



**Capitol Report**

**April 16, 2022**

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***Dear Neighbor,***

I would like to wish you and your family a Blessed Easter Holiday. This week's newsletter is a bit lengthy as it was an extremely busy week for me in Jefferson City as well as around the state.

This week, legislation on voice votes passed in the House including restrictions on teaching racism in schools and anti-transkid language

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relating to sports. As a retired teacher, I addressed my colleagues from the House Floor during the CRT Debate. [You can watch my remarks here.](#) We also Third Read and passed numerous bills which you will find listed in the newsletter.

We are four weeks from the end of session and the state budget has yet to be set and the Congressional District Maps are still incomplete. Although law suits have been filed concerning the maps, we only have three weeks to meet the state constitutional deadline to complete the budget. Only once in the history of the state has the budget not been completed on time. The budget has passed out of the house with an excess of \$2 billion. The budget is now in the Senate and they are trying to spend the \$2 billion excess. Should legislators miss the budget deadline, it will be up to Gov. Parson to call a Special Session in order for lawmakers to complete the task.

Finally, although we feel as though we have turned the corner on the pandemic, recent numbers suggests that COVID cases are on the rise in both Missouri and Kansas, so I urge you to continue to do what you feel is best to protect you and your loved ones.

It is an honor to serve you. Thank you for the privilege.

***Yours in Service,***  
***Rich***

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## House Legislative Dashboard

