



Capitol Report

March 4, 2021

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Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased that Johnson & Johnson has gained FDA approval for the single injection COVID-19 vaccine. This week, I spent time working with the governor and members of the legislature from the Kansas City area to determine sites and procedures for distributing the vaccine in our city.

I shared with the governor my concern for homeless people that may not return for the second vaccination and suggested that a supply of the single dose shot be distributed to shelters and agencies that work with the homeless so they can be adequately immunized and we eliminate the worry of trying to locate these individuals to receive a second shot. I am working very hard to find common sense and most practical means in distributing the vaccine as everyone needs protection. We are working to set up locations and partnerships with transportation companies to help those persons needing to get to the mass vaccination locations will be able to get a ride to the site.

All great ideas do not necessarily come out of Jefferson City. If you have a suggestion on how to best distribute the vaccines, I would like to hear from you. Please email me at: Richard.Brown@house.mo.gov

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard





I had a meeting with Governor Parson about the mass vaccine roll out for Kansas City.



Sen. Barbara Ann Washington and I met to discuss improving the state rollout for the mass Covid-19 vaccine injections in Kansas City.

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[PERFECTED]
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
**HOUSE BILL NOS. 1083, 1085, 1050,
1035, 1036, 873 & 1097**
101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2313H04P

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 288, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to employment security benefits, with an emergency clause.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

- Section A. Chapter 288, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 288.552, to read as follows:
**288.552. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the department
2 of labor and industrial relations, and any division thereof, shall waive the repayment of**

HOUSE VOTES TO WAIVE UNEMPLOYMENT REPAYMENTS

The House of Representatives voted 157-3 on March 4 to send bipartisan legislation to the Senate that would block Gov. Mike Parson's administration from forcing tens of thousands of Missourians to collectively repay most of the \$150 million in excess unemployment benefits the administration mistakenly paid out last year when the jobless rate spiked due to the pandemic. However, majority Republicans backed off efforts to expedite the bill becoming law.

House Bill 1083 would require the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to forgo the recovery of non-fraudulent overpayments of federal unemployment funds. Excess benefits involving state funds – a

relatively small portion of the total – would still have to be repaid.

According to the department, only 2.3 percent of the overpayments involved fraud, with the remainder to going recipients who acted in good faith but, through no fault of their own, were given more benefits than they should have. The federal Department of Labor has authorized states to waive repayment in non-fraud situations.

For weeks, Parson, who has the authority to remedy the matter on his own, had insisted that the money be repaid, regardless of the financial hardship it would impose on unemployed recipients lack the income to repay. However, Parson, a Republican, has seemed to soften his position in recent days and indicated he would go along if lawmakers send him legislation authorizing the department to waive overpayment.

Because of the urgent need for a resolution, the bill originally contained an emergency clause allowing it to take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor. But in an unexpected move, Republicans voted to defeat the emergency clause after the bill's sponsor said the revenue department had given assurances it is backing off collection efforts. Without an emergency clause, which the Senate could restore, the bill won't take effect until Aug. 28. **I voted YES on both the bill and the emergency clause.**



Smother streets on the way with new strategic plan for pavement and pothole repairs. Comprehensive street maintenance strategy offered to improve performance and resurface 100 lane miles of streets

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 3, 2021

Drivers will notice smoother Kansas City streets thanks to new strategies to prevent and patch potholes and a new policy to make sure pavement repairs last longer. City Manager Brian Platt and Public Works Director Michael Shaw revealed a comprehensive strategy for improving street maintenance this year with three key components:

- 1) A digital analysis of pavement using cameras attached to city vehicles will help uniformly analyze road surface quality and identify cracks, imperfections, and other underlying issues faster and more equitably.

2) A more aggressive street resurfacing plan that more than doubles funding for street resurfacing from \$17M in FY 20-21 to \$39M in the upcoming fiscal year.

3) A stricter excavation policy that requires better coordination between the city and any utility company cutting into the street. It also requires utility companies to fully resurface as much as an entire block when holes are cut in streets that have recently been resurfaced.

“These strategic improvements and significant additional investments will make dramatic positive changes in the quality of our streets across the city,” Platt said. “This new approach will help us begin to catch up with a chronic, years long challenge our city has faced.”

The city will solicit feedback on the most urgent street resurfacing needs through our 3-1-1 app as well as in collaboration with city council representatives.

"Potholes have been a problem in Kansas City for generations," Mayor Quinton Lucas said. "Listening to the public, we are changing that sad fact, relying on data analysis, increased funding, and better collaboration. I am proud of our city workers who continue to make Kansas City a better place to live, work, and drive."

The strategic approach starts by using a combination of in-house maintenance crews and contractor crews. This will allow us to keep up with demand and provide basic street maintenance services.

