



Dear Neighbor,

September 6 will be the start of an important special session of the Missouri General Assembly called by Gov. Mike Parson to consider his proposed legislation to make major cuts in state income taxes and to create or renew income tax credits for investments that benefit Missouri agriculture.

**One provision we will consider of particular interest to me is the proposal to create income tax credits equal to 50% of investors' eligible expenses for establishing or improving urban farms including community gardens.**

This proposal is very similar to legislation I sponsored in this year's regular session to promote the continued growth of urban farming and community gardens in Kansas City and surrounding cities.

**I'd much rather see more vacant lots and other vacant land in our cities and towns being used to grow fruits and vegetables than to continue to "grow" what many of them do now – weeds and trash!**

The governor's proposed legislation is expected to be introduced September 6 in the Senate and considered there before coming to the House if it wins Senate approval.

I will be in the capitol on the 6<sup>th</sup> since the Joint Committee on Legislative Research I serve on which has an equal number of House and Senate members has scheduled a hearing for 3 p.m. that day or whenever the Senate adjourns, whichever is later, on the proposed constitutional amendment that will be on the November 8 ballot to legalize recreational marijuana use by persons 21 and over.

**The annual veto session of the General Assembly to consider whether to override any of the governor's vetoes of bills or his line-item vetoes of spending authorized in appropriation bills will begin on September 14 and is not expected to last long.**

This is the perfect time to start looking into what bills or legislative priorities I can spearhead in next year's legislative session. If you have any suggestions on what those could be, please respond back to this email.

**Here are my committee appointments:**

**Crime Prevention  
Elementary & Secondary Education  
General Laws  
Joint Committee on Legislative Research  
Special Committee on Urban Issues  
Special Committee on Public Policy: Ranking Minority  
Member**

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, you can contact my legislative aide Rachael Cunningham at [Rachael.Cunningham@house.mo.gov](mailto:Rachael.Cunningham@house.mo.gov).

**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*



**Governor Mike Parson and I pose for a picture at a press conference he held August 23 at Union Station to explain legislation making major cuts in state income taxes and authorizing tax incentives for agricultural producers in Missouri that he has asked the General Assembly to pass during a special session that starts September 6. The legislation is expected to include provisions very similar to those in a bill I sponsored last session that will give an income tax credit to taxpayers equal to 50% of their eligible expenses for establishing or improving urban farms including community gardens.**



**This shows us alums of the former Hickman Mills High School in orange playing Ruskin High School alums in blue at a Rivalry Renewed flag football game at Ruskin High School on August 20. I am on the far left. It was fun connecting with former classmates and teammates, and I hope we can make this an annual tradition as long as enough of us Cougars are young enough to play our Eagle counterparts.**

## WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Tuesday, August 30th, 2022

### GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL SESSION

Gov. Mike Parson on Aug. 22 called a special legislative session for lawmakers to enact what he dubbed “the largest tax cut in state history”, as well as to pass a new version of a bill providing tax credits for the agricultural industry to replace legislation he vetoed in June. The session is slated to begin Sept. 6.

A permanent tax cut wasn’t seriously considered during this year’s regular legislative session, although House Republican leaders did push a one-time tax rebate plan that Parson vetoed due to flaws in the bill and supporting appropriation. The governor first floated the idea of a large-scale tax cut shortly afterward.

**The governor’s plan calls for immediately cutting the state income tax rate from 5.3% to 4.8%, increasing the standard income tax deduction to \$16,000 a year for individuals and \$32,000 for married couples filing jointly, along with eliminating the bottom tax bracket.**

Although the governor says his plan would cost the state about \$700 million a year in lost revenue, an analysis by the nonpartisan Missouri Budget Project puts the price tag at closer to \$1.1 billion annually.



By focusing on income tax cuts, the benefit would skew sharply toward the wealthy. While people with an annual income of between \$22,000 and \$40,000 would save an average of just \$84, those earning more than \$552,000 a year would save an average of \$6,030, according to the Budget Project. Missourians too poor to owe income tax – but who pay significant portions of their earnings in sales and property taxes – would get nothing.

Parson is also asking lawmakers to create or renew numerous tax incentives for agricultural producers, most of which were in bipartisan legislation lawmakers passed in May. However, Parson vetoed the measure, House Bill 1720, because lawmakers required the incentives to be reauthorized after only two years. In the special session, Parson wants lawmakers to approve the tax incentives for six years before reauthorization is required which should greatly increase their impact.

**HB 1720 included language very similar to the language in House Bill 1570 that I sponsored to provide income tax credits for establishing urban farms including community gardens. The language in HB 1720 allowed taxpayers to receive a tax credit of up to \$5,000 per farm equal to 50% of their eligible expenses for establishing or improving urban farms including community gardens that focus on food production.**

Adding an unusual wrinkle to the session is the fact the House chamber is undergoing renovations that won't be completed before the special session begins. With all of their desks removed, lawmakers will have to sit at plastic folding tables in a chamber with bare concrete floors since the special session

will delay the installation of new carpeting.

