



Capitol Report

March 11, 2021

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*Dear Neighbor,*

One year ago today, the World Health Organization declared a Global Pandemic as a result of rapidly spreading Coronavirus infections. This past year has been like no other but I believe we are turning the corner and headed in the direction toward a sense of normalcy in our daily living.

As the vaccine roll out continues and testing is still available, I want to encourage you to stay healthy and practice CDC protocols as we continue to protect one another.

This is the halfway point of session. We are hearing more bills now and will soon start to see Senate bills come our way.

The House will recess for Spring Break next week so there will be no newsletter on March 18th.

*Yours in Service,*

*Rich*

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One year ago today, the World Health Organization declared the global COVID - 19 pandemic.

## House Legislative Dashboard



### BILLS THIRD READ IN THE HOUSE THIS WEEK

[HB 52](#) - *Allows concealed carrying of firearms on public transportation systems and transporting nonfunctional or unloaded firearms on public buses.*

The Missouri House on Monday gave final approval to a proposal that would allow Missourians to carry guns on public transit by a vote of 124-32. **|**  
**voted NO**

Currently, it is a crime to board a bus with a dangerous or deadly weapon or carry such a weapon in a terminal. This bill allows a concealed carry permit holder to lawfully carry firearms on public transportation, as defined in the bill. Anyone with a permit may also carry a firearm while traveling by bus. A person with or without a permit may transport a firearm in a non-functioning

state by bus if ammunition is not available. This bill does not apply to property of Amtrak or any partnership in which Amtrak engages.

There is concern that riders on public transit may not feel safe being surrounded by firearms carriers, so there may be a decline in use.

Kansas City Area Transportation Authority; City of Kansas City, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; and Missouri Public Transit Association testified against the bill.

[HB 75](#) - Modifies provisions relating to public health

[HB 138](#) - Requires the department of natural resources to assist permit applicants throughout the permitting process

[HB 151](#) - Allows school districts that share superintendents to receive additional state aid

[HB 201](#) - Adds corrections officers to the list of persons whose motor vehicle and driver's license records are to be kept confidential

[HB 249](#) - Extends the authorization of AIM Zones until 2031

[HB 257](#) - Requires drivers on a public highway to stop for certified Head Start buses

[HB 292](#) - Modifies the definition of "stalking" as it relates to adult abuse

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[HB 333](#) - Modifies provisions for initiative petitions and referendums

[HB 495](#) - Modifies provisions relating to telemedicine

[HB 529](#) - Establishes a minimum biodiesel fuel content mandate for diesel fuel sold or offered for sale in Missouri

[HB 554](#) - Modifies provisions relating to taxation

[HB 583](#) - Requires an audit of all state departments every four years

[HB 624](#) - Establishes the Show Me Success Diploma Program as an alternative graduation pathway for high school students

[HB 660](#) - Modifies provisions relating to special license plates for Boy Scouts of America

[HB 685](#) - Changes the requirements to run for certain public office

[HB 701](#) - Modifies provisions relating to retirement systems

[HB 767](#) - Prohibits certain charges to customers by public water supply districts and metropolitan water supply districts

[HB 811](#) - Modifies provisions relating to teacher and school employee retirement systems

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[HB 948](#) - Extends the sunsets on certain tax credits related to agricultural purposes