“A big goal is to improve our overall street rating while providing smoother streets in all Kansas City neighborhoods,” said Shaw. “We will be strategic and intentional about our approach and deploy our resources wisely to achieve this goal.”

The Pothole Plan

Public Works has 16 in-house crews (over 60 employees) dedicated to pothole patching. They are equipped with 10 asphalt trucks, 3 asphalt trailers and 3 dump trucks. We will add contractor crews to help patch potholes on major roads, while KCMO

crews focus efforts on neighborhood streets. Roughly \$1.3 million is available for pothole patching efforts this season.

Street Preservation Strategy

The 2021-2022 Street Preservation plan has an initial goal to resurface 100 lane miles of streets. And for the first time, funding will be set aside for each Council District to determine community priorities for street resurfacing.

The City is also working on strategies to prevent potholes in the first place. We know that when utilities cut into roads to make underground repairs, the resulting patch creates a weak spot that leads to potholes. Our new street excavation policy aims to improve coordination with utility companies, update permit fees for digging in our streets and require more extensive repair after underground utility work is complete.

Residents and visitors will see many benefits: reduced potholes and maintenance needs in the long run, less utility conflicts and cutting into newly repaved roads, and pavement will last longer.

Stay up to date and track our progress:

Potholes: www.kcmo.gov/potholes

Street resurfacing info and map
access: www.kcmo.gov/streetpreservation

Utility Coordination: Visit KCMO.GOV and
search UTILITY COORDINATION EFFORTS

Media questions can be directed to [Maggie Green](#), Public Works,
Public Information Officer at 816-379-6562.



It's not just Missouri: GOP state lawmakers in at least a dozen states are seeking to nullify federal gun limit

By Lindsay Whitehurst Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — With Democrats controlling the presidency and Congress, Republican state lawmakers concerned about the possibility of new federal gun control laws aren't waiting to react.

Legislation in at least a dozen states seeks to nullify any new restrictions, such as ammunition limits or a ban on certain types of weapons. Some bills would make it a crime for local police officers to enforce federal gun laws.

That can create confusion for officers who often work with federal law enforcement, said Daniel Isom, a former chief of the St. Louis Police

Department who is now a senior adviser for Everytown for Gun Safety. Federal law plays a big role in some areas, such as keeping guns away from domestic violence offenders.

Putting local officers in a position to decide which laws to enforce is the last thing police need at a time when cities such as St. Louis are experiencing a rise in violent crime, Isom said.

"This has been an extremely challenging year for both communities and law enforcement, and to ask any more mental strain on officers at this point in time seems to be quite displaced," he said. Gun sales also have set monthly records nationwide since the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

Isom is concerned about a Missouri measure passed by the state House that would allow police departments with officers who enforce federal gun laws to be sued and face a \$50,000 fine. It's not the first time Missouri has considered such a bill, but supporters pointed to President Joe Biden taking office as a reason to pass it now.

In Utah, Republican Rep. Cory Maloy also referenced the incoming administration after the state House passed his bill with a similar provision forbidding the enforcement of federal gun laws. Many Republican state lawmakers see attempts to pass federal firearms restrictions as a threat to the Second Amendment.

"We really feel the need to protect those rights," he said.

Several states passed similar laws under then-president Barack Obama, although judges have ruled against them in court. Most of the latest crop of federal nullification proposals focus on police officers inside their states who primarily enforce state rather than federal laws.

While Biden has called for a ban on assault weapons, any new gun legislation will likely face an uphill climb given the political polarization that has tripped up past administrations. Democratic lawmakers from conservative-leaning states also could join Republicans in opposing new gun restrictions. Any measures likely to pass would have broad support, like background checks on all gun sales, said Everytown President John Feinblatt.

Those dynamics haven't stopped state lawmakers who want to make the first move to protect gun rights in their states. Federal nullification bills have been

introduced in more than a dozen other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wyoming, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia and Iowa. In Texas, the governor has called for the state to become a Second Amendment sanctuary.

In Arizona, a Senate proposal that passed the chamber on Wednesday would allow officers to be sued for enforcing federal gun restrictions that the state considers violations of the Second Amendment. They potentially could face criminal charges. A bill in the House doesn't include those punishments, but its sponsor, Republican Rep. Leo Basiucci, said it would be a clear rejection of federal restrictions on assault-style weapons, high-capacity magazines or other firearms.

"They can do that at a federal level, but in Arizona it's not going to fly," he said.

His proposal passed the state House last week over the objections of Democrats such as Rep. Daniel Hernandez of Tucson, who was present at the 2011 shooting that severely injured former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords. If signed into law, the measure would be unconstitutional and lead to an expensive court fight, he said.

Basiucci compares his plan to Arizona voters' move to legalize recreational marijuana even though it remains against federal law. Gun-control groups see it differently.