## **LAWSUITS SEEK TO BLOCK ELECTION LAW**

Voting rights advocates have filed a pair of lawsuits this month seeking to block key portions of a new law they contend imposes unconstitutional barriers to voting. Both were filed in Cole County Circuit Court on behalf of the Missouri chapters of the League of Women Voters and the NAACP.

The General Assembly passed the law that I voted against and strongly opposed - House Bill 1878 - in May that foes claim illegally restricts voting access. The measure will take effect Aug. 28 and be in force for the Nov. 8 general election unless blocked by a court.

**The first lawsuit challenges provisions of HB 1878 that substantially restrict voter registration drives by requiring those who assist in registering more than 10 voters to register with the state, require they be Missouri residents and prohibit them from receiving any type of compensation.**

The suit also challenges a provision that bans encouraging or assisting others to vote via absentee ballot. The lawsuit says those provisions violate free speech rights.

**The second case takes aim at a provision of HB 1878 attempting to require Missourians to have a government-issued photo identification in order to vote.**



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

## **SUIT CHALLENGES LAW IMPACTING HOMELESS**

A Springfield non-profit that helps secure housing for the homeless sued the state on Aug. 19 seeking to block a broad new law that includes a provision that criminalizes unauthorized sleeping or camping on state-owned land such as state parks that has been criticized as counterproductive by many of those who work with the homeless.

The General Assembly added the provision targeting the homeless to House Bill 1606 earlier this year. Although originally limited to tweaking laws governing county financial statements, the bill later was greatly expanded to include about 20 different provisions loosely relating to local government, going from 7 pages in length to 64 pages.

**The lawsuit contends the expanded bill violates constitutional provisions requiring legislation to be limited to a single subject that is clearly reflected in the bill's title and prohibiting bills from being changed from their original purpose.**

Before Gov. Mike Parson signed the bill into law in June, Missouri Department of Mental Health Director Valerie Huhn wrote a letter - later made public by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper - warning him HB 1606 could create more problems for some homeless persons since creating a criminal

offense for unauthorized sleeping on state property and making it a Class C misdemeanor could make it more difficult for them to later obtain permanent housing since landlords sometimes are reluctant to rent to people with criminal records.

**Fortunately, the bill does provide that only a warning will be issued for the first such offense with no citation.**

HB 1606 is slated to take effect Aug. 28.

The case, *The Gathering Tree v. State of Missouri*, is pending in Cole County Circuit Court.



**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHREDDING AND  
RECYCLING EVENT**  
**Saturday, September 10, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. to noon**

**St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church**  
**Parking Lot Behind the Church**  
**(access from 74th Terr off of Main)**

**Shredding:** Bring up to 5 bags/boxes of your old documents. The rangers will help you unload them and take them to the ProShred truck for shredding. You can watch it get shredded.

**Electronic Equipment:** Here's a list of what you can bring. There is a small fee for TV's and monitors.

- ALL TV's - \$40-\$45 each
- ALL Monitors \$25 each
- Desktop computers
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Printers
- Copiers
- Fax Machines
- Scanners
- Keyboards, mice, and other peripherals
- Cell Phones
- Phone systems
- Video games & video game equipment
- Batteries (including vehicle batteries)
- UPS battery backups
- Stereos
- Blue-ray/DVD players/VCRs
- Portable music players (iPods, MPC players, etc.)
- Alarm clocks
- Speakers
- Radio equipment
- Calculators
- Network equipment (modems, Routers, etc.)
- Cables, cords, and power supplies
- Electronic musical equipment (sound pedals, electric instruments)
- Recording equipment (sound boards, digital recorders)
- Power tools
- Microwaves
- Toasters
- Large appliances
- Metal scrap
- Basically anything with a circuit board.

Cost: **FREE** – except for Monitors (\$25 charge) and TV's (\$40 charge). Donations are gratefully accepted and will be used to support the Urban Ranger Corps. Check us out at [www.urckc.org](http://www.urckc.org)



## *Annual Kansas City 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony*

*Please Join the American Legion District 5,  
VFW District 5, DAV, Passantino Bros. Funeral Home,  
Muehlebach Funeral Care, and  
The Catholic Cemeteries of Kansas City-St. Joseph*

*Sunday September 11, 2022*

*5:30—6:00 pm Music by the American Legion Band*

*6:00—7:00 pm Remembrance Ceremony*

*First Responder Memorial, Mount Olivet Cemetery*

*7601 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138*

*A livestream of the ceremony can be viewed on the  
Muehlebach Funeral Care Facebook page*

*With Special Guests*

*Master of Ceremonies Mark Alford*

*The Most Reverend James Johnston*

*Raytown Mayor Mike McDonough*

*KCMO Deputy Police Chief Doug Niemeier*

*KCMO Fire Chief Donna Lake*



**KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI**

# COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Kansas City, MO  
Sidewalks Prioritization Plan

**Help us plan for Kansas City's future sidewalks**

**STOP BY TO PROVIDE YOUR INPUT!**

**September 13**

from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wonderscope Children's Museum  
423 E. Red Bridge Rd  
Kansas City, MO 64131



Take the Survey & Visit Our Website  
[KCMOSidewalks.com](http://KCMOSidewalks.com)

**Questions?** Contact Uday Manepalli at [Uday.Manepalli@kcmo.org](mailto:Uday.Manepalli@kcmo.org)







# Together, let's create opportUNITY

Join us in supporting small businesses and helping advance minority- and women-owned companies by participating in the Hy-Vee OpportUNITY Inclusive Business Summit this fall.