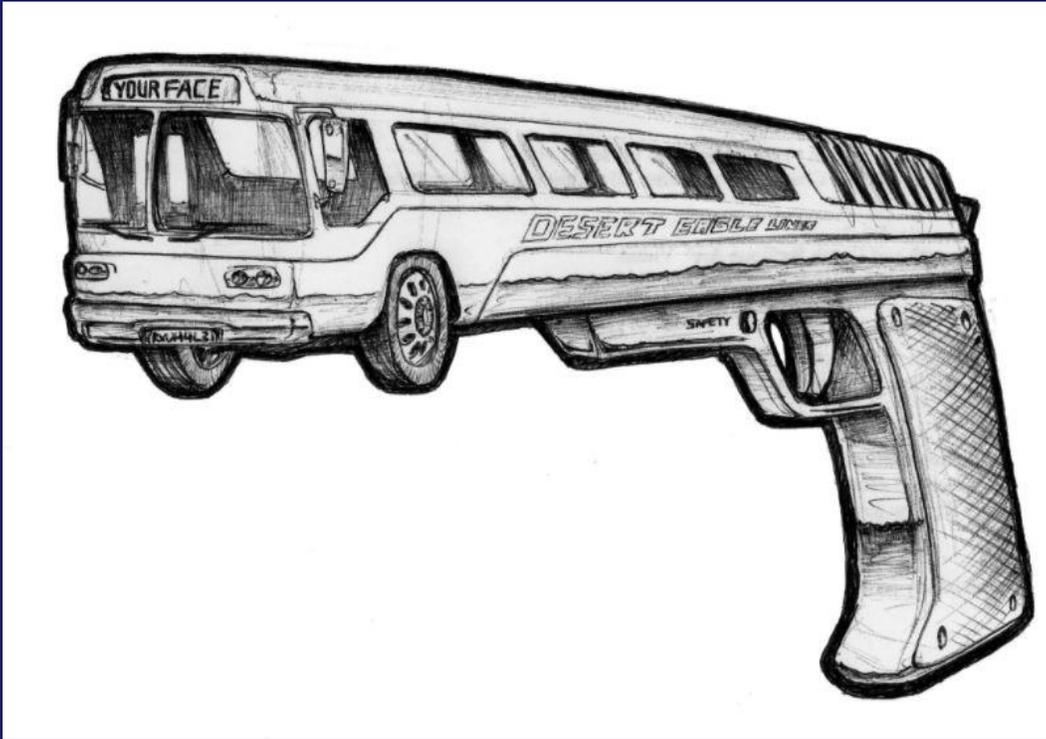
[HJR 20](#) - Modifies provisions for initiative petitions and referendums

[HJR 5](#) - Modifies provisions for the State Treasurer's ability to invest

***These bills now head to the Senate***



I met with Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America recently to discuss pending gun legislation in Missouri.



## Missouri House passes bill to allow guns on public transit

- Maria Benevento [STLToday.com](http://STLToday.com)

JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri House on Monday gave final approval to a proposal that would allow Missourians to carry guns on public transit.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Adam Schnelting, R-St. Charles, allows concealed carry permit holders to bring firearms on publicly funded transportation systems. The proposal would not apply to Amtrak trains.

The legislation passed with a vote of 124-32.

Schnelting said the legislation helps protect Second Amendment rights and allows for self-defense.

Rep. Wiley Price, D-St. Louis, told Schnelting that people suffering from mental illness often take public transit, and he asked what would happen if a legal gun carrier, unprepared for that situation, felt threatened and pulled a gun on a crowded and bumpy bus.

“What do you think the chances are somebody else in the general public gets hurt if we pass a law like this?” Price asked.

“I know that the temperament on the bus in the summer in St. Louis can be kind of hostile,” even without adding firearms to the mix, Price added later. Even professionals with much more training don’t always make the right call in high-pressure situations, he said.

Schnelting asked if Price could name any examples of a concealed carry permit holder firing on someone with a mental illness or disability.

Instead, Schnelting said, there are records of weapons being seized from public transit in Missouri.

“People on the bus already have weapons,” he said. “And it’s the criminals.”

The House voted to cut debate short immediately after Price and Schnelting’s exchange.

*The proposal is [House Bill 52](#).*

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A group of Lincoln University students spent a day this week shadowing members of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus.



# Tax cut push in Missouri could jeopardize federal relief funds

Kirk Erickson

[STLtoday.com](http://STLtoday.com)

JEFFERSON CITY — If Missouri wants a share of the new federal pandemic relief aid package, Republicans may have to give up their push to cut state taxes.

The \$1.9 trillion stimulus package heading to President Joseph Biden's desk contains language saying states cannot "directly or indirectly" reduce tax rates if they want the money.