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**First Read:**

1595

**Third Read:**

109

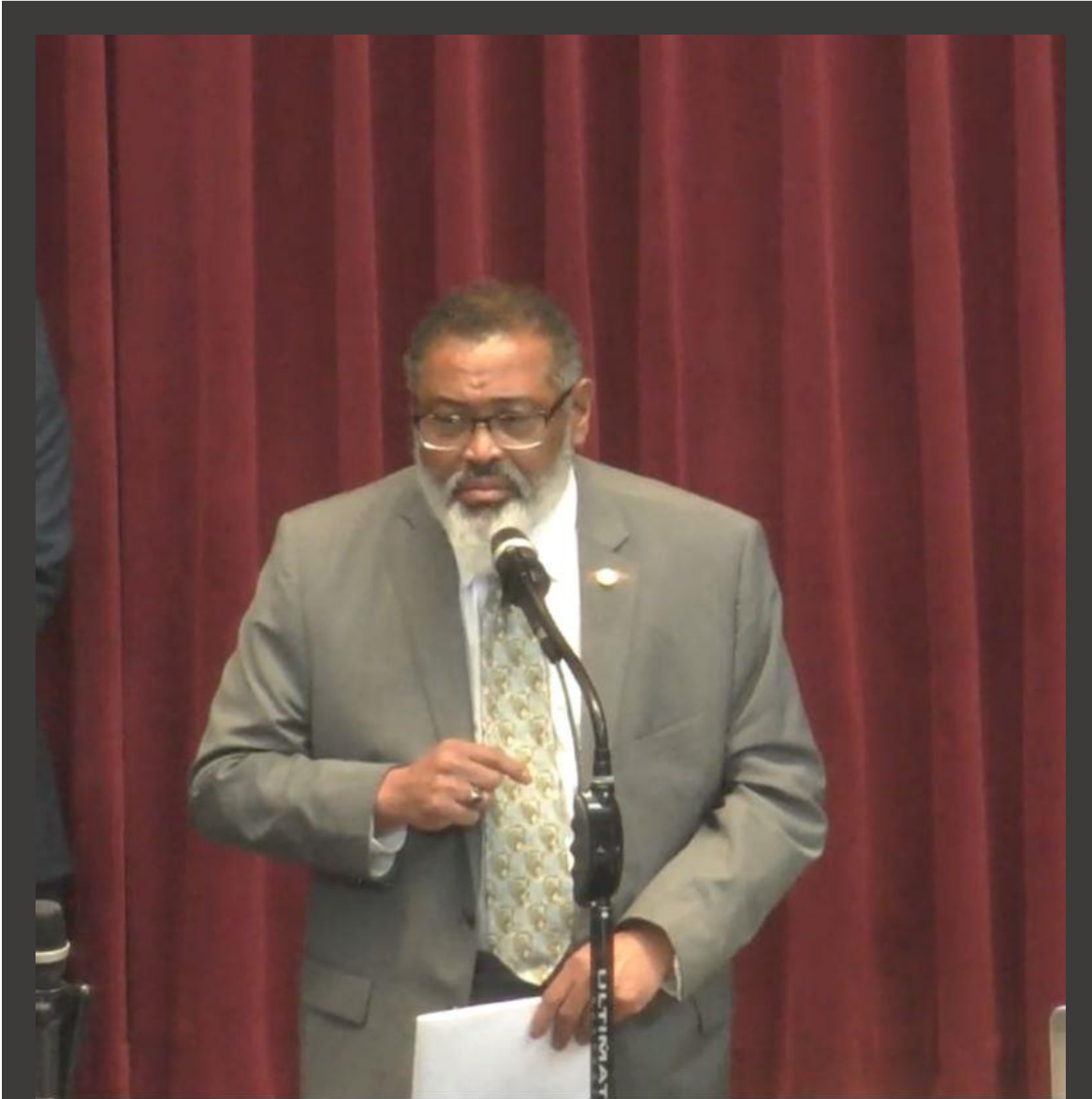
**Truly Agreed:**

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**Signed By Governor:**

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I addressed my House colleagues this week concerning  
Critical Race Theory in Missouri schools.  
[You can watch the video here..](#)

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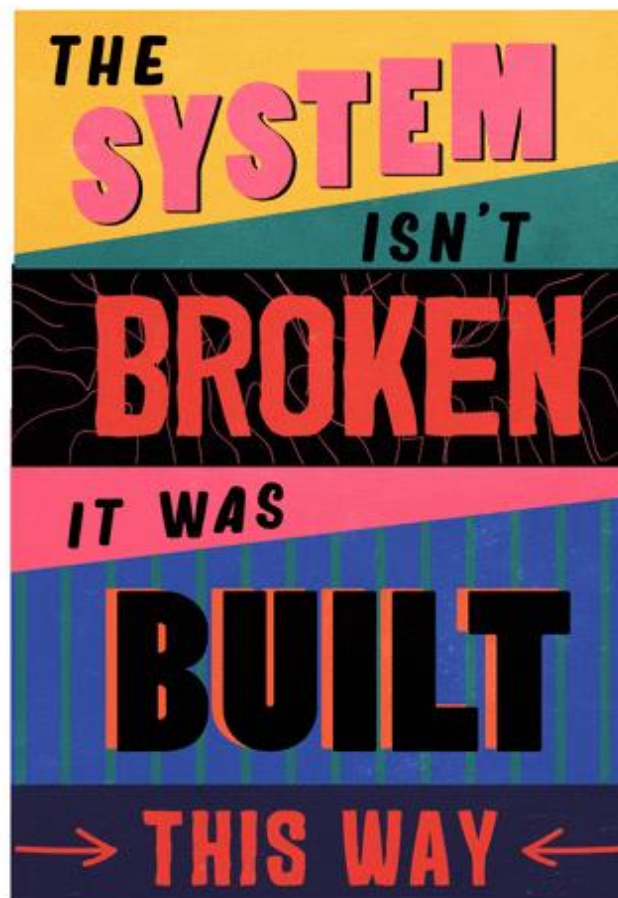
# House approves limits on teaching about racism in schools

The House of Representatives on April 12 granted first-round approval to legislation restricting how race and racism is taught in public schools and creating a so-called “parents’ bill of rights” that mostly just restates existing laws granting parents’ access to certain information about their child’s education.

House Bill 1858 sparked extensive debate over the rights of parents of direct their children’s education versus the practical reality that in a classroom of two dozen or more kids, a teacher can’t customize lessons for each child based on their parents want or don’t want taught. Democrats also criticized the bill’s Republican supporters for attempting to minimize, if not outright erase, teaching about the country’s racist past and continuing racial injustice.

A second vote is required to advance the bill to the Senate. The bill is one of several dozen majority Republicans filed this year seeking to limit how schools teach about race, with some of the measures attempting to ban specific books and authors from being taught.

