



Capitol Report

July 23, 2020

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. The pandemic has certainly made a difference in our everyday lives.

One decision that has to be made soon surrounds the issue of sending our children back to school. We would all like our children to be back in school. We all want life to go back to "normal", but is it safe?

These are not normal times. Facts and science are essential to defeat this invisible foe as the number of infections continue to rise in our state and in our nation.

For the policy makers at our colleges, universities and school districts who are developing plans and contingency plans to determine safe re-openings without jeopardizing health and safety, I pray for them to have courage and wisdom in making those decisions. We want our young people to have opportunities to learn and prepare for a fulfilling future but

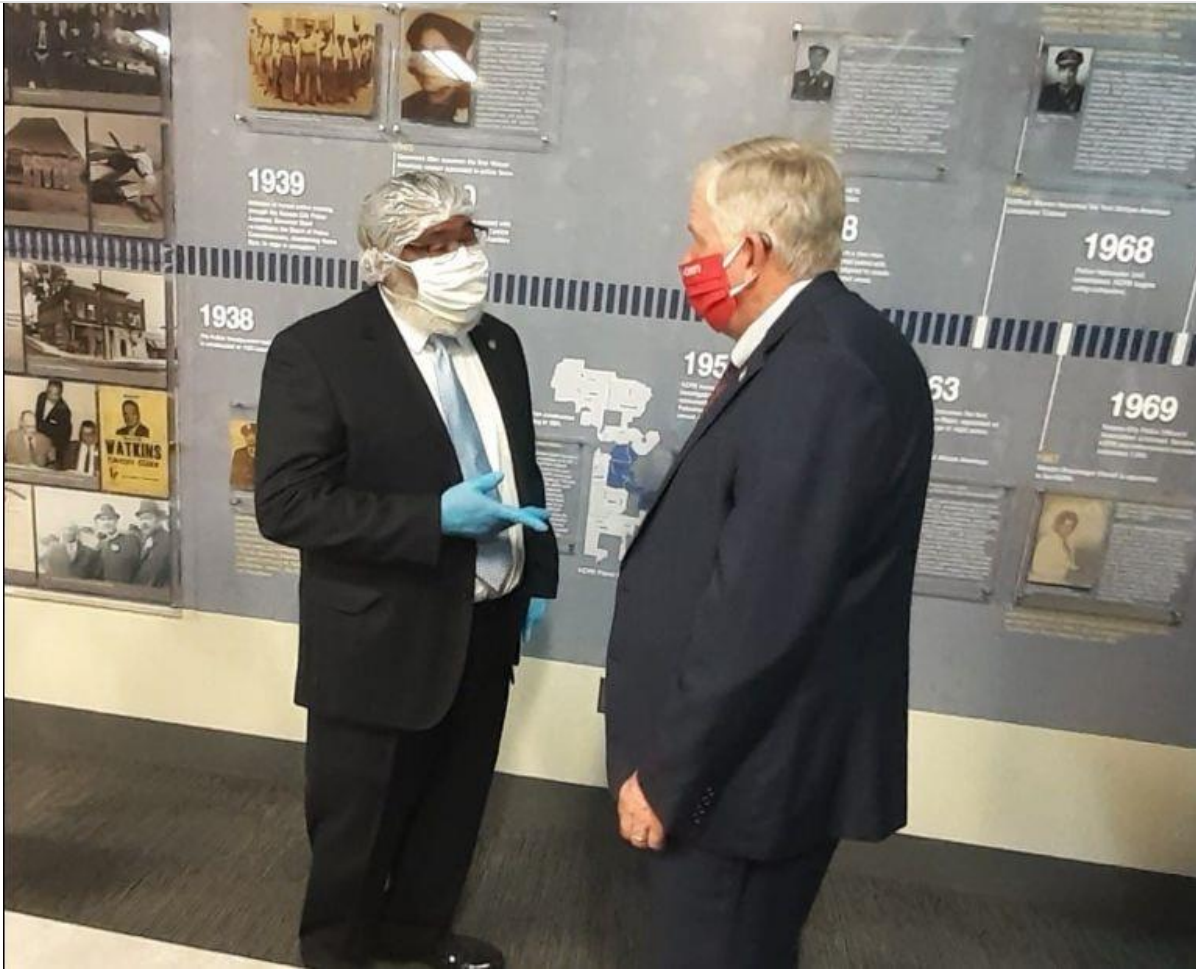
not at the expense of health and life.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your family. I encourage you to follow the recommendations of wearing masks, practice social distancing and use good hygiene; especially hand washing.