The aim of the provision is to bar states from cutting taxes and then back-filling the revenue hole with federal dollars meant for relief.

At stake for Missouri is an estimated \$5 billion in relief that is designed to help pay for government services and help businesses, families and schools weather the ongoing pandemic.

"We are aware of it and analyzing it," said Sen. Dan Hegeman, a Republican from Cosby who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is working on the state's next budget blueprint.

The prohibition has not yet derailed conservative Republican lawmakers from continuing their annual push to reduce state taxes.

On Wednesday, the Senate was poised to debate legislation that would launch the collection of online sales taxes. The proposal

contains a reduction in state income tax rates to offset the increase in sales tax revenue, a move that would presumably trigger a stop to any federal money

But the sponsor, Sen. Andrew Koenig, R-Manchester, said he's not concerned about jeopardizing the state's share of pandemic aid. He said his legislation is structured so that the tax cut portion of his legislation doesn't kick in until after the federal aid runs out.

"It shouldn't be an issue at all," Koenig told the Post-Dispatch.

A similar bill, sponsored by Rep. J. Eggleston, R-Maysville, was given preliminary approval in the House earlier this week and could receive a final vote Thursday.

Sen. Bill Eigel, R-Weldon Spring, [also wants to cut taxes](#). He is sponsoring legislation that would phase out the personal property tax, which is levied on cars, trucks, trailers and other tangible items.

Koenig said that proposal may not be barred by the federal provision because it primarily would affect money going to local government.

A [fiscal analysis](#) of Eigel's legislation says the change could reduce local government revenue statewide by up to \$1.45 billion in 2027 and take more than \$6.4 million away from the state's [Blind Pension](#) program.

Missouri is in better financial shape than some states due to an influx of billions of dollars in relief aid that has been used to offset state worker salaries, freeing up general state revenue for other purposes.

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Gov. Mike Parson said he wants to spend some of the latest federal money on one-time, long-term investments like road and bridge projects.

Democrats say additional money should be steered toward improved testing for COVID-19, more vaccination events and other programs that will help Missourians during the pandemic.

## **HOUSE VOTES TO MAKE IT HARDER TO AMEND MISSOURI CONSTITUTION**

The House of Representatives on March 11 voted 111-46 to advance a proposed constitutional amendment that would require support from at least two-thirds of voters to ratify future amendments to the Missouri Constitution. In addition, the measure, would significantly increase the number of signatures required to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the statewide ballot using the initiative petition process.

Throughout Missouri history, only a simple majority has been required to amend the state constitution. Of the 133 constitutional amendments Missouri voters have ratified since the current state constitution was adopted in 1945, only 45 – 33.8 percent – hit the two-thirds majority threshold that would be required under House Joint Resolution 20.

In a move designed to deceive voters, HJR 20 also includes a provision that already exists elsewhere in the state constitution stating that only U.S.

citizens who are Missouri residents and registered voters can vote in Missouri elections. The majority party added that provision to HJR 20 to justify loaded ballot language included in the measure telling voters it would “allow only citizens of the United States to qualify as legal voters” before mentioning its other provisions, which they might find less palatable.

If the Senate also approves HJR 20, it automatically would go on the November 2022 ballot. Following current constitutional requirements, only a simple majority of voters would be needed for ratification.

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**UP NEXT: Critical Infrastructure**

**Phase 1B – Tier 3, starting March 15**

Protecting those who keep the essential functions of society running.

- Education (K-12)
- Childcare
- Communications Infrastructure
- Dams Sector
- Energy Sector
- Food & Agriculture Sector 1
- Government
- Information Technology
- and more

**MOStopsCOVID.com**

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## **COVID-19 vaccine website**

Missouri has launched a new vaccine website, which answers common questions and clarifies what it calls misinformation.

