



Capitol Report

November 24, 2020

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Dear Neighbor,

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just two days away and Christmas 31 days. What a year this has been! I hope with all the craziness and pain 2020 has caused that you still have blessings to be

thankful for.

This year has taught us that when this pandemic is over we should never take for granted again; having get togethers with our family, hugging our loved ones, each deep breath, teachers, visiting with neighbors, having lunch with a friend, and the list goes on As they say "you never know what you have until you lose it."

This is not the year to get everything you want. This is the year to appreciate everything you have.

I want to wish you a most Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving Holiday to you and your family.

Yours in Service,

Rich

To All The Wonderful
Healthcare Workers



Thank You ! Thank you!
THANK YOU!



Missouri lawmakers cancel COVID-19 special session after members contract virus

A recent photo showed state officials not wearing masks at a retreat.

By [Ivan Pereira](#)

ABC News

November 17, 2020

• 5 min read

Missouri lawmakers were set to hold a special hearing this week on coronavirus-related policies and spending. However, that session was postponed after multiple state House members and staff contracted the disease, the Republican majority floor leader said.

The announcement came less than a week after state Republicans and Gov. Mike Parson attended a retreat where they were

photographed not wearing masks. It was not immediately clear if the meetings were linked to the infections.

State Sen. Caleb Rowden, the majority floor leader, [tweeted](#) Monday that the special session scheduled for Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 would be put on hold until after the [Thanksgiving](#) break, because of "a number of positive COVID-19 cases among members and staff."

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**Missouri governor says no mask mandate,
but will extend State of Emergency
through March**

- [SHAIN BERGAN](#)
- KCTV5
- NOV 19, 2020

JEFFERSON CITY, MO (KCTV) -- Missouri's top government officials will not issue a mask mandate, Gov. Mike Parson said Thursday morning while addressing various coronavirus issues facing the state.

The governor stressed the importance of safety measures to stem the tide of rising COVID-19 cases across the state, but said those measures fall on personal responsibility of the individual. He said he is against mandates, but personally thinks people should choose to wear a mask.

The governor also announced he is extending Missouri's State of Emergency through next March. That declaration allows Missouri certain resource options to fight the pandemic, which is growing at a rapid pace.

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SUPREME COURT HEARS CASE CHALLENGING ANTI-LABOR LAW

The Missouri Supreme Court on Nov. 16 heard arguments in a case that seeks to invalidate the remaining portions anti-union law that the state high court partially struck down earlier this year. A lower court has placed the entire law on hold while litigation remains pending.

The Republican-controlled General Assembly enacted House Bill 1413 in 2018 and then-Gov. Eric Greitens signed it into law. The

law contains various provisions designed to make it harder for public sector labor unions to operate, including prohibiting government agencies from withholding union dues from workers' paychecks, creating new hurdles to forming public sector bargaining units, requiring unions to be recertified every three years and subjecting government workers to immediate termination for picketing, including while off duty.

The Supreme Court on March 31 unanimously struck down that final provision as unconstitutionally overbroad in violation of public workers' free speech rights. That lawsuit, *Karney v. Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations*, didn't challenge the remainder of HB 1413.

In the current case before the high court, *Missouri National Education Association v. Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations*, the plaintiffs argue the law infringes on collective bargaining rights protected by the Missouri Constitution and also violates union members' constitutional rights of free speech and association. In addition, they allege the law's restrictions don't apply equally to all public sector labor unions by exempting those representing police and other emergency responders. The Supreme Court will issue a ruling in the case at a later date.

FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS REFORM OF PAROLE REVOCATIONS

A federal judge on Nov. 12 ruled various practices and procedures related to parole revocation hearings in Missouri are unconstitutional and ordered the state Department of Corrections to implement a long list of reforms, including ensuring parolees have an attorney, mandating that evidence against them be shared at least five days in advance of a revocation hearing and requiring such hearings to be conducted in a timely manner.

Ruling in a class-action lawsuit filed against the corrections department three years ago, U.S. District Judge Stephen Bough said the department intentionally failed to provide attorneys to parolees who couldn't afford one and routinely refused to disclose evidence against a parolee until the time of the revocation hearing, among other problems.

The MacArthur Justice Center, which brought the case on behalf of Missouri parolees, argued that the state's unconstitutional practices resulted in many offenders being thrown back into prison without having a legitimate opportunity to refute the evidence against them. The center alleged that parolees routinely aren't told they have a right to counsel and often are pressured into waiving their right to a hearing.

In his 55-page order, Bough said he is retaining jurisdiction over the case to ensure the department begins implementing the required reforms, a move that allows him to more quickly intervene if the agency fails to do so. The case is *Gasca v. Precythe*.



