



Capitol Report

December 25 , 2021

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G O  C H I E F S



Dear Neighbor,

I am grateful to see another Christmas. It has been a grim year due to the virus but we have endured and persevered as we always do. I want to encourage you to remain steadfast as all of us try to figure out what is the best course to bring an end to the madness.

In this season of peace and goodwill, it is my wish for the New Year to bring an end to all the divisiveness in our nation amid political views, vaccines, education and everyday liberties that we all enjoy as citizens in the world's freest nation. It is my wish that we will return to common courtesy and common sense with an improved civility to each other. The reality is that we won't reach a consensus on all or any of these issues,

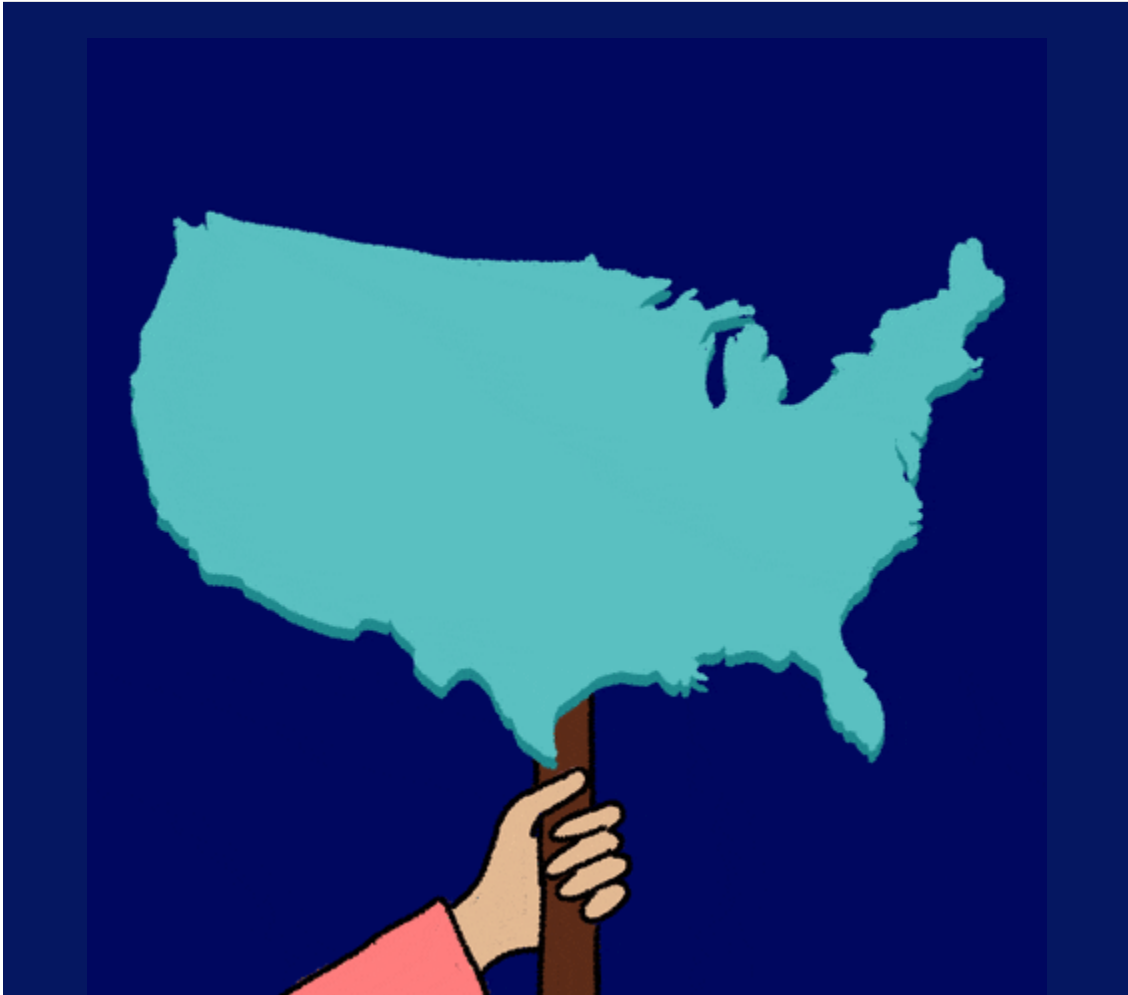
We can all remember what it felt like when we were kids on Christmas morning. There was a great sense of hope and anticipation for the joy the day would bring. Let us hope that the same type of joy returns to us as Missourians and as Americans in the coming New Year. Merry Christmas!

