

Dear Neighbors,

I want to take a moment to update you on an unprecedented issue unfolding across our country that could have a direct impact here in KCMO. President Donald Trump has recently called on Republican-leaning states to redraw Congressional district lines – even though this is not a normal year to do that.

To the best of my knowledge, never in our nation's history has a president openly pressured states to redraw Congressional district maps outside of the normal redistricting cycle which takes place every ten years after the national census. This move is unfair, highly partisan and has far-reaching negative consequences for our democracy.

In Missouri the pressure is aimed directly at Congressional District 5, represented by longtime Congressman Emanuel Cleaver – a respected public servant and former Mayor of Kansas City. Despite his long history of trying to

get elected officials of different parties to work together to solve our nation's problems and decades of public service, President Trump has targeted his seat.

Missouri is not alone: Texas has already followed President Trump's directive, while California has moved in the opposite direction to counter this effort. Just this past week, Trump posted on social media that "Missouri is in", raising serious questions about political deals being made.

At the same time, Missouri's Attorney General Andrew Bailey was suddenly appointed by President Trump to serve as co-director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation – a newly created position.

Almost immediately, Governor Kehoe announced Catherine Hanaway as Bailey's successor.

Hanaway, a former Missouri House Speaker and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri under President George W. Bush, has now stepped into her new role. It is difficult to ignore the timing, which suggests a deal may have been struck to influence Missouri's redistricting process.

I was serving in the Missouri House in 2022 when far-right Republicans pushed for a 7-1 Congressional District map that would have drawn Congressional district boundaries to give Republican candidates a strong advantage in 7 out of 8 districts, carving Democrats out of nearly all representation.

That effort failed because many Missouri Senate Republicans recognized that Democrats had earned about 40% of the statewide vote in 2020. By that math, there is a much stronger case for a fairer 5-3 map, not a hyper-partisan 7-1 map. Congressman Cleaver's seat should not be targeted simply for partisan gain!

Right now, Missouri lawmakers must decide whether to stand firm, as they did in 2022, or cave to pressure from Trump. A special session has not yet been called, though if one comes, it will likely coincide with the veto session on September 10.

In my six years of service, I have never been called back for two special sessions in one year, but this year could be different. Senate Democrats – especially those from Kansas City – will be prepared to filibuster to ensure a fair map. However, the Senate Republican leadership could once again move to shut down debate as they did earlier this year on abortion rights and paid sick leave.

This is a pivotal moment for Missouri and our nation. Gerrymandering our Congressional districts to eliminate fair representation undermines democracy. I urge you to make your voice heard to your elected officials and to the news media!

We must not allow partisan power grabs to weaken our community's voice in Congress by slicing our city up among three districts so the members of Congress from all of these districts could potentially ignore our city's needs without facing career-ending political consequences from a majority of their voters.

I remain committed to fighting for fair representation and protecting the integrity of our democratic process!

Here is my current list of committee assignments for the 103rd General Assembly:

Special Committee on Urban Issues, Chairman
Crime and Public Safety, Ranking Minority Member
Joint Committee on Capitol Security
Joint Committee on Legislative Research
Revision Subcommittee - Joint Committee on Legislative Research
Consent and House Procedure
Local Government

If you would like to be added to this email or have any questions regarding state legislation or state issues please feel free to reach out to my legislative assistant Mariah Gilmore.



Last week, the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus held a press conference in Kansas City to address the media and the potential of a special session being called to redraw the Congressional District 5 seat to be more Republican. We were joined by other House Democrats, as well as city and county officials, to stand united against these partisan efforts that threaten the representation of our community.



At this year's Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Hotdog Festival I was invited on stage to greet the crowd and highlight legislation Senator Barbara Washington and I sponsored to recognize Kansas City Monarch legend John Donaldson. Our bill designates February 20 as 'John Donaldson Day' in Missouri. I was joined by Negro Leagues Baseball Museum President Bob Kendrick and Representative Melissa Douglass.



I had a chance to meet members of John Donaldson's family who reside here in Kansas City at the Hotdog Festival. I was able to present a signed copy of the bill to them.



I don't play baseball nearly as much as I used to, but I'm sure glad I still get a chance every now and again to lace it up and play.



9TH ANNUAL FREE SHREDDING & **RECYCLING EVEN**

Saturday, September 6th 9:00AM - 12:00PM

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church 14 W 75th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64114

SHREDDING

Bring up to 5 bags/boxes of your old documents. Rangers will help unload and take to ProShred truck.

ELECTRONICS The following itens are permitted (** means small fee associated):

- ** TV's
- ** Monitors
- Desktop computers
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Printers
- Copiers
- Fax Machines
- Scanners
- Cell Phones
- Phone systems
- Video games and equipment
 Toasters
- Batteries (including vehicle batteries) Metal scrap
- UPS battery backups
- Stereos
- Blue-ray/DVD players/VCRs

- Portable music players
- Alarm clocks
- Speakers
- Radio equipment
- Calculators
- Network equipment
- Cables, cords, and power supplies
- Electronic musical equipment
 Recording equipment
- Power tools
- Microwaves
- Circut boards

Donations are gratefully accepted and will be used to support the Urban Ranger Corps. www.urckc.org



PRESENTED BY

SERVE THE WORLD

IN COLLABORATION WITH



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - 10 A.M. WORLD HARVEST MINISTRIES

3400 Woodland Avenue Kansas City, MO 64109

KID ZONE - HAIR CUTS - FAMILY PORTRAITS - HEALTH SCREENINGS - RESOURCES - FOOD & CLOTHING DISTRIBUTIONS

Hickman Mills United Neighborhoods Presents



Calling All Vendors, Food Trucks & Volunteers!

Join us on the 4th Saturday of every month from April 26, 2025, to October 25, 2025 at <u>Consuming Fire Ministries</u> (10306 Blue Ridge Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64134).

Come be a part of a vibrant community event where you can sell your products, advertise your business, and connect with your neighbors.



April 26, 9 AM - 2 PM May 24, (Memorial Day Weekend) 7 AM - 12 PM June 28, 7 AM - 12 PM

> July 26, 7 AM - 12 PM August 23, 7 AM - 12 PM

September 27, 7 AM - 12 PM October 25, 8 AM - 1 PM

Vendor Signup

Locations from June to October are subject to change, so please follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and check out our page, <u>hmunited.org</u>, for updates.

For Inquiries, Email Contact@hmunited.org



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. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

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/

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 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. 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 4 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.





State Representative Mark A. Sharp

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