Kansas City paused to honor the memory of Buck O'Neil on his 109th birthday. I am pictured with KC Mayor Quinton Lucas (center) and Jackson County Executive Frank White (right).

Spire begins new assistance program for Missouri customers impacted by Coronavirus

The new program supports customers who have been impacted by the pandemic and are behind on their natural gas bills.

Spire is offering two new financial assistance options for Missouri customers who've been struggling due to the coronavirus pandemic. **The natural gas provider is offering up to \$400 in assistance for Missouri customers who have been furloughed or experienced job or income loss and have an outstanding**

balance on their Spire account.

Spire will begin accepting applications for the program the week of Nov. 9.

“As the coronavirus pandemic continues, we know many are experiencing unexpected challenges, and we are continuing to keep our most vulnerable customers top of mind,” said Scott Carter, president of Spire Missouri. “As an energy provider, we are committed to finding new ways to help customers have access to energy when they need it most.”

When qualified, active Missouri residential customers are enrolled in the program, they automatically receive a \$100 credit toward their past due balance.

Over the duration of the program, customers can receive up to an additional \$300 matched, dollar-for-dollar, when they make payments to reduce their past due balance. There is no income cap for the program, but customers must complete an application and show that they've sustained a loss of income or job any time after March 1, 2020, as a direct result of the pandemic. The program runs through March 31, 2021 or until funds are exhausted.

In addition to its existing 12-month payment plan option, Spire now offers an 18-month payment plan for customers impacted by the pandemic. Customers can enroll by paying 10% of their past-due balance.

Approved October 28 by the Missouri Public Service Commission, the program is part of the company’s comprehensive approach to provide relief for customers who are experiencing hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic. Previously, Spire committed \$500,000 in matching gifts through their [DollarHelp](#) program in Missouri and expanded assistance for limited income customers.

“We’re committed to ensuring our community maintains access to abundant, affordable, reliable natural gas,” said Carter. “We encourage customers who are struggling to call us. We are here to help.”

To apply or learn more about the new program or other ways Spire is helping

**customers impacted by the pandemic,
visit**

[SpireEnergy.com/Assistance](https://www.spireenergy.com/assistance).



**HAVE
UNEMPLOYMENT
QUESTIONS?**

Ask our virtual assistant.



I look forward to serving our state in my new role as Assistant Minority Floor Leader of the Missouri House of Representatives.

Real ID Update

[Real ID compliant drivers and nondrivers licenses](#) are now available with proper [documentation](#). Please note that the Federal government requires a copy of this documentation to be kept for several years. You can go to the DMV and request a replacement for your current license with the Real ID for a \$5 processing fee. If you renew your license at the time of the request you will be charged the renewal fee. You need a RealID compliant Identification Card to board an airplane and enter federal buildings;

Missouri issued Identification Cards (including drivers' licenses) will be accepted in lieu of Real ID until October 1, 2021. Some military bases require individuals to present a Real ID. For more information about RealID, go to dor.mo.gov/drivers/real-id-information/.

According to the federal Real ID Act, states must retain paper copies of source documents for a minimum of 7 years, and images/microfiche of source documents for at least 10 years, after which point they are to be irretrievably destroyed. Missouri statute complies with this requirement and permits the Department of Revenue to keep these documents within a system not connected to the internet or accessible by any other state or the federal government.

When you get a Real ID, please note that the state is required to keep a digital copy of your data for ten years. If you are using a document with private information for identification, like a bank statement, I believe you can redact that information before they scan it.