Yours in Service,

Rich



Donna and I wish you a Merry Christmas!



DEADLINE LOOMS FOR STATEHOUSE REDISTRICTING PANELS

The separate commissions charged with drawing new state House of Representatives and Senate districts face a Dec. 23 constitutional deadline for agreeing to tentative proposals. While

the House commission has met in recent weeks in an effort to reach an agreement by the deadline, the Senate commission has not.

Both commissions consists of 20 members evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, with 14 votes required for a commission to approve a redistricting plan. The commissions are each scheduled to meet on the day of the deadline.

If a commission agrees to a tentative proposal for its chamber by the deadline, then it would have until Jan. 23 to finalize it. If a commission doesn't agree on tentative plan, then its work is effectively over, and a commission of six appellate judges appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court will take over the job of drawing new boundaries for that chamber.

Under the state constitution, however, the judicial commission wouldn't get jurisdiction until Jan. 23, essentially putting the process in limbo for a month. With candidate filing for the August party primaries scheduled to begin Feb. 22, the judges would face an extremely tight timetable for finalizing new districts.



After-School Programs

I am pleased to share with you that our State House District

will receive federal funding for comprehensive afterschool programs from the recently announced cohort of 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Recipients in our district include The Greater Kansas City LINC for programs at Millennium at Santa Fe and Smith Hale Middle School.

Comprehensive After-School programs:

- Provide fun, hands-on learning that aligns with school day programming to benefit non-traditional learners.
 - Engage families to foster parent involvement and give parents piece of mind knowing their child is in a safe place while they're at work.
- Develop Missouri's 21st century workforce by imbuing youth with STEM skills, creative problem solving, communication and teamwork skills

Youth who regularly attend comprehensive afterschool programs:

- Improve grades in math, science and reading;
 - Increase MAP scores;
 - Increase school day attendance; and
- Are less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drug use or vaping.

I am encouraged by the allocation of funds to help our youth.



Prefiling of bills has begun

For the upcoming 2022 Regular Legislative Session, I prefiled House Bill 1458, House Bill 1459, and House Bill 1460. House Bill 1458 will prohibit persons convicted of domestic abuse from owning firearms in the state of Missouri. House Bill 1459 repeals current legislation prohibiting local municipalities the authority to enact their own gun legislation. These two pieces of legislation are much needed in Missouri. Only wife beaters and child abusers should be fighting me on House Bill 1458. In the year where Kansas City has seen a record number of homicides something responsible needs to be done to help stop the killing.

House Bill 1460 designates the "Police Office Richard C Fleming

Memorial Highway" on a portion of I-435 in South Kansas City.

I am in the process of drafting a bill that expands the current wrongful compensation system by allowing anyone who can establish by a preponderance of evidence his or her innocence would be entitled to monetary compensation and tuition assistance.

Pre-filing of House bills began December 1. You can view a list of bills [here](#); it will be updated as more bills are filed.

LEGALIZING
MAKES CENTS



Medical marijuana sales reach \$200 million in Missouri

BY PRESS RELEASE ON DECEMBER 20, 2021

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Fourteen months after the first sale to a qualified patient occurred in a Missouri medical marijuana dispensary, the total sales as part of the state-regulated medical marijuana program reached the \$200 million mark.

Facilities began receiving licensing and certification from the Section for Medical Marijuana Regulation within the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) two years ago this week, and they began receiving their approval to operate following the commencement inspection process in June 2020. More than 300 facilities are now operating in Missouri as cultivators, manufacturers, dispensaries, testing laboratories, transporters and seed to sale providers.

“Nearly every facility who was part of the initial round of licensing is now up and running and providing beneficial products and service to the patients of Missouri,” said Lyndall Fraker, Director of the Section for Medical Marijuana Regulation. “We are proud of the tenacity shown by both our regulatory team and all of the facility operators who were able to clear so many hurdles that COVID-19 presented during a critical time.”

DHSS is charged with providing safe and secure access to medical marijuana for qualifying Missouri patients. 158,169 qualified patients and 3,283 caregivers are currently active in Missouri’s program.