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## Individual Income Tax FAQs



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**Certain taxpayers may  
qualify to e-file their  
federal and state  
income tax returns  
free of charge.**

[Click here to see if you qualify](#)



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**Check the status of your Missouri State Tax returns**

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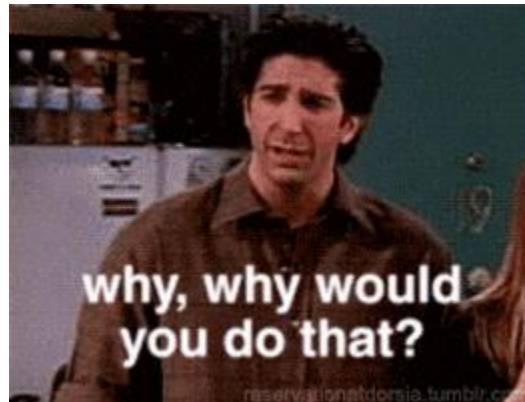


## House Republicans vote to slash Unemployment Benefits

The House of Representatives voted 94-41 on April 6 to advance legislation to the Senate that would slash the maximum number of weeks of unemployment benefits in Missouri from the current 20 weeks to as low as eight weeks. **I voted NO!** The vote was along straight party lines, with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed.



The bill is similar to legislation majority Republicans thought they had enacted into law over a gubernatorial veto in 2015. However, the Missouri Supreme Court later ruled the Senate's override vote was constitutionally invalid, thus nullifying its passage. Subsequent attempts to cut unemployment benefits have been made annually ever since but so far have failed to win final passage.



## **Senate panel advances proposal to undo Medicaid expansion**

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted 8-5 on April 13 to advance a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at undoing a voter-mandated expansion of eligibility for the state's Medicaid program. The committee's action puts the measure as close as one Senate vote away from going on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot for voter consideration.

Voters amended the state constitution in 2020 to expand Medicaid coverage to more Missourians, but Republican lawmakers tried to block its implementation the following year by refusing to provide sufficient funding in the state budget to cover the additional recipients. The Missouri Supreme Court later ruled the constitution still requires the state to provide

services to the expanded population, and the legislature later appropriated the necessary funding.

House Joint Resolution 117 would accomplish what the Supreme Court said isn't currently allowed by amending the constitution to empower lawmakers to block services to the expanded population by withholding funding. The committee's four Democrats were joined by one Republican in opposing the bill.

**PEACE FOR  UKRAINE**



## **GOP turns elections bill into attack on transgender kids**

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives on April 13 gave preliminary approval to a wide-ranging elections bill that purports to allow

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the state to ignore federal election laws, fine election officials who follow federal law without legislative approval and impose a photo voter identification requirement, which the Missouri Supreme Court has twice struck down as unconstitutional. The bill also includes an unrelated provision to allow public schools to prohibit transgender girls from participating in girls' sports.

House Bill 2140 is Missouri's version of voter suppression legislation Republican lawmakers have been pushing across the country. The bill's many provisions includes one purporting to give the Missouri General Assembly to power to decide what federal election laws the state will follow. Related provisions seek to impose fines of \$5,000 per month on election officials who follow federal law without the legislature's permission. In addition, accepting federal election funding without approval could result in a \$1,000 fine, plus the amount of funding received. All of these provisions likely violate the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which holds that federal laws are superior to state laws.

The bill also includes the latest Republican attempt to impose a photo voter ID requirement. The state Supreme Court has ruled past attempts violated Missourians' voting rights, and the version in HB 2140 likely would meet the same fate. The state high court has noted voter impersonation at the polls is the only type of voter fraud a photo ID requirement could prevent, yet there has never been a documented case of it in Missouri. Not coincidentally, photo ID requirements disproportionately impact racial minorities and other groups that tend to support Democrats.

HB 2140's unconstitutional attempts to nullify federal law and suppress voter participation received no discussion, however, as Republican leaders focused debate on the social wedge issue of transgender athletes, allocating three-quarters of the four hours spent on the bill to an amendment adding the transgender athletes' provision. After it was adopted, Republican leaders shut down further debate on the bill, preventing discussion of its other provisions.

The amendment in question allows each public school district to put a measure on the local ballot that, if approved by voters, would ban

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transgender girls from participating in girls' sports. According to the Missouri State High School Activities Association, which oversees high school sports in the state, only two transgender girls have sought to play on girls' teams in the last decade. The House passed the amendment on a near party-line vote of 89-40-3, with just a couple Republicans joining Democrats in opposition.

HB 2140 won initial passage on a voice vote. A second, recorded vote is necessary to advance it to the Senate. This year's legislative session ends May 13.