"Guns kill people and are used to create a public safety issue, whereas marijuana is really not," said Allison Anderman, senior counsel with the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. "What is likely to happen if gun laws are not followed is people get killed as a result."

Similar measures passed by the Republican Legislature in Montana were vetoed in previous years by the former Democratic governor. Now working with a Republican governor, the state House passed a bill last week to bar state officials from enforcing federal bans on certain firearms, ammunition or magazines.

Under Obama's presidency, the Legislature passed a law in 2009 that made guns and ammunition manufactured in Montana exempt from federal law. It eventually was struck down in court, but several states still followed with their

own nullification measures. In 2013, two Kansas men tried to use that state's nullification law to overturn their federal convictions for possessing unregistered firearms, but the challenge was rejected.

"The main issue there is the Supremacy Clause," the part of the Constitution that says federal law supersedes state law, said Jacob Charles, executive director of the Center for Firearms Law at Duke Law School. Even so, the bills focused on what local police can and can't do could pass legal muster.

"States have no obligation to enforce federal law," he said.

Associated Press writer Bob Christie in Phoenix contributed to this report.



[You can click here to watch me address the House body from February when I admonished the House Republicans for trying to pass a dangerous Federal Gun Nullification Bill in Missouri.](#)

**REAL ID WILL BE REQUIRED FOR
ALL U.S. RESIDENTS TO FLY OR
ENTER FEDERAL BUILDINGS
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2021.**

WHAT IS IT?

"REAL ID" comes from the REAL ID Act of 2005, a federal law that focused on fraud protection, anti-terrorism, and driver license and nondriver license identification card (ID card) security. The REAL ID Act prohibits federal agencies from accepting driver licenses and ID cards from states that do not meet these standards. Beginning **October 1, 2021**, residents of every U.S. state and territory will be required to present a REAL ID-compliant driver license or ID card, or another form of ID accepted by the Transportation Security Administration, to board federally regulated domestic flights.

DO I NEED ONE?

YES

- Flying domestically
- Accessing federal facilities, military bases and federal courthouses
- Entering nuclear power plants



NO

- Driving
- Voting or Registering to Vote
- State Purposes
- Age Verification
- You hold another form of identification that meets federal requirements, such as a valid U.S. passport or passport card



WHEN CAN I GET ONE?

Customers were able to apply for a REAL-ID compliant Missouri driver license or nondriver ID card beginning March 25, 2019. **HOWEVER**, your Missouri-issued license or ID card that was issued prior to March 25, 2019, will give you the same access as a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card until **October 1, 2021**.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Missouri's REAL ID-compliant driver licenses and nondriver ID cards will have a **star** in the upper right-hand corner.



A license or ID card that is not compliant with REAL ID will have "**Not for REAL ID Purposes**" in the upper right-hand corner.

Learn more at dor.mo.gov/drivers/real-id-information

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
REVENUE

REAL ID REQUIREMENTS

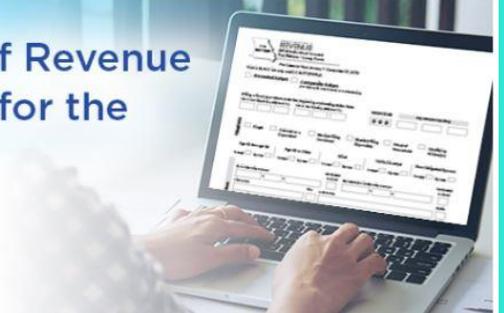


Arrive *prepared* to apply for your new REAL ID

Form 5754 (Revised 02/2021)

The IRS and Missouri Department of Revenue will begin accepting e-filed returns for the 2020 tax year on **Feb. 12, 2021**.

[Click here for more information](#)



KANSAS CITY'S NEW EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Application process announcement mid-February

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

These agencies have city-provided funds available now for rent and/or utility help:

- **Journey to New Life** - (816) 960-4808
- **Metro Lutheran Ministries** - (816) 285-3137 (north)
(816) 285-3139 (south)
- **Greater KC Housing Info Center** - (816) 931-0443
- **Guadalupe Center** - (816) 421-1015
- **Save, Inc.** - (816) 531-8340, ext. 260



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

[KCMO.GOV/RentHelp](https://www.kcmo.gov/RentHelp)

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, 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](#)



Free FAMILY HEALTH ESSENTIALS



COVID -19 Vaccines only (1pm-5pm)
 "Gold Card" Appointment for up to 50 persons
 Tier 1B – Adults age 65 +
 For other criteria and information, call for details:
 3-1-1 or 816-513-1313, Option 1