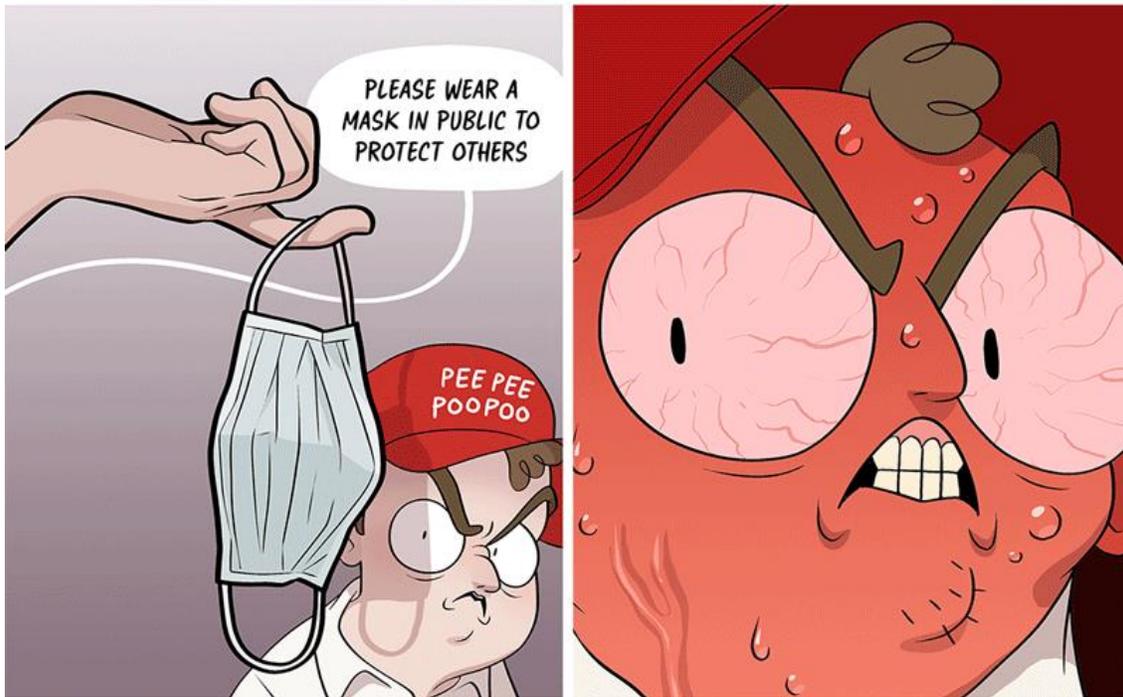
Truman Medical Centers has available services for Jackson County residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

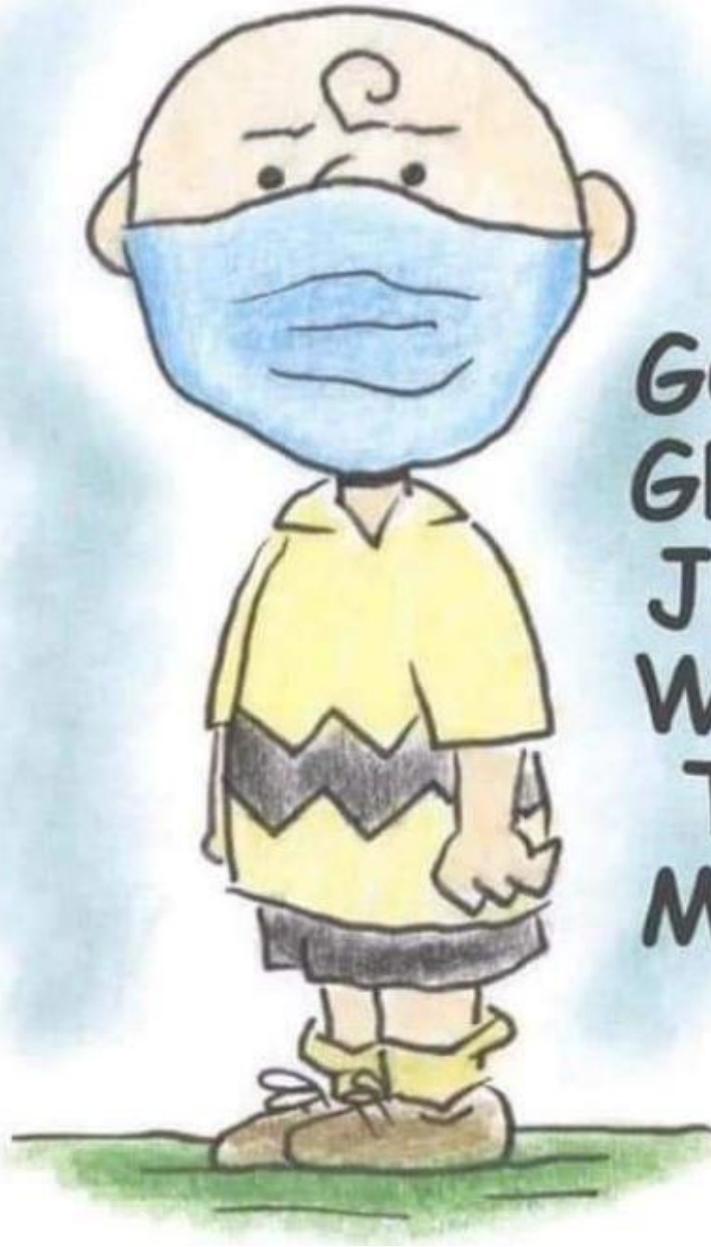
If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



Practice Social Distancing







**GOOD
GRIEF
JUST
WEAR
THE
MASK**





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

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

In Kansas City, Missouri, 164 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 130 DB, 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

MO House of Representatives

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