



Capitol Report

March 10, 2022

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Dear Neighbor,

For me, this was a tough week both personally and legislatively. I often put my personal feelings to the side when dealing with legislative matters because I am here to serve you...not myself. The week was tough because of two house bills, 1552 and 1462 that I do have personal feelings. The first (1552) dealt with charter school funding. The second bill (1462) would allow CCW (Concealed Carry) holders to carry firearms on public transportation and churches. It would also lower the minimum age from 19 to 18 to obtain a CCW license.

Prior to my retirement as a public school teacher, I served within the Kansas City School District in many capacities including Union Building Representative for 20 years and at the time of my retirement I was the Vice President of Welfare for the Kansas City Federation of Teachers. During my tenure in the legislature, I have consistently opposed charter school legislation. I have opposed charter expansion

beyond the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts and question the governance and fiscal management of the charter schools.

But, being a teacher, I understand the importance of equitable funding for all of our schools as this benefits all of our children. HB 1552 seeks to fix a "glitch" in the funding of Kansas City charter schools. The parents of the children who attend charter schools reached out to me and told me this is what they want for their children. As an educator, I agree with the parents. We should all want what is best for the children, whether they are ours or someone else's kids. **When I taught and served in Kansas City Public Schools for 23 years, I did not do it for the income; I did it for the outcome. The outcome of our children.** Children deserve the best opportunities that we can provide and I believe that HB 1552 is right for Kansas City charter school students. **I stood up for those children and their parents as an educator and their state representative and I voted YES.** This was a close vote that narrowly passed 85 - 67. 82 votes are needed for passage.

The second bill, HB 1462 is a step in the wrong direction in my opinion. This bill allows guns on public transportation, allows CCW holders to carry guns in churches and lowers the CCW license age to 18. As a former high school teacher, I shudder at the thought of some of the 18 year olds I taught every day being able to legally have a CCW. Not too long ago, there was a public outcry for gun-free zones. What's happened? I ride public transit in Kansas City and it's great with out guns on buses. (Did you know Kansas City has zero-fare public transit?). My pastor opposes a law that allows guns in churches and so do many more. **I voted NO on this bill, however it passed out of the House and is now headed to the Senate where I hope it will die.**

The House adjourned for Spring Break this afternoon and will reconvene on Monday, March 21st. There will be no Capitol Report for next week.

Yours in Service,
Rich

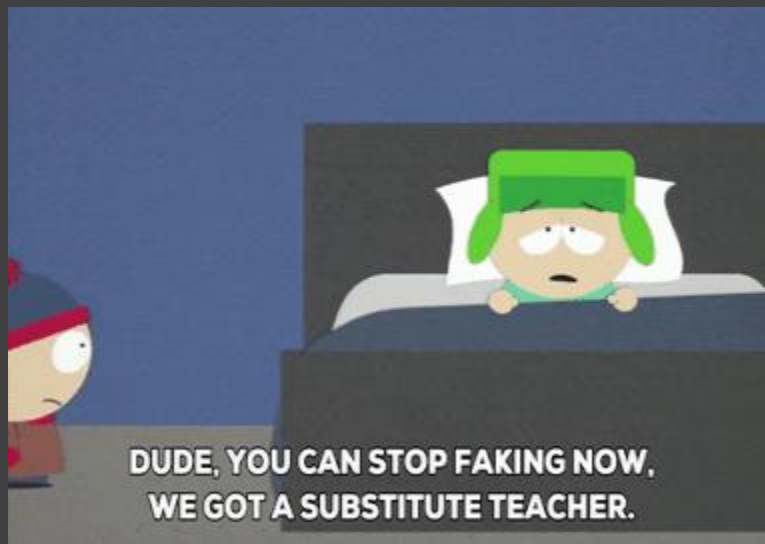


I will continue to listen to you and do what is in your best interest. Thank you for the opportunity to represent District 27.

House Legislative Dashboard



[You can view the proposed redistricting maps for the state and congressional districts here.](#)



Charter school funding, open enrollment bills win approval

The House of Representatives on March 9 narrowly passed pair of education bills that separately would modify how independent charter schools receive public funding and give students more

leeway to attend public schools districts other than the one in which they live. Both bills now advance to the Senate.

Lawmakers voted 85-67 in favor of House Bill 1552, which would establish a new formula for determining how much local funding a public school district must allocate to charter schools in their jurisdiction. **I voted YES.** Charter schools are public schools that operate independently of a local school district and are exempt from many state education regulations. They currently are authorized only in St. Louis and Kansas City.