As the saying goes, "*Trouble don't last always.*"

Yours in Service,

Rich



I recently spoke with Governor Parson about the increased violence in Kansas City and the need to do more to curb this trend. The proposed legislation for the special session is a start, however, much more needs to be done as preventative measures to crime rather than focusing on increasing criminal penalties.

SPECIAL SESSION CALLED

The Governor has called a Special Session to address violent crime in Missouri starting next Monday, July 27. The special session is narrowly tailored to specific subjects set forth by the Governor. You can read his proclamation [here](#).

I plan on filing the same two bills that I filed during this past regular session of the Missouri House of Representatives.

[HB 1260](#) - This bill modifies the categories of persons who cannot possess firearms so that Missouri law conforms with federal law. The bill specifies that any person who has been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic assault, any person who is illegally or unlawfully in the United States, any person who was once a United States citizen but has renounced that citizenship, or any person subject to certain court orders relating to domestic violence cannot possess a firearm.

[HB 1261](#) - Repeals provisions that prohibit political subdivisions from adopting orders, ordinances, or regulations relating to firearms.

****Note: These bills will have new numbers for the special session***

Kansas City has had 106 homicides in 2020, which is about a 35 percent increase from last year..

Bills Signed/Vetoed:

Last week was the deadline for the Governor to sign bills, and he signed most of them. I am very happy he signed child protection bills and sexual assault survivor bills that will improve things for foster children and for sexual assault victims.

Governor Parson vetoed two bills: [HB 1854](#), an omnibus bill relating to political subdivisions; and [SB 718](#), which related to military affairs and established a Department of Military Forces in Missouri.

To see the Governor's veto letter on HB 1854 [click here](#)

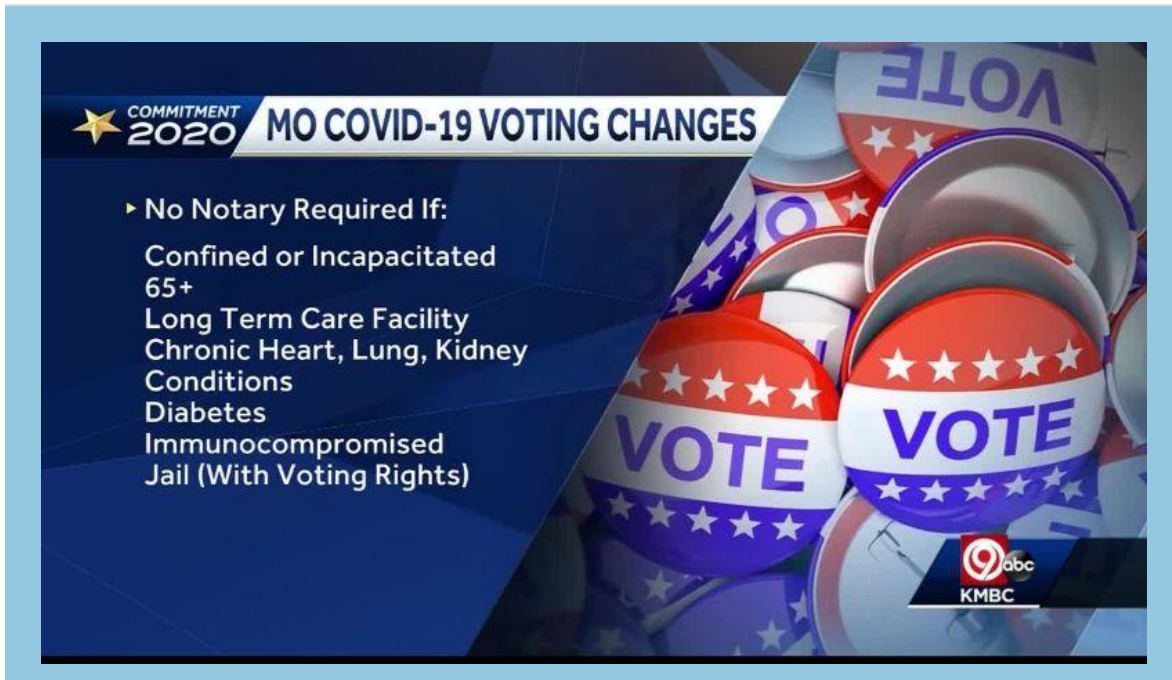
To see the Governor's veto letter on SB 718 [click here](#)