The new website is [mostopscovid.com](https://mostopscovid.com), and provides Missourians with information about the safety of the vaccines, research and production processes and when they could be eligible for vaccination.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Navigator](https://mostopscovid.com)

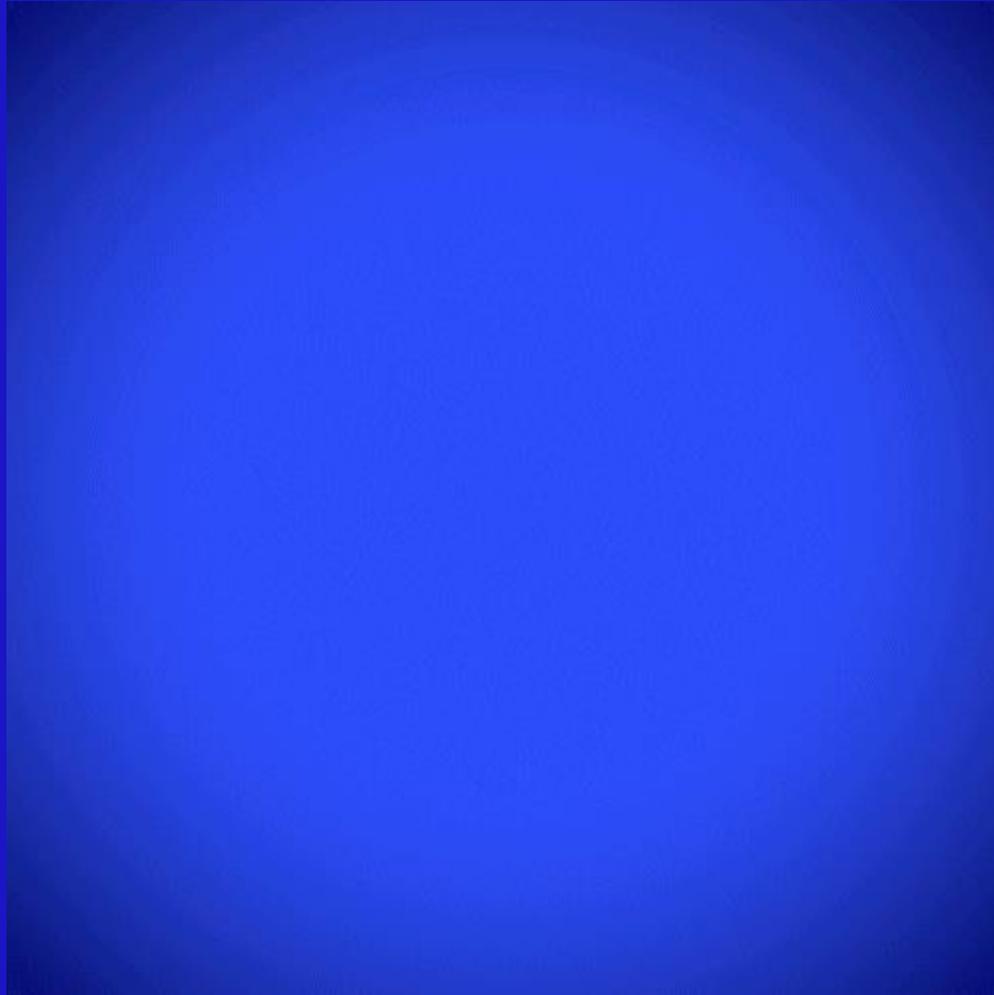
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I discussed planned legislation that was scheduled to be heard on the House Floor with Majority Floor Leader Rep. Dean Plocher and Rep. Jerome Barnes.

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Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is hosting several testing events in the Kansas City area. These testing events are separate from the KCMO Health Department. [You must register online.](#)

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DO NOT call 311 to register for the following events.