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### **BILLS THIRD READ IN THE HOUSE THIS WEEK**

**HB 1583** - Modifies provisions relating to the taxation of property

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**HB 1637** - Relating to crime prevention

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**HB 1705** - Establishes procedures for a violent offender registry, which will include any person on probation or parole for first or second degree murder

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**HB 1757** - Creates the State Building Usage Task Force

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**HB 1860** - Modifies provisions relating to employment security benefits

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**HB 2171** - Modifies provisions governing workforce development in elementary and secondary education

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**HB 2218** - Modifies provisions relating to the Municipal Land Reutilization Law

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**HB 2307** - Assesses an additional five thousand dollar fine for human trafficking offenses and establishes the "Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Fund"

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**HB 2331** - Repeals provisions relating to certain health and licensing requirements

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**HB 2376** - Designates the residency of children in foster care for purposes of determining state aid for education programs

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**HB 2593** - Prohibits political subdivisions from regulating home-based business

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**HB 2623** - Modifies provisions relating to required background checks of individuals employed by or associated with licensed residential care facilities, child placing agencies, or residential care facilities

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*To read more on these bills [click here](#)*

*These bills now head to the Senate*







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## State lawmaker resigns to become Independence mayor

State Rep. Rory Rowland resigned from the House of Representatives on April 14 after winning election as mayor of Independence a week earlier. Rowland, Democrat, had served in the House ever since winning a 2015 special election to fill a vacant seat previously held by a Republican. He is scheduled to take office as Independence mayor April 18.

Rowland's departure leaves the House with seven vacancies. The other six were all last held by Republicans. The seats will remain vacant through the end of the year and will be filled for full two-year terms at the Nov. 8 general elections.



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I met with British MP and Minister of State for Europe and North America, James Cleverly. It's always good to meet a brother from the UK.

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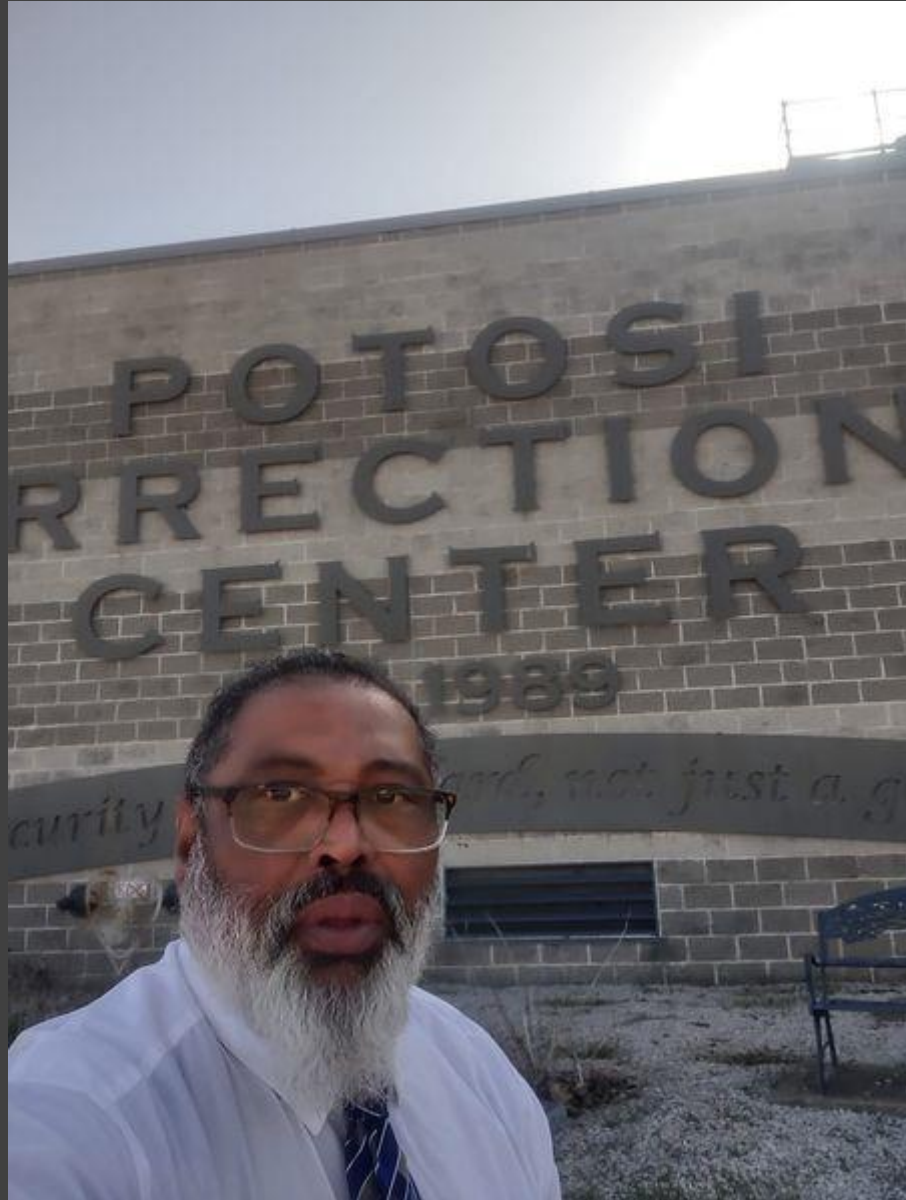
Gov. Parson keeps me looking good  
at a recent get together at the Governor's mansion.





