



Capitol Report

April 29, 2022

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Dear Neighbor,

The clock is ticking as the Second Regular Session of the 101st Legislature is nearing an end. Constitutionally, we have until this coming Friday, May 6th at 6 PM to approve and pass a budget for the next fiscal year. A budget was finally passed in the Senate this week and now parts of it will go to Conference Committees to make necessary revisions that will satisfy members of both chambers.

Over the next few weeks, I foresee some omnibus bills passing through the house as only six bills have been truly agreed to yet, 146 bills have been third read and passed in the House. I anticipate the last two weeks to be intense as I continue to push for oversight for the Department of Corrections, modifications to allow retired teachers to work more hours in our schools and the passage of legislation to permit recreational marijuana use for adults. I am happy to report that the bill I vigorously fought that would allow conceal carry permit holders to bring guns on public transportation appears to be dead in

the Senate.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you and I always look forward to hearing from you.

***Yours in Service,
Rich***

House Legislative Dashboard



To read more on these bills [click here](#)
To Lookup an individual bill [click here](#)



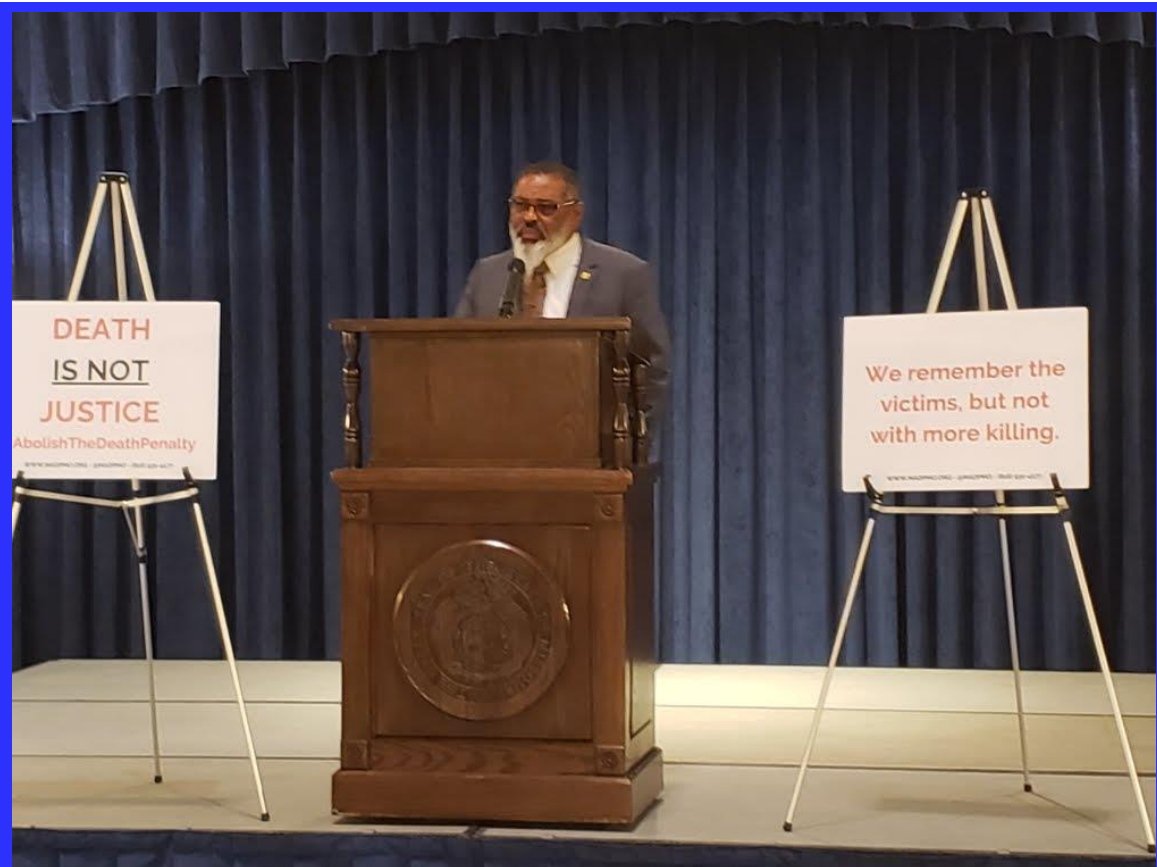
Senate passes budget to set up final negotiations with House

The Senate on April 26 approved its version of the FY 2023 state operating budget, adding more than \$1 billion in additional spending authority over what the House of Representatives has approved. The two chambers must now negotiate a final spending plan with just days to go until the May 6 constitutional deadline for completing the budget.

But while the main appropriations bills are on a path to final passage, separate \$2.58 billion spending measure to allocate federal pandemic relief funds has stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee, which on April 27 abruptly cancelled two planned meetings that had been scheduled to work on the bill. With an extremely tight timetable to send the main budget bills to the governor, it rapidly becoming less likely lawmakers will have time to finalize how the pandemic relief funds should be spent. In that event, the governor could call a special legislative session for lawmakers to finish the job after the regular session ends on May

Excluding that bill, the Senate version of the operating budget includes \$45.1 billion in spending authority – substantially more than the \$43.9 billion House version. As a result, House and Senate negotiators have many points of disagreement to work out.

