



Dear Neighbor,

This week the House voted on several major measures that were all controversial and which all passed and were sent to the Senate for consideration. Please scroll down to read more about them in the Weekly Update.

I was particularly pleased that I was able to work with the sponsor of House Bill 1462 which I knew would easily pass to gain his support for me amending his bill to include all the provisions of Blair's Law which I introduced as a separate bill to make indiscriminate or celebratory gunfire within or into city limits with criminal negligence a serious state offense.

HB 1462 which expands where persons can carry concealed firearms if they have passed a background check, successfully completed the required training and obtained a concealed carry permit and loosens restrictions on applying for such a permit that I don't favor passed 101 to 40. (Bills require a majority of the entire House – 82 votes – for passage.)

Blair's Law is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died after being struck by celebratory gunfire here on July 4, 2011.

I was able to add Blair's Law to another bill last year which passed the House and was recommended for passage by a Senate committee without dissent, but time ran out during the 2021 session of the General Assembly before the measure could be voted on by the full Senate.

With this year's early House passage I am optimistic this life-saving measure will be passed before adjournment and signed into law by the governor. Stiffening the penalties against celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire hopefully will deter much of this reckless and irresponsible behavior before it claims more victims.

I also was very pleased I was able to win passage of my amendment to House Bill 1814, an open enrollment bill that passed the House 85 to 66, to allow the Hickman Mills School District to block transfers of its students to other public school districts during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, the first two years such transfers would be allowed under the bill.

This should give the district which is now provisionally accredited ample time to regain full accreditation which is expected to greatly minimize the desire for such transfers. Allowing them sooner, when demand might be high, could be extremely disruptive to the district's educational programs and progress to full accreditation.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to support or oppose, please email me at Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide [Kaylee Bauer](#) is ready to help you.

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

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, March 11th, 2022

HOUSE ADVANCES VOTER PHOTO ID BILL

In an annual ritual that's continued for more than 15 years, the

Missouri House of Representatives on March 10 approved legislation seeking to make voting contingent on having a valid, government-issued photo identification.

In most years, voter photo ID measures pass the House only to die for lack of action in the Senate. Although the legislature has twice managed to enact the requirement into law, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional both times.

Whether the legislation makes it through the Senate this year remains to be seen, but if it does a court challenge is guaranteed and could likely end up with the same result as in the prior two cases.

This year the House approved two voter photo ID measures – one again putting the requirement into state law (House Bill 1878 which passed 96-35) and another seeking to enshrine it in the state constitution (House Joint Resolution 94 which passed 97-36).

In the prior cases, the Missouri Supreme Court noted the only type of fraud a voter photo ID requirement could prevent is voter impersonation at the polls, which hasn't even been alleged for many decades in Missouri, although it undoubtedly occurred in Kansas City during the Pendergast era.

Such a requirement could disenfranchise many of the roughly 200,000 Missouri voters who don't have a government-issued photo ID. Such voters tend to belong to groups that predominantly support Democrats.

Since voting is a fundamental right, the state high court has said any restrictions on it are subject to the highest level of constitutional scrutiny. As with the previous laws the court struck down, the latest two measures appear to fall short of clearing that bar for constitutionality since they make it harder for a large number of Missourians to vote in order to prevent a non-existent type of fraud.

EDUCATION BILLS NARROWLY PASS HOUSE

The House of Representatives on March 9 narrowly passed a pair of education bills that separately would modify how charter schools receive public funding and give students more leeway to attend public school districts other than the one in which they live.

Both bills have advanced to the Senate.

Lawmakers voted 85-67 in favor of House Bill 1552, which would establish a new formula for determining how much local funding a public school district must allocate to charter schools within its boundaries.

Charter schools are public schools that operate independently of a local school district and are exempt from certain state education regulations. They currently are authorized only in St. Louis and Kansas City.

Supporters say the bill would establish more equitable funding for charter schools, while opponents maintain it would unfairly siphon revenue from traditional public schools. Although the Kansas City public school district supported the change, the St. Louis City district did not.

The other measure - House Bill 1814 - would establish a voluntary open enrollment program that would allow students in one public school district to transfer to another participating district, subject to space and staffing limitations. It passed the House on a vote of 85-66.

I offered an amendment to HB 1814 that was approved which will allow the provisionally accredited Hickman Mills School District which includes much of my legislative district to block

transfers of its students to another district during the 23-24 & 24-25 school years which are the first two school years such transfers would be allowed under the bill.

My hope is that will give the district ample time to regain full accreditation which should result in only a relatively small number of families transferring their children to other districts and prevent widespread disruption of educational activities.

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PROPOSAL WOULD WEAKEN HANCOCK AMENDMENT

The Senate on May 8 granted preliminary approval to a proposed constitutional amendment that would weaken the Hancock Amendment's prohibition against state lawmakers imposing unfunded mandates on local governments.

A second vote is required to advance the measure to the House of Representatives, where similar legislation awaits debate.

Senate Joint Resolution 38 would empower the legislature to force Kansas City to spend more of its budget on the city's police department without providing more state funding.

The Hancock Amendment guarantees local officials have the final say on how local tax dollars are allocated without interference from the state. If the state wishes to require local governments to spend more money for a particular purpose, the state must provide the funding necessary to implement the mandate.

As originally proposed in SJR 38, all Missouri municipalities and counties would have been subject to unfunded mandates relating to law enforcement spending. However, the Senate added an amendment limiting the legislation's impact to Kansas City, whose police department is the only one in Missouri under state

control.