To see all actions by the Governor for the 2020 Session [click here](#)



Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove and I participated in a roundtable discussion with Missouri Governor Mike Parson and law

enforcement officials at the Kansas City Police Department on July 20th (photo courtesy of the governor's Flickr page).



The Primary election is just around the corner. I hope everyone will vote. Democracy is not something we should stand by and watch. If we do not participate in the democratic process, then democracy is not going to prosper.

Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners: (816) 842-4820
Residents of Kansas City information and voting location: <https://www.kceb.org/>

Jackson County Election Board: (816) 325-4600

Information and voting location: <https://www.jcebmo.org/election-information/voting-locations/>

Missouri State Primary Election - August 4, 2020

In-Person Absentee Voting: June 23 - Aug 3, 2020

Last Day to Register to Vote in the primary was July 8

Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot was Wed Jul 22, 2020

5:00PM

Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot: Tue Aug 4, 2020

7:00PM



COURTS CLEAR MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR AUG. 3 BALLOT

A Missouri court on June 8 ruled against two conservative groups' attempts to block voters from considering a proposed constitutional amendment on Medicaid expansion that will appear on the Aug. 4

statewide ballot. Hours after the second adverse ruling, the Missouri Supreme Court issued an order declining to hear the case on appeal, bringing it a swift and final resolution.

OVERVIEW:

Amendment 2 seeks to constitutionally establish the state's income eligibility threshold for qualifying for Medicaid, known in Missouri as MO HealthNet, at 138 percent of the federal poverty level in accordance with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It will appear on the Aug. 4 statewide ballot and, if ratified, is expected to extend health care coverage to more than 230,000 Missourians who don't currently have it.

For states that expand eligibility, the federal government pays for 90 percent of the cost, with the state picking up the remaining 10 percent. Currently, the federal government pays about 65 percent of cost of Medicaid in Missouri while the state pays about 35 percent. So, the financial terms of expansion are much more favorable to the state.

While MO HealthNet provides free coverage to children in families whose household income is as much as 150 percent of the federal poverty level, their parents only get coverage if the family's income is at or below 19 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$4,052 a year for a family of three. Able-bodied adults with no children are ineligible for MO HealthNet, regardless of their income.

Expanding Medicaid eligibility to 138 percent of the federal poverty level would extend coverage to those who earn up to \$17,236 a year as a single person or \$28,676 annually for a family of three.

Missouri is one of only 14 states that hasn't implemented Medicaid expansion.

The ballot language prepared for Amendment 2 by the Secretary of State's Office, followed by the official fiscal estimate prepared by the State Auditor's Office, says:

Amendment 2 – Medicaid Expansion

Official Ballot Title:

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

1. adopt Medicaid Expansion for persons 19 to 64 years old with an income level at or below 133% of the federal poverty level, as set forth in the Affordable Care Act;
2. prohibit placing greater or additional burdens on eligibility or enrollment standards, methodologies or practices on persons covered under Medicaid Expansion than on any other population eligible for Medicaid; and
3. require state agencies to take all actions necessary to maximize federal financial participation in funding medical assistance under Medicaid Expansion?