Key Senate additions include an additional \$214 million to fully fund the state's share of local public school districts' student transportation costs for the first time in three decades, plus \$27 million to increase minimum pay for public school teachers to \$38,000 a year. While Republican House budget leaders excluded funding for both from their budget plan, those items are popular among lawmakers of both political parties and could be difficult to remove during negotiations.



This week I addressed an audience of opponents to the death penalty in Missouri. This is a personal matter to me as I had a friend executed by the state of Texas in 2013 and a cousin who was murdered in a car jacking. The death penalty is archaic and barbaric and should be discontinued as it disproportionately is applied to people of color and the poor..



House advances bill attempting to nullify federal election law

The House of Representatives on April 28 voted 96-47-1 to advance legislation to the Senate that purports to allow the state to ignore federal election laws, fine election officials who follow federal law without legislative approval and impose a photo voter identification requirement, which the Missouri Supreme Court has twice struck down as unconstitutional.

The wide-ranging House Bill 2140 includes a provision purporting to empower the Missouri General Assembly to decide what federal election laws the state will follow. A related provision seeks to impose fines of \$5,000 per month on election officials who follow federal law without legislative approval. In addition, accepting federal election funding without permission could result in a \$1,000 fine, plus the amount of funding received. These provisions likely

violate the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, under which federal laws trump conflicting state laws.

The Republican-backed bill also seeks to require voters to show a government-issued photo ID in an effort to disenfranchise racial minorities and members of other groups that tend to support Democrats and are most likely not to have a photo ID. In striking down similar laws in the past, the state Supreme Court has noted there has never been a documented case voter impersonation at the polls in Missouri, yet that is the only type of voter fraud a photo ID requirement could prevent. As a result, the court has said such laws fail to clear the high constitutional bar for restricting Missourians' fundamental right to vote.

During debate on the bill, Republicans added an amendment to allow each public school district to put a measure on the local ballot that, if approved by voters, would ban transgender girls from participating in girls' sports, even though over the last decade few transgender girls have sought to play on girls' teams in Missouri.



Rep, Steve Butz (D - St. Louis) and I go over language prior to filing an amendment on the House Floor.

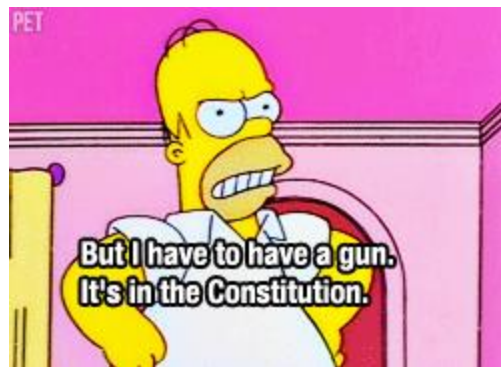


Senate committee considers “Earning Safe Reentry Through Work Act”

In today’s tight labor market, more employers are turning to alternative talent pools to fill jobs — including justice-involved individuals. Under House Bill 2088, nonviolent offenders who are on probation, parole, or conditional release may earn work-for-time credit for reduction of their supervision by maintaining eligible employment.

Research shows that previously incarcerated people are much less likely to re-offend when they have stable, full-time employment. And data further shows that ex-offenders, typically eager to keep a job when they find one, often make the most loyal employees. Workers with criminal records tend to stay in their jobs longer and are less likely to leave, [a Northwestern University study](#) found. This study also found former inmates were no more likely to be fired than other employees.

Missouri employers who hire ex-offenders can also help offset risk by participating in the [Federal Bonding Program](#), developed in 1966 by the U.S. Dept. of Labor to empower businesses to take a chance on justice-involved job seekers..



Supreme Court revives challenge to controversial gun law

The Missouri Supreme Court on April 26 revived a lawsuit challenging a controversial state law that purports to declare federal gun laws unenforceable in Missouri and punishes local police departments for assisting federal authorities in criminal investigations.

In its 6-1 ruling, the high court majority said Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green, a Republican, erred when he determined the plaintiffs' legal claims weren't ripe for consideration. The majority ordered Green to consider the merits of plaintiffs' constitutional arguments. In a solo dissent, Judge Zel Fischer said the plaintiffs have alternate avenues to pursue their claims.

At issue is House Bill 85, which the Republican-controlled General Assembly enacted in 2021. In addition to purporting to nullify federal gun laws, HB 85 authorizes federal gun offenders to sue Missouri police departments for a minimum \$50,000 per occurrence, plus attorney fees, for assisting federal authorities. The bill also subjects any local government agency to similar fines merely for hiring a former federal agent who previously enforced gun laws, regardless of whether that person is hired in a law enforcement capacity. The law is dubiously referred to as the "Second Amendment Preservation Act."

St. Louis city, St. Louis County and Jackson County jointly sued to stop enforcement of the law, claiming it violates the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which prohibits individual states from invalidating federal laws. In an uncommon move, the U.S. Department of Justice later joined the case in support of the plaintiffs, arguing HB 85 has chilled cooperation between state and federal law enforcement officials in criminal investigations.