Supporters say the bill would establish more equitable funding for charter schools, while opponents maintain it would unfairly siphon revenue from traditional public schools. Although the Kansas City Public School District is supportive of the change, the St. Louis district isn't.

The other measure, House Bill 1814, would establish a voluntary open enrollment program that would allow students in one district to transfer to another participating district, subject to space and staffing limitations. Lawmakers approved HB 1814 on a vote of 85-66-1. **I voted NO.**



Missouri House approves concealed carry of weapons on public transportation, in churches

March 10, 2022

Under the measure, concealed weapon permit holders could carry onto buses, though guns would remain prohibited on Amtrak trains.

By Jonathan Shorman

Source The Kansas City Star (TNS)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri House passed a bill Wednesday that allows concealed weapons on public transportation and lifts their prohibition in houses of worship.

Under the measure, concealed weapon permit holders could carry onto buses, though guns would remain prohibited on Amtrak trains. Concealed weapons would also be allowed into churches, synagogues and other places of worship, though religious leaders could post signs saying guns aren't permitted and ask those with weapons to leave.

The House passed the bill 101-40, sending it to the Senate.

The legislation marks the latest effort to loosen Missouri's gun laws and expand the areas where firearms are permitted. Last year the General Assembly approved a bill that seeks to block enforcement of some federal gun laws. Wednesday's measure lowers the age to obtain a concealed carry permit from 19 to 18 and creates the crime of unlawful discharge of a firearm, which occurs when a gun is shot within city limits with criminal negligence — an attempt to ban celebratory gunfire.

Lawmakers championing the bill raised familiar arguments, contending "good guys" with guns can help quickly stop shooters. One legislator invoked last Friday's shooting at Olathe East High School in Kansas, where police said a student shot a school administrator and a school resource officer, who shot the student. "Last week, we just actually had a school shooting in Kansas and it was stopped by a school resource officer with a firearm and prevented additional lives from being injured," state Rep. Shane Roden, a Cedar Hill Republican, said.

Republican lawmakers have tried before to open public transit up to guns. The House approved similar legislation last year and Kansas City transit leaders have previously expressed concerns that the proposal would make transportation less secure.

State Rep. Richard Brown, a Kansas City Democrat, said he's likely one of the few legislators who rides public transportation on a regular basis. He said many of his fellow bus riders have told him they don't want guns on buses., in addition to the opposition of transit agencies.

"So I'm wondering why are we forcing these transportation companies to allow firearms on their buses when they don't want them," Brown said.

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**OUR FREEDOM
TO VOTE IS
UNDER ATTACK**

**41 STATES
HAVE INTRODUCED
OVER 300
ANTI-VOTER BILLS**

**House again seeks to impose
photo voter ID requirement**

In an annual ritual that's continued for more than 15 years, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives on March 10 approved legislation seeking to make voting contingent on having a valid, government-issued photo identification.

In most years, photo voter ID measures pass the House only die for lack of action in the Senate. Although the legislature has twice managed to enact the requirement into law, the Missouri Supreme

Court ruled it unconstitutional both times. Whether the legislation makes it through the Senate this year remains to be seen, but if it does a court challenge is guaranteed and likely to end with the same result as the prior two cases.

This year the House approved two photo voter ID measures – one again putting the requirement in state law and another seeking to enshrine it in the state constitution. Lawmakers voted 96-35 to approve the former, House Bill 1878, and 97-36 to pass the latter, House Joint Resolution 94.

In the prior cases, the state Supreme Court noted the only type of fraud a photo voter ID requirement could prevent is voter impersonation at the polls, yet there has never been a documented case of it in the state. Such a requirement could disenfranchise many of the roughly 200,000 Missouri voters who don't have a government-issued photo ID. Not coincidentally, such voters tend to belong to groups that traditionally support Democrats.

Since voting is a fundamental right, the state high court has said any restrictions on it are subject to the highest level of constitutional scrutiny. As with the previous laws the court struck down, the latest two measures appear to fall well short of clearing the bar for constitutionality since they make it harder for a large number of Missourians to vote in order to prevent a non-existent type of fraud.



I am pictured with Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul C. Wilson, who gave his State of Judiciary address Tuesday in the House Chamber.



PoliceBudget community

Senate approves measure to weaken Hancock Amendment

The Senate on May 8 granted preliminary approval to a proposed constitutional amendment that would weaken the Hancock Amendment's prohibition against state lawmakers imposing

unfunded on local governments. A second vote is required to advance the measure to the House of Representatives, where similar legislation awaits debate.

