similar measures many times over the last two decades, but the Senate to date has never followed suit. If HJR 20 passes both legislative chambers this year, it automatically will go on the November 2024 ballot for voter ratification.

HOUSE PASSES LICENSE FEE INCREASE

With just three more votes than the constitutionally required minimum, the House of Representatives passed a bill increasing the fee license offices charge for driver's licenses and vehicle license plates – just four years after a previous increase.

The bill passed on a vote 85-50, with 13 lawmakers voting present.

The private companies the state contracts with to operate the license offices charge the fees to pay for their operating expenses and earn a profit.

House Committee Substitute for House Bill 424 would increase the fees for a set of two-year license plates or a six-year driver's license from \$12 to \$18. The fees are in addition to what the state charges for plates or a license that goes to the state and would remain unchanged by the bill.





Governor Mike Parson and I pose for a picture during the annual Governor's Legislative BBQ event at the Governor's mansion earlier this week. This was a wonderful time for legislators and their families to visit with one another before session adjourns on May 12.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

6TH DISTRICT CLEAN UP EVENT

Join us for our annual 6th District Clean up event,
open to all KC residents.

**Sat., May 6
8 A.M. - Noon**

First Baptist Church of KCMO - 100 W. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114
Ruskin High School - 7000 E 111th St., Kansas City, MO 64134

ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Electronics (Anything with a circuit board and a plug) - items that will have a fee are attached.
- Tires (with or without rim)

ELECTRONIC ITEMS FEE

- 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

- Document Shredder (on-site)
- Leaf/brush
- Bulky items & trash
- Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00 each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV'S = \$20.00 each
- Any Freon containing unit = \$10.00 each

For more information, call Robert Woods at 816-513-8442



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 or go to our website, 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.

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.



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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?	How do I apply?
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 .	GOOD NEWS! Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!
	Online:

		Online: Visit https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal
1	\$1,481	By Phone: Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994
2	\$2,003	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
3	\$2,525	Or email to: FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov
4	\$3,048	
5	\$3,570	
6	\$4,092	

KIDS EAT FREE



MEAL DISTRIBUTION
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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/>



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