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I am pictured with Keith Carnes who was released from prison Monday after serving 18 years and 7 months for a crime he says he did not commit.



Thursday, after we adjourned from session for the week, I drove

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for 3 hours to Mineral Point, Missouri to visit the inmates at Potosi Correctional Center.

This past Tuesday, a hearing was conducted by the Special Committee on Criminal Justice. Many of the witnesses who testified spoke about the deplorable conditions and maltreatment of the inmates. Representatives Kimberly-Ann Collins and Ian Mackey also made the trip and toured the facility.

During the 4-Hour visit we spoke with persons being detained in "The Hole" as well as in the general population. This was a pop-up visit and we also met with the warden.



I had a discussion on the House floor with Rep. Jeff Coleman, Chairman of the Professional Licensing and Registration

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Committee about pending legislation coming up for debate.  
I serve as Ranking Member on the committee.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

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**Meeting Notice**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – 7:00pm**  
**South Patrol Station – 9701 Marion Park Drive 64137**

**Guest Speakers:**

Update on Bannister Rd Three Trails—Mike Graf  
Presentation from the Core Class—Mr. Yaw Obeng, Superintendent  
Hickman Mills C-1 School District  
Infill Residential Development Code—Najma Muhammad,  
City Planning & Development. Bring your questions.

Zoom will also be available –

Email to: [SouthernCommunitiesC@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernCommunitiesC@gmail.com)

**Carol McClure – Co-Chairman – (816) 966-0855**

**Jerry Darter – Co-Chairman – (816) 362-2658**

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# FIFTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

Monday, May 2, 2022

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

In-person only

Southeast Community Center,

4201 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64132

WITH GUEST SPEAKER(S):

5th District problem-solvers break-Out session with:

Neighborhoods & Community Services

Housing & Community Development

Health Department

Parks & Recreation Department

Public Works Department

City Planning & Development Department

Kansas City Police Department

Water Department

Evergy

Spire Energy

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Representatives from each department will be there  
to answer questions and resolve any problems, or concerns.

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# Leaf & Brush

Spring 2022  
Set-out Dates

KCMO.GOV/  
LEAFANDBRUSH

..... YOUR ..... TRASH DAY	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
MONDAY	APRIL 11	MARCH 28	APRIL 25
TUESDAY	APRIL 12	MARCH 29	APRIL 26
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 13	MARCH 30	APRIL 27
THURSDAY	APRIL 14	MARCH 31	APRIL 28
FRIDAY	APRIL 15	APRIL 1	APRIL 29



I was recently named as the Tourism Director's designee on the Missouri Route 66 Centennial Commission. The Commission is responsible for organizing events in our state for the 100th Anniversary Celebration commemorating this iconic highway in 2026. Springfield, MO is the birthplace of Route 66.





When I leave the Capitol parking garage at the end of the day,  
I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

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**The Pandemic aint over...  
but we're getting there!**

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# Wash Your Hands



Tobias

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The reward has been raised to  
**\$30,000** for Dominic

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**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS  
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator**

**SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide**

**KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.**

**Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother**

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were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at [www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com), or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



**Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards**

**Tips Hotline**

**816-474-8477**

**Web Tips**

**[www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**

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\* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

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My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentzsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.



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## Rep. Richard Brown

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

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573-751-7639

Email:

[richard.brown@house.mo.gov](mailto:richard.brown@house.mo.gov)

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