Senate Joint Resolution 38 would empower the legislature to force Kansas City to spend more of its budget on the city's police department without providing state funding. As currently written, the Hancock Amendment guarantees local officials have the final say how local tax dollars are allocated without interference from the state. If the state wishes to require local governments to spend more money for a particular purpose, the state must provide the funding necessary to implement the mandate.

As originally proposed, all Missouri municipalities and counties would have been subject to unfunded mandates relating to law enforcement spending. However, the Senate added an amendment limiting the legislation's impact to Kansas City, whose police department is the only one in Missouri under state control. The lower chamber's version, House Joint Resolution 100, still applies statewide. If either measure is approved by both legislative chamber, it automatically would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot.



Rodrick Sparks, Current Lee's Summit R7 School Board Member
and my former student, visited with me on School Board Lobby Day
at the Capitol.



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- A federally-funded mortgage reinstatement program that helps Missouri homeowners by paying past due mortgage balances and preventing foreclosures

What does it cover?

- Pays your mortgage lender/servicer directly for past due balances and fees
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Am I eligible?

- You must have experienced a financial hardship (reduction in income or increase in qualified expenses) during the COVID-19 pandemic
- You must be behind on at least one payment
- You must currently own and occupy the property as your primary residence

What do I need to apply?

- Photo ID
- Income verification (paystub, unemployment or social security benefit statements etc.). Other options are available if you have no income
- Copy of your most recent mortgage statement



Need help applying? Have another legal or credit issue?

SAFHR for Homeowners provides access to additional legal, credit, and financial counseling assistance, through our network of Mortgage Assistance Counseling agencies (MACs).

Find the list at:

<https://www.mohousingresources.com/mortgage-assistance-counseling>

The State Assistance for Housing Relief ("SAFHR") Program for Emergency Rental Assistance ("ERA") receives funding under both the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Dec. 27, 2020) (the "CAA") and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Section 3201 (March 11, 2021) (the "ARPA") and collectively with the CAA, the "Acts". SAFHR for Homeowners Program ("HAF") receives funding under ARPA. ERA and HAF are programs administered by the Missouri Housing Development Commission ("MHDC") under agreement with the Missouri Department of Economic Development ("DED") to provide federal assistance to eligible individuals and activities from federal funding provided to the State of Missouri directly from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. For more information please visit <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/homeowner-assistance-fund>.



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



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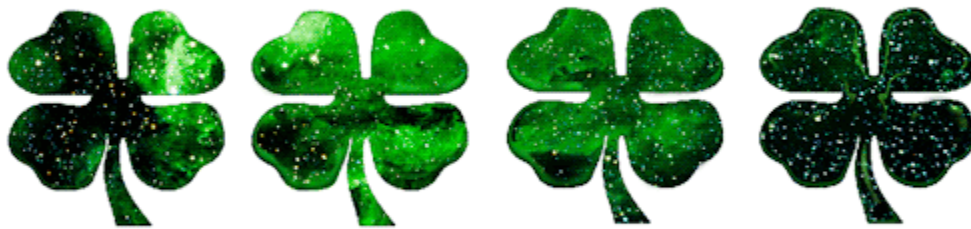
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My friend Tiffany Johnson and the good people from Etias came to visit me at the capitol. Tiffany is in the purple and black striped shirt.

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



LOT'S OF LUCK AN LOVE



Starlight wants your feedback!



We want to hear from those who live and/or work in the Swope Park area. Help us advance our mission to better serve all audiences and more effectively collaborate with our surrounding neighbors by taking a short survey. **Those who complete the survey will be entered to win one of five \$50 Visa gift cards.**

[Click here](#) to take the survey by March 31, 2022.

4600 Starlight Road | Kansas City, MO | 64132 | Starlight is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.



Dedicated to a Unified Vision for South Kansas City, Missouri

This Monday, March 14 @ 6 PM South Patrol Police Campus

Grandview Mayor Leonard Jones and City Administrator Cemal Gungor will tell us about that city's package of three no tax increase bond issues that will be on the April 5 ballot at our monthly SKCA membership meeting at **6 p.m. Monday, March 14**, in the community room of the front building **at the South Patrol Police Campus, 9701 Marion Park Dr.**



**The Pandemic aint over...
but we're getting there!**

Wash Your Hands





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.



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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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