The lower chamber's version - House Joint Resolution 100 - still applies statewide. If either measure is approved by both chambers, it automatically would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot.

INITIATIVE PETITIONS TARGETED AGAIN

Missouri lawmakers would have the power to try to change proposed constitutional amendments submitted through the initiative petition process before they go before voters under a proposed constitutional amendment the House of Representatives advanced to the Senate on March 10 by a vote of 96-34.

At present, constitutional amendments proposed through the initiative petition process automatically go on the statewide ballot for voter consideration, with a simple majority of votes cast needed for passage. The initiative process allows Missourians to propose both constitutional amendments and laws independently of the General Assembly if supporters can collect the requisite number of signatures from Missouri voters.

Under House Joint Resolution 91, once enough signatures are submitted on an initiative petition proposing a constitutional amendment, the legislature would have the opportunity to modify the proposed constitutional amendment. If the initiative sponsors accept the legislature's changes, voters could ratify the measure with a simple majority of votes cast. If the sponsors decide to stay with their original version, a two-thirds majority of votes cast would be needed for approval.

HJR 91 also would greatly increase the number of signatures required to put a proposed constitutional amendment or law on the ballot. Currently signatures from 5% of registered voters in two-

thirds of the state's congressional districts are required to put a proposed law on the ballot, and 8% of such voters are required to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot.

Under HJR 91, that percentage of signatures would be required in all eight of the state's congressional districts.

HJR also requires any future constitutional amendment proposed through the initiative petition process or by the legislature to require approval by at least two-thirds of the votes cast in a statewide election instead of just a simple majority as now required, but it allows approval by just a simple majority of any constitutional amendment to repeal a previous constitutional amendment approved by voters prior to Dec. 10 of this year.

This appears to be clearly aimed at allowing easier passage of a constitutional amendment to repeal the constitutional amendment to expand Medicaid coverage to more uninsured Missourians that was proposed through an initiative petition and approved by Missouri voters in 2020.

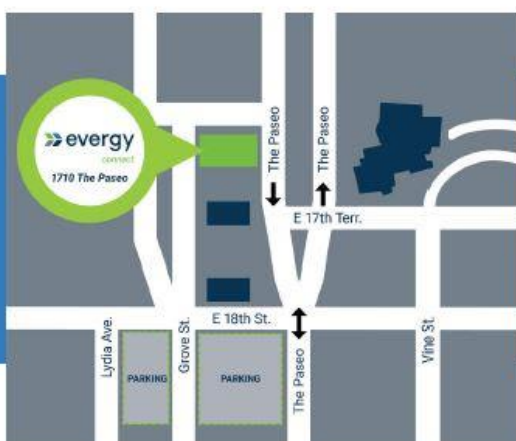
If the Senate also approves the measure, it would go the Nov. 8 statewide ballot and require just a simple majority of votes cast for approval.



Utility Assistance Information Event

Regardless if your electric account is current or past due, you may be eligible for utility assistance.

Join us Wednesday, March 16 from 9am - 3pm to receive information about the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Evergy's Economic Relief Pilot Program (ERPP). Applications will be available. Please bring social security numbers for all household members and proof of income.



**March 16, 2022
9am-3pm**

Evergy Connect Center
1710 Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64108

**Masks required.
Missouri residents only.**



Please Join Us!

You are invited to join us as we "turn the page" and celebrate this new chapter in the history of this Mid-Continent Public Library branch.

Blue Ridge Branch

9253 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138
816.761.3382

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00 a.m.





Please join us for
Coffee and Conversations
with the Kansas City
Police Department

Tuesday, March 22, 2022
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

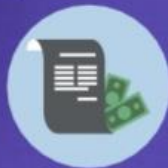
Coffee
With A Cop



Martin City Coffee
13115 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64145



MARCH
23RD



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: THE RFP PROCESS

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
RFPS & DOING BUSINESS WITH THE CITY**



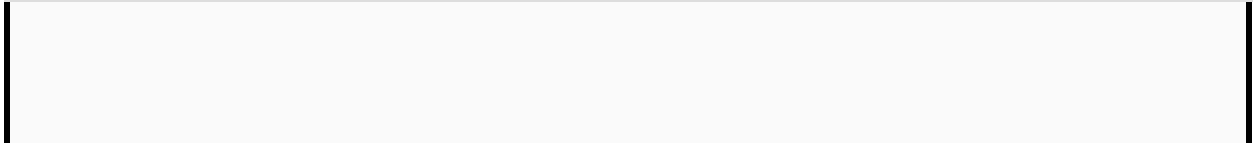
WEDNESDAY MARCH 23RD
5:00PM - 6:30PM



MICROSOFT TEAMS

VIRTUAL

**REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE OR CALL OR
EMAIL NEPHATERI HILL: (816) 513-7921
OR NEPHATERI.HILL@KCMO.ORG**



Medicaid Enrollment

We can help!

Kansas City Health Department

2400 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108

Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

FREE assistance

from experts with

KC Care Health Center & Swope Health

(Since Medicaid was expanded to include more people,
you could be eligible!)



swopeHEALTH





SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night
5:00 - 7:30 PM

- Open to Ages 8-13
- Dinner Provided

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2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



ONE TIME REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR!

FREE

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KCFD

CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
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KCMO.GOV/FIRE

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

**THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*



South KC Mobile Food Pantries

Many families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, 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.



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



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816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCCrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



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Missouri House of Representatives

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