



## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

Tuesday, March 28th, 2023

### **LEGAL SPORTS GAMBLING CLEARS HOUSE**

A bill to legalize sports wagering in Missouri cleared the House of Representatives March 22 but faces an uncertain future in the Senate where similar legislation has failed in recent years in a dispute over how to address the proliferation of unregulated video lottery terminals around the state.

**House Committee Substitute for House Bill 556 & 581 would authorize Missouri's 13 licensed casinos to operate sports books on their premises, as well as to offer online wagering. It also would impose a 10% tax on sports bets,**

**less than half the usual tax rate levied on casino gambling. I voted for it.**

**Thirty-six states have legalized sports betting since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal ban on the practice in 2018. Missouri has lagged, however, as some lawmakers insist on tying legalization of sports betting to the regulation of video lottery terminals (VLTs), which are slot machine-style games that have become common in gas stations, bars and other locations.**

The Missouri Gaming Commission, the regulator for the state's casinos, considers VLTs illegal slot machines, as does the State Highway Patrol which is charged with enforcing state gambling laws. While some county prosecutors successfully have brought criminal cases regarding VLTs, others have been reluctant to do so, claiming the legality of the machines is ambiguous.

Although sports betting supporters want to keep the issues separate, lawmakers seeking to legalize, regulate and tax VLTs so far have been successful in blocking the issue from advancing in the Senate. A Senate committee approved a similar sports betting bill earlier this year, but the chamber hasn't yet brought it up for debate due to filibuster threats.

## **SENATE BILLS TARGET TRANSGENDER KIDS**

The Senate on March 23 approved one bill that would ban certain types of medical care for transgender minors, along with a second prohibiting transgender athletes from participating on sports teams that don't correspond to their birth gender. Both measures now advance to the House of Representatives.

Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 49, 236 & 164 which passed 24-8, would ban gender-affirming surgery for minors, which currently only happens in rare situations, and also outlaw the use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors. Those who have already started transitioning by the time the bill takes effect later this year would be exempt from the latter restriction. It passed on a straight party line vote, with all Republicans present voting yes, and all Democrats present voting no.

**Senate Bill 39 would prohibit public and private schools from allowing transgender athletes to compete on sports teams that don't correspond with their birth gender. In addition to K-12 sports, the restriction would apply to organized college athletics, potentially putting Missouri**

**colleges and universities out of compliance with NCAA rules relating to transgender athletes. The bill passed 25-8, with all Republicans present voting yes and all but one of the Democrats present voting no.**

Both bills are sponsored by Republicans.. As a part of a compromise brokered with some Democrats, the restrictions on athletic participation and the limits on puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy would expire in 2027 unless lawmakers later renew them.

### **HOUSE VOTES TO END CORPORATE TAX**

The House of Representatives on March 23 voted 111-48 to eliminate Missouri's corporate income tax, legislation estimated to cost the state another \$1.175 billion in lost revenue once fully implemented and further erode a state tax base already severely weakened by several other significant tax cuts over the last decade. I voted against it.

The bill now advances to the Senate.

**The latest proposal comes less than six months after the legislature enacted a \$2-billion-a-year tax cut during a special legislative session.**

**Because of those cuts which took effect Jan. 1, the growth in net state general revenue collections is expected to slow to a trickle for the foreseeable future after robust growth during the prior two fiscal years.**

Missouri's corporate income tax rate is currently 4%. Starting in 2024, House Committee Substitute for House Bill 816 & 660 would gradually reduce the rate each year until it is completely eliminated in 2027.

## **COURT UPHOLDS BAN ON REGULATIONS**

The Missouri Supreme Court on March 21 upheld the constitutionality of a state law prohibiting counties from regulating concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The court unanimously ruled the law didn't infringe on any constitutional powers of counties relating to agriculture or violate rules against passing deceptive legislation.

**The challenged statute bars counties from enacting restrictions on agricultural facilities that are more stringent than state law. The law was enacted in 2019 to nullify local restrictions on CAFOs, which often spark opposition from nearby residents because of odor and pollution**

**issues.**

The Cedar County Commission along with other plaintiffs challenged the law in an attempt to preserve a local health ordinance that limited CAFO operations in the county. Both the trial court and Supreme Court rejected the county's arguments.

The case is *Cedar County Commission, et al., v. Gov. Mike Parson*.

## **HOUSE BACKS LIMITS ON ASSESSMENT HIKES**

Increases in the tax value for residential property would be restricted under a proposed constitutional amendment the House of Representatives approved March 23 by a vote of 102-37. The proposal also would freeze the tax value of homes owned and occupied by taxpayers age 65 or older.

**Supporters of House Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution 33 & 45 say it would protect homeowners, especially senior citizens, from being taxed out of their homes by skyrocketing real estate prices and corresponding increases in property taxes.**

Opponents say the solution proposed by the

measure would create new inequities, with some homeowners paying far more in taxes than their neighbors based on factors such as age or how recently a home's ownership has changed. The latter is a factor since the measure would cap the rate of growth in tax values for homes that remain under the same ownership, while a sale would reset a property's tax value based on its sales price. I voted against it.

If also approved by the Senate, the proposal would automatically go on the November 2024 statewide ballot for voter ratification.



**Last week I spoke in support of House Committee Substitute for House Bill 909 which I co-sponsored that would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources from issuing a permit for the operation of a solid waste disposal area to serve Kansas City located within one mile of another city without the approval of that city's governing body. HCSHB 909 passed overwhelmingly with 139 members voting in support.**



**Also, last week I spoke on the House floor to introduce the Leadership South Kansas City class of 2023 that visited the Missouri Capitol. This program of the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce is in its 30th year and has consistently had 15-24 participants each year and has provided leadership development to many who have gone on to serve as current leaders of our community.**

# ★ ★ 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)



# Coffee With a Cop



**Please join us for**

Coffee and Conversations  
with the Kansas City  
Police Department

**Thursday, March 30, 2023**

**7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**



P.S. Coffee & Drive-Thru  
13109 Holmes Road  
Kansas City, MO 64145





4TH ANNUAL

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

**JUNE 2, 2023**

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# 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/>



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*State Representative Mark A.  
Sharp*

**Missouri House of Representatives**

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