Regardless of how the trial judge ultimately rules on remand, the case is again expected to be appealed to the state Supreme Court. The case is *City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and Jackson County v. State of Missouri*.



High court says municipal provisions still unconstitutional

The Missouri Supreme Court on April 26 unanimously ruled that statutes to impose special limits on fine collection and municipal operations in St. Louis County found unconstitutional by the court in 2017 are still unconstitutional, despite a trial judge's attempt to revive them in 2020.

At issue are provisions of a 2015 law, Senate Bill 5, which contained sweeping reforms aimed at reducing abusive municipal court and policing practices focused on generating revenue. Although most of the reforms apply statewide, some key provisions affected only municipalities in St. Louis County, including one capping the revenue cities in the county can collect from fines and fees at 12.5 percent of a municipality's operating budget, instead of the 20-percent cap imposed on other Missouri cities.

Several of those cities challenged the provisions for violating a state constitutional prohibition against "special laws" that apply only to certain jurisdictions without good cause. Cole County Judge Jon Beetem, a Republican, agreed and blocked enforcement of them in 2016. The state Supreme Court upheld

Beetem's ruling in 2017.

However, the high court in 2019 completely overhauled its standard for reviewing special laws and invalidated much of its prior precedent on the subject. That prompted Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Republican who sponsored SB 5 while serving in the state Senate, to ask Beetem to lift his 2016 injunction barring enforcement of St. Louis County-specific provisions, a request Beetem granted in December 2020.

In its latest ruling, the Supreme Court said that while Schmitt and Beetem assumed the high court would have ruled differently in the original case had the new standard been in place at the time, final decisions made under the old standard cannot be reopened or relitigated.

"A firmly entrenched aspect of our judicial system is the principle of finality of judgments," Chief Justice Paul Wilson wrote in the high court's opinion.

In a footnote to the opinion, however, Wilson said the legislature can overcome the court's 2017 ruling by repealing and reenacting the statutes in question so the new standards the court adopted for special laws in 2019 would govern. The case is *City of Normandy v. Michael Parson*.



Richard Brown is with Marlon S. Anderson and Kevin Windham Jr. at The Capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri.

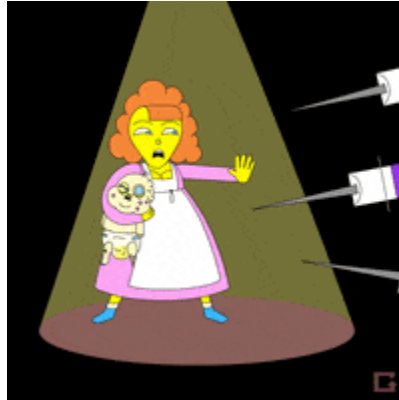
April 27 at 8:06 PM · Jefferson City · 🌐

I had lunch outside today with my colleagues. It was a beautiful day in Jefferson City.





I ran into an old friend last week.
Former KCMO Mayor Sly James is looking great!



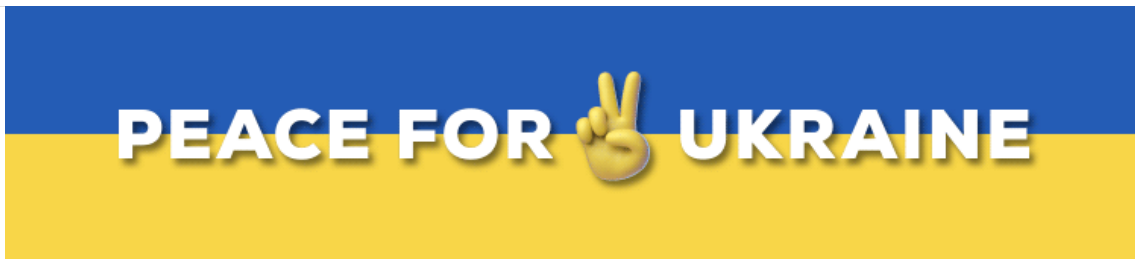
House approves allowing workers to sue over vaccinations

Legislation that would allow workers to sue their employers over vaccinations barely passed the House of Representatives on April 25 on a vote of 84-58, winning just two more “yes” votes than required to advance to the Senate.

House Bill 1692 would create a legal cause of action for workers to sue their employers if they suffer a negative reaction to any vaccine there are required to take as a condition of employment. Although legislation targeting COVID-19 vaccine mandates have been popular in the majority-Republican Missouri General Assembly this year, HB 1692 is unusual because it would allow lawsuits over vaccinations against any disease, including those that have been commonly required for decades.

The state’s major business groups, which typically lean Republican, all opposed the bill, prompting a handful of GOP lawmakers to join Democrats in opposition. Democrats noted that any injuries resulting from vaccines required for employment already are covered by the state workers’ compensation system.

Check the status of your Missouri State Tax returns



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



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UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
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FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 314.701.7245 OR EMAIL US
AT KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM

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Ribbon Cutting!

Join us for the