**Friday, March 12**

**Kansas City Zoo (Cheetah Parking Lot) 10 a.m. - 4p.m.**

6800 Zoo Dr., KCMO 64132

**Monday, March 15**

**Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center 9 a.m. - 3p.m.**

3700 Blue Parkway, KCMO 64130

**Monday, March 15**

**Bartle Hall (front entrance on 13th Street) 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.**

301 W. 13th Street, KCMO 64105

**Wednesday, March 17**

**Worlds of Fun Main Entrance 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

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4545 Worlds of Fun Ave., KCMO 64161

**Friday, March 19**

**Kansas City Zoo (Cheetah Parking Lot) 10 a.m. -  
4p.m.**

6800 Zoo Dr., KCMO 64132

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**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.



[Click Here to get on the Wait List  
for COVID 19 Vaccine at Truman Medical Center.](#)

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This week we began having two sessions per day and we are now working into the night. We are halfway through the 2021 Legislative Session.

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**The Pandemic aint over!**

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

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### RAYTOWN NIGHT AT THE MAVERICKS

INDY FUEL VS. KC MAVERICKS

Safety Protocols are in place

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

GAME TIME 7:05 P.M.

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS\*\*](#)

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## SIXTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

Please join Sixth District Councilmembers [Kevin McManus](#) & [Andrea Bough](#) for a Virtual Community Meeting.

**Topics: E-Tax, Public Works, & Council Update**

**Date: Friday, March 12, 2021**

**Time: 8:30am - 9:30am**

**Location: Virtual Webinar**

**Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:**

Please click this URL to

join. <https://zoom.us/j/94230905940?pwd=SThFM0ZKRUIJDb1R1cXNlMjRlUUFNYQT09>

Passcode: 0508

**Or iPhone one-tap:**

+16465588656,,94230905940# US (New York)

+13017158592,,94230905940# US (Washington DC)

**Or join by phone:**

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 253

215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128  
Webinar ID: 942 3090 5940

## **Special Guests...**

- **Maurice A. Watson - E-Tax**
  - **Public Works Representative (TBA)**
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Invitation to

## **Hickman Mills School Board**

**Zoom Candidate Forum**

**March 11, 2021 6:30 pm**

Go to the League of Women Voters website [lwvkc.org](http://lwvkc.org)

For the **Zoom** Link

This will also be live streamed on

[www.facebook.com/LWVKC/](https://www.facebook.com/LWVKC/)

3-year term –2 positions open—Candidates are Carol Graves, Ann E Coleman  
Clifford O. Ragan III, John Carmichael, Ron Pearson, Ebony Osby



This candidate forum is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of KC and South KC Alliance

please visit

[lwvkc.org](http://lwvkc.org)

[southkcalliance.org](http://southkcalliance.org)

online nonpartisan voter guide at [www.Vote411.org/ballot](http://www.Vote411.org/ballot)

# KCMO EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Tenants can apply for emergency rental relief through a new **\$14.8 million assistance fund**.

The City of Kansas City is working with community agencies to distribute rent and utility assistance in a fair, fast and equitable way across our community.

If you need help now, contact one of these agencies for IMMEDIATE assistance:

■ **Metro Lutheran Ministry**

Call 816-514-2683 or  
Fill out the online application:  
[www.mlmc.org/rent---utility.html](http://www.mlmc.org/rent---utility.html)

*Paper applications available at  
3031 Holmes, KCMO 64109 &  
1100 NE Vivion, KCMO 64118*

■ **Journey to New Life**

Call 816-960-4808 or email [agrove@jtnl.org](mailto:agrove@jtnl.org)

■ **reStart**

Call 816-886-9153 or  
email [rentalassistance@restartinc.org](mailto:rentalassistance@restartinc.org)

■ **Community Assistance Council (CAC)**

816-763-3277 x-108

The full list of agencies and eligibility requirements is posted at [kcmo.gov/renthelp](http://kcmo.gov/renthelp)

*Funding is provided by the second Congressional COVID-19 relief package.*

**Apply for assistance:**

**[communitycarelink.com/cares-act-assistance-sign-up](http://communitycarelink.com/cares-act-assistance-sign-up)**

For more info and other neighborhood services visit:

**[KCMO.GOV/RentHelp](http://KCMO.GOV/RentHelp)**



CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

**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**

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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](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 Gentsch 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.

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

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