During the summit, Hy-Vee will host a pitch competition that will give local minority- and women-owned businesses the chance to win up to \$30,000. In total, Hy-Vee will award \$50,000 to companies across various business sectors.

## **TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMIT:**

### **1) Do you represent a minority- or women-owned business?**

Apply to pitch your products or services at the summit for the chance to win up to \$30,000!

### **2) Are you seeking professional development?**

Register to attend this free event which will include an expo with resources for small businesses, learning opportunities through presentations and panel discussions, the chance to be inspired by others and more. Plus, watch companies participate in a pitch competition for the chance to win up to \$30,000!

## **HY-VEE OPPORTUNITY INCLUSIVE BUSINESS SUMMIT**

**Tuesday, Sept. 27**

**7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium**

**Kansas City, MO**



**Hy-Vee**  
**OpportUNITY**  
Inclusive Business Summit

[hy-veeopportunitysummit.com](http://hy-veeopportunitysummit.com)

#HyVeeOpportUNITY

*Event space courtesy of the Kansas City Chiefs.*







## **HY-VEE OPPORTUNITY INCLUSIVE BUSINESS SUMMIT**

**Tuesday, Sept. 27**  
**7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium**  
**Kansas City, MO**

### **MINORITY- AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES**

Hy-Vee is awarding \$50,000 to local businesses. You could be one of them!

#### **STEP 1: APPLY TO PITCH YOUR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES**

Visit the summit website to apply by 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on Sept. 1, 2022.

#### **STEP 2: PARTICIPATE IN A PITCH COMPETITION AT THE SUMMIT**

Selected applicants will provide a short presentation at the summit for a panel of judges.

#### **STEP 3: WIN!**

Businesses will participate in one of three pitch categories for the chance to win the grand prize of \$30,000! Plus one business from each category will earn \$5,000. Additional cash investments will be awarded.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEEKERS**

Enjoy an expo with resources for small businesses, learning opportunities through presentations and panel discussions, the chance to be inspired by others and more. Plus, watch companies participate in a pitch competition for the chance to win up to \$30,000!

#### **STEP 1: ATTEND THE SUMMIT!**

Visit the summit website to register by 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on Sept. 20, 2022. Check back frequently for updates to the event agenda and list of featured speakers and panelists.

#### **STEP 2: PROMOTE THE SUMMIT!**

Invite colleagues, local organizations and other community members to attend this free networking and professional development event.

#### **STEP 3: TALK ABOUT THE EXCELLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES!**

Post on social media during or after the summit using #HyVeeOpportUNITY.



[hy-veeopportunitysummit.com](https://hy-veeopportunitysummit.com)

#HyVeeOpportUNITY

# WE'RE HIRING!!!!

## MAKE AN IMPACT IN KANSAS CITY

Police Officer \* Detention Officer \* Parking Control \*  
Communication Specialist \* Fleet Operations \* Building  
Operations \* Analyst \* Administrative and Fiscal  
Administrators \* THE LIST GOES ON!!!!

[www.careers.kcpd.org/](http://www.careers.kcpd.org/)

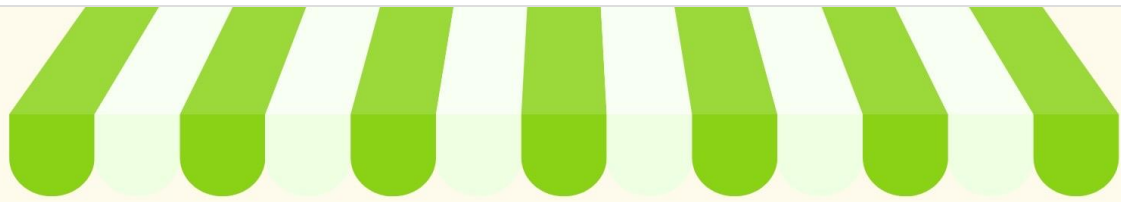


We're hiring.  
We need you!



CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

[KCMO.GOV/JOBS](http://KCMO.GOV/JOBS)



# 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?		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!
		<b>Online:</b> Visit <a href="https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply">https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply</a> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal
1	\$1,481	<b>By Phone:</b> Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994  <b>By Mail or Email:</b> Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:  <b>Family Support Division</b> 615 E 13th St Kansas City, MO 64106  Or email to: <b>FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov</b>
2	\$2,003	
3	\$2,525	
4	\$3,048	
5	\$3,570	
6	\$4,092	



# 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 913-313-0250 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.



**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!**