State government entities are estimated to have one-time costs of approximately \$6.4 million and an unknown annual net fiscal impact by 2026 ranging from increased costs of at least \$200 million to savings of \$1 billion. Local governments expect costs to decrease by an unknown amount.

Fair Ballot Language:

A **“yes”** vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to adopt Medicaid Expansion for persons 19 to 64 years old with an income level at or

below 133% of the federal poverty level, as set forth in the Affordable Care Act. Currently, Medicaid eligibility is set forth in state statute, but this amendment adds Medicaid Expansion to our constitution. This amendment prohibits placing greater or additional burdens on eligibility or enrollment standards, methodologies or practices on persons covered under Medicaid Expansion than on any other population eligible for Medicaid. The amendment requires state agencies to take all actions necessary to maximize federal financial participation in funding medical assistance under Medicaid Expansion. Federal law requires states to fund a portion of the program in order to receive federal funding (state match). This amendment does not provide new state funding or specify existing funding sources for the required state match.


A **“no”** vote will not amend the Missouri Constitution to adopt Medicaid Expansion.

If passed, this measure has no direct impact on taxes.



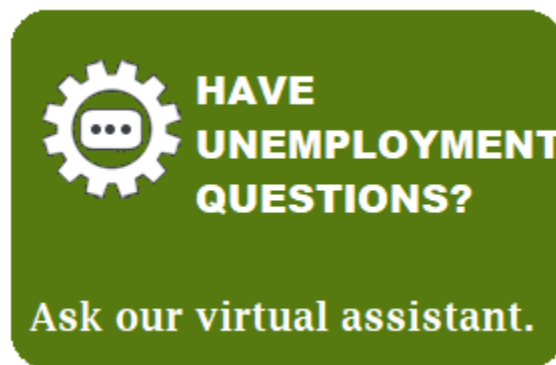
MO Social Services

@DSS_Missouri

 **JUST IN:** Child Support program announces parents may now use Apple Pay, Google Pay, and PayPal to make their monthly child support payment.

Read more  dss.mo.gov/press/07-14-20...

Also, you can read the article by the Missouri Times: <https://themissouritimes.com/missouri-expands-child-support-payment-options/>



Free online classes available to Missourians unemployed by coronavirus outbreak

MISSOURINET / BY [ALISA NELSON](#)

Missouri workers who have lost their jobs during the rash of COVID-19 cases can now enroll in free online classes. The Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development has partnered with Coursera, an online learning platform with 3,800 courses.

To read entire article and get more information, click [here](#)

**STAY COOL. STAY HYDRATED.
STAY INFORMED.**

*Check on at-risk friends,
family and neighbors during
extreme heat.*



Caregiver of the Year



Do you know someone who puts their life on hold to care for an ill family member or friend?

If so, the Department of Health and Senior Services invites you to nominate that person for Caregiver of the Year.

The department will feature a story and photo of an unpaid Missouri caregiver each month on its website. By December, an overall Caregiver of the Year will be selected.

For more information please call (573) 751-2413.

**Nomination forms are available at
<http://health.mo.gov/seniors/caregiver.php>**



Truman Medical Centers has available services for Jackson County residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



Practice Social Distancing





[Click here for the latest COVID-19 statistics for Missouri.](#)

**As of the time I have sent this mailing, there have been
153 homicides in the Kansas City metro area in 2020.**

In Kansas City, Missouri, 105 people have been killed.

[Click here for the Homicide Tracker.](#)



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



In Memoriam.....Never
Forgotten



Tracy Marnez Holland
1965 - 2020

**In memory of my little brother and best friend.
I'll see you again on the other side one day.**



**Rosa James passed away on July 21st.
She was a fierce fighter for Civil Rights in our
community. She will be missed.**

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 Gentsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 109-G, 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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