Including Missouri, 21 states have implemented medical marijuana laws since 2005. The national average for implementation is 29 months, and Missouri was able to implement its medical program in just over 23 months. Only five states implemented medical programs faster than Missouri (Pennsylvania, New York, Utah, Minnesota and Oklahoma). More information about Missouri’s medical marijuana regulatory program can be found at medicalmarijuana.mo.gov.



LOCALS PUSH BACK AGAINST SCHMITT'S LEGAL THREATS

Pushing back against what they call Attorney General Eric Schmitt's "campaign of litigation terror against local governments and schools," Jackson and St. Louis counties on Dec. 13 filed a joint motion to intervene in a recent case they say resulted in "chaos" after a Cole County judge struck down several state regulations on infectious disease mitigation. Intervention, if granted, would allow the counties to appeal the decision after

Schmitt refused to do so.

On Nov. 22, Judge Dan Green, a Republican, invalidated several Missouri Department of Health of Senior Services regulations and any local health restrictions based on them. The department asked Schmitt, whose office represents the agency, to appeal, but he refused. Instead Schmitt began issuing letters to local officials threatening them with legal action unless they immediately cease any and all COVID-19 mitigation efforts – even those not based on the disputed regulations and despite the fact that Green’s order doesn’t take effect until Dec. 22.

In their motion, the two counties said Green’s ruling was legally erroneous and must be appealed to uphold the longstanding authority of state and local officials to respond to public health emergencies. The counties note court precedent allows outside parties with legal interests at stake in a case to intervene on appeal if none of the original parties plan to appeal.

“In short, if the court’s judgment is not set aside, community spread of *all* communicable diseases will no doubt skyrocket in this state, while the mechanisms for combatting any such spread will have been dismantled,” the counties said in their motion.

On a separate front in Schmitt’s legal attacks on local officials, an attorney for the Lee’s Summit School District hit back hard against the “cease and desist” orders Schmitt recently sent to dozens of Missouri school districts demanding they immediately end mask mandates and other disease mitigation efforts. In his campaign for the U.S. Senate, Schmitt portrays himself as a defender of the “rights” of those who oppose COVID-19 restrictions.

“Your invocation of ‘rights’ untethered to an obligation to exercise them responsibly invites lawlessness,” W. Joseph Hatley wrote in a Dec. 10 letter to Schmitt. “This is especially pernicious coming from your office, because of the outsized weight some may attach to your opinions. But as Missouri’s courts have repeatedly said, the opinions of the Attorney General have no binding authority.”

For the reasons I will now explain, your recent letters not only lack legal effect—they are simply wrong.”

Hatley noted state law grants school districts broad authority to mitigate the spread of disease. One law specifically prohibits students from attending school if they have a contagious disease or have been exposed to one. Hartley said since Green’s ruling in no way addressed the legal powers granted local schools, those laws remain in full force, and Schmitt has no legal authority interfere with COVID-19 mitigation efforts taken in accordance with them.



GOVERNOR PROPOSES BIG RAISES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

Reversing course on years of small or nonexistent cost of living adjustments for Missouri government employees, Gov. Mike Parson on Dec. 6 announced he will ask the legislature to enact a 5.5 percent raise for all state workers and establish a \$15 an hour minimum wage for state jobs. And in an equally unexpected move, he wants lawmakers to do so in the first month of the 2022 legislative session so the raises can take effect Feb. 1.

For many years, Missouri has consistently ranked dead last in the nation in average state employee pay. While that fact has long been lamented, little has been done to address it. In a news release, Parson said action is necessary now due to excessive employee turnover rates and an inability of some agencies to fill vacancies at existing salaries.

The move marks a sharp turn on the issue for Parson. For the current fiscal year, Parson recommended just a 2 percent pay bump for state employees. To save money, Parson delayed the increase from taking effect until Jan. 1 instead of with the July 1 start of the fiscal year, as is traditional. Parson also used his line-item veto power this year to eliminate several targeted pay raises for certain state agencies from the FY 2022 state operating budget.

Under Parson's latest proposal, the 5.5 percent hike slated for Feb. 1 would be in addition the 2 percent increase already scheduled to kick in Jan. 1. The new pay plan is estimated to cost \$91 million for the remainder of FY 2022, which ends June 30, and then \$218 million for the full 2023 fiscal year that starts July 1.

Statements of support for the plan from the chairmen of both the House Budget Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee are included in the governor's press release. The pay raises are to be part of a supplemental appropriations bill lawmakers are expected to take up shortly after the legislative session begins Jan. 5.



I spoke with President Joe Biden about infrastructure money for vehicle overpasses and pedestrian walkways along 71 Highway between Gregory Blvd and 55th Street. He told me there is money in our allocation of funds for that project.



STL CHALLENGES LAW RESTRICTING INVESTIGATIONS OF POLICE

St. Louis city filed a lawsuit on Dec. 6 challenging the constitutionality of legislation enacted earlier this year creating a so-called “law enforcement officers bill of rights” that places tight restrictions on the length and scope of investigations of police and grants suspected officers special privileges that aren’t afforded to civilians investigated by police.

The lawsuit, filed in Cole County Circuit Court, raises several alleged constitutional problems with the measure, Senate Bill 26. But its central argument is that the legislation violates state constitutional provisions limiting bills to a single subject that is clearly reflected in the bill’s title and that isn’t changed from its original purpose.

SB 26 originally was a 10-page measure containing two

provisions relating to “public safety.” By the time of final passage, SB 26 had grown to 21 provisions spanning 172 pages. Several provisions – such as changing the statutory definition of “excursion gambling boat” and establishing new regulations on electric fences and pesticide usage, among others – have, at best, tenuous connections to public safety.

The lawsuit’s other claims include that SB 26 violates a provision of the state’s Hancock Amendment prohibiting the state from imposing unfunded mandates on local governments. One such alleged mandate requires local governments to indemnify officers against civil claims for misconduct. The case, *City of St. Louis v. State of Missouri*, hasn’t yet been set for a hearing.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

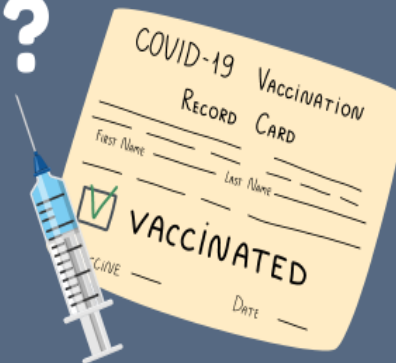






Wishing you the Merriest of Christmas!

LOST YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION RECORD CARD?



Lost your vaccine card? Here's what you can do in Missouri

BY KAITLYN SCHALLHORN ON JUNE 18, 2021

<https://themissouritimes.com/lost-your-vaccine-card-heres-what-you-can-do-in-missouri/>

Those who have received any of the [COVID-19](#) vaccinations were given a small white card that lists the date and vaccine dose. While most places aren't requiring proof of vaccinations, some businesses, [like cruises and venues](#), might require proof of inoculation.

But what happens if you lose your card?

Missouri does not yet have a digital version of the vaccination card, but those who used the state's [Vaccine Navigator website](#) to

schedule their shot would have emails and information on their profiles showing their vaccination information, said Lisa Cox, communications director for the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). However, that's not exactly a digital version of the vaccination record card.

DHSS is not giving out replacement cards, Cox said, but Missourians can request immunization records from DHSS which would include that information.

Missourians can also contact their providers as some pharmacies, [such as CVS](#), can reissue a card if the original has been lost or destroyed.

Some states, such as New York and [California](#), are offering digital vaccination cards. [Walmart](#), too, has a digital record for those who have been vaccinated at its pharmacies can access.

As of Friday, more than 2.3 million Missourians have completed the vaccination process. And 53.8 percent of adult Missourians have initiated the vaccination process. President Joe Biden [had set a goal](#) of 70 percent of adults in the U.S. receiving at least the first dose by July 4.

The Pandemic aint over!



FREE COVID TESTING

DRIVE-THRU COVID TESTING PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF MISSOURI



NEXTGEN
DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

PCR COVID TESTING



PCR TESTING

- Completely FREE
- Drive-thru
- No appointment
- Results within 48 hours, but usually by next day

4 DAYS A WEEK AT 2 KC LOCATIONS

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS

Labor Union Local #663
Parking Lot
7820 Prospect
KCMO 64132
10am - 6pm

SATURDAYS

Teamsters Local #955
Parking Lot
4501 Emanuel Cleaver II
KCMO 64130
10am - 6pm



HOURS: 10A - 6P

MON: 79th & Prospect

TUE: n/a

WED: n/a

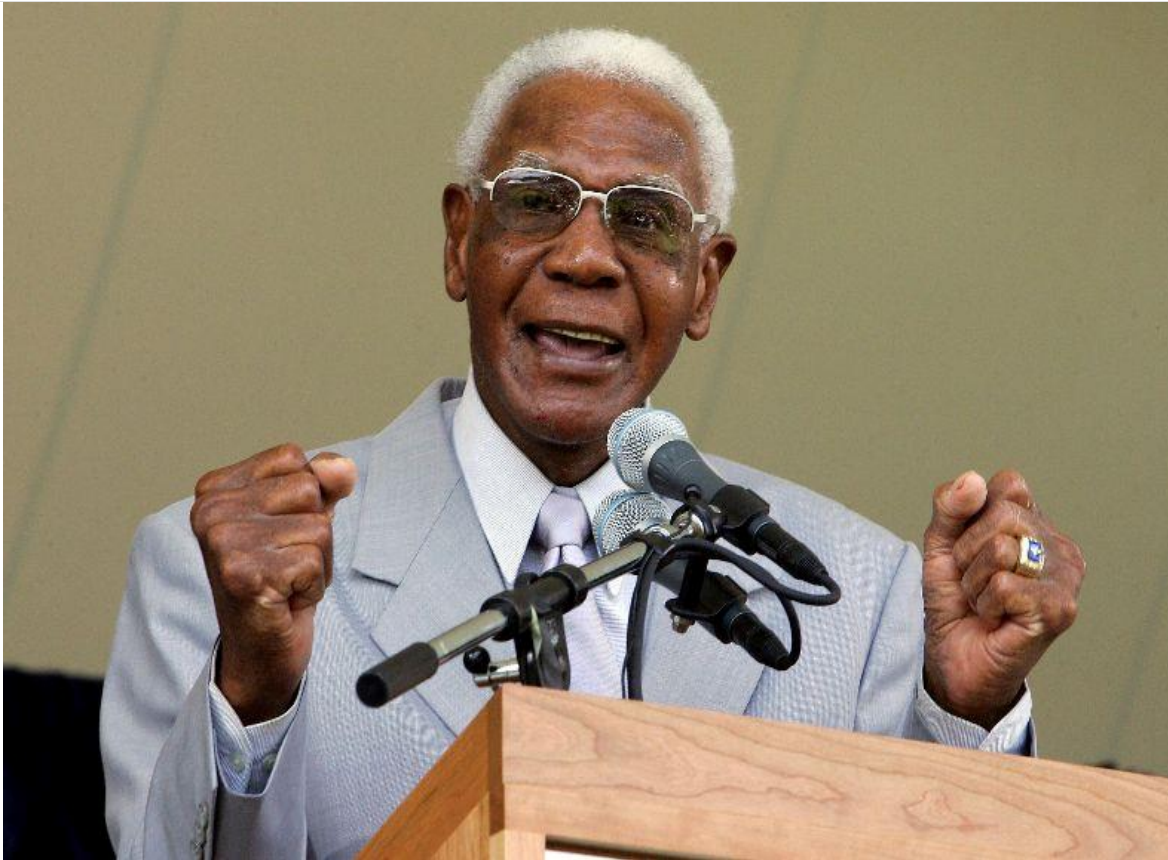
THU: 79th & Prospect

FRI: 79th & Prospect

SAT: 45th & Cleaver Blvd

SUN: n/a


<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/community-test.php>



Congratulations to KC Legend Buck O'Neil for his long deserved selection into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



You can honor Buck O'Neil's memory and selection to the Baseball Hall of Fame by getting a NLBM License Plate. This is Missouri's newest license plate.



NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM

101 Years of Baseball

Apply for a NLBM License Plate Today!

Make a \$10 donation to the museum and complete the form on the back of this flyer to apply. Send applications and required fees to the Museum at 1616 E 18th St., KCMO, 64108.
Call 816-221-1920 for more information.

**'It's the calm
before
the storm'**



See You on Sunday

By MIKE HOPKINS

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



**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 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, 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

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com

*** A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission**

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.](#)

Rep. Richard Brown

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

201 West Capitol Avenue

Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

richard.brown@house.mo.gov

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback,

questions or ideas!



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