SATURDAY, MARCH 6th

SWOPE HEALTH CENTRAL

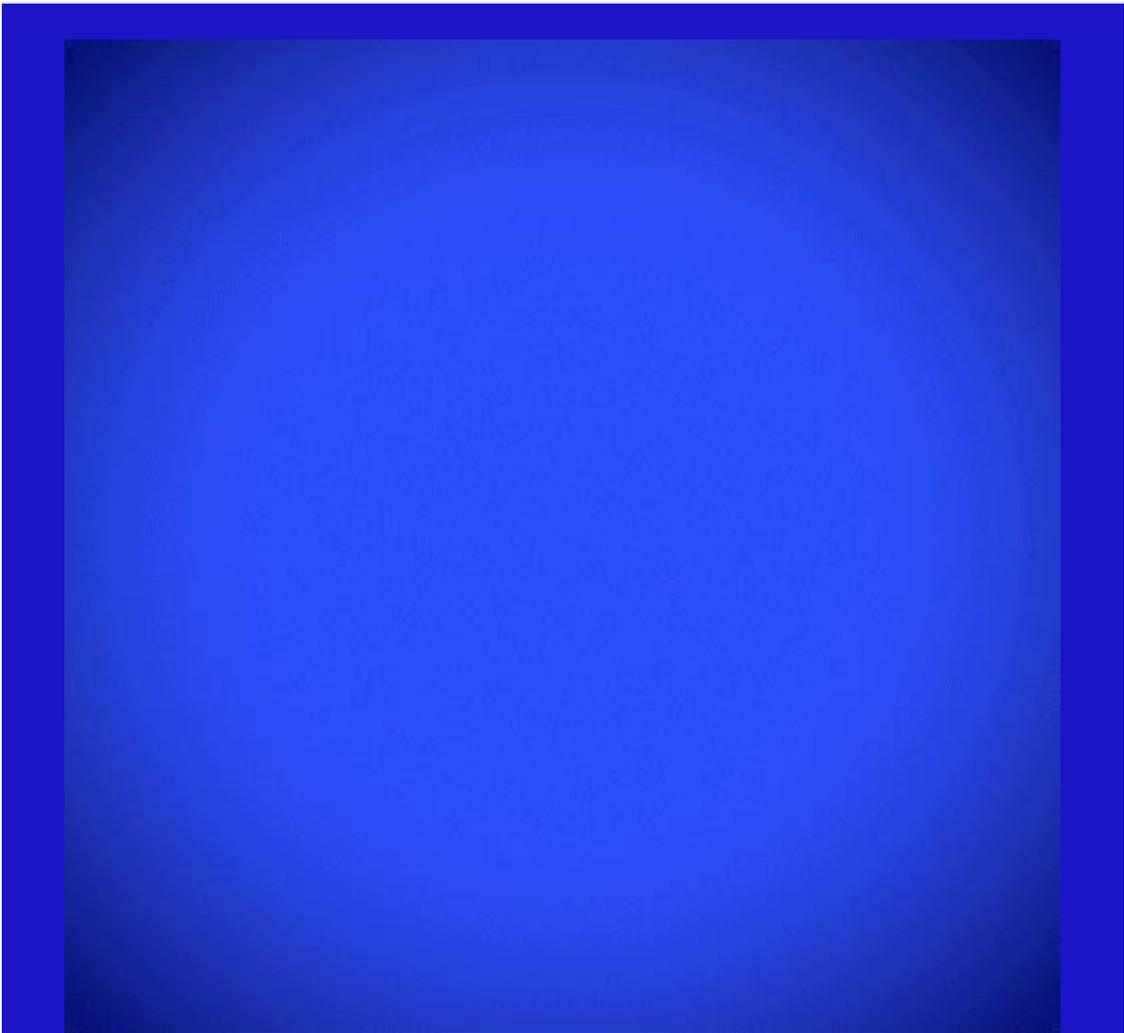
3801 Blue Parkway Kansas City, MO 64130
9:00am-11:00am
(While supplies last)

➡ Maximum 2 families per car – 2 Families **MUST** be represented in the car e.g. not 1 person for two families
 All items delivered to the car ➡ Trunk Service only (no walk-up)

Station 1: Household Basket	Station 2: Toiletry Bag	Station 3: Spring Kit	Station 4: Food Boxes
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Proudly Sponsored By:





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.](#) DO NOT call 311 to register for the following events.

Friday, March 5

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

6800 Zoo Dr., KCMO 64132

Monday, March 5

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

3700 Blue Parkway, KCMO 64130

Monday, March 8

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

301 W. 13th Street, KCMO 64105

Wednesday, March 10

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

4545 Worlds of Fun Ave., KCMO 64161

Friday, March 12

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

6800 Zoo Dr., KCMO 64132

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.](#)



Wearing is Caring

keep
gatherings
small





As of the time I have sent this mailing, there have been
41 homicides in the Kansas City metro area in 2021.
In Kansas City, Missouri, 23 people have been killed.
[Click here for the Homicide Tracker.](#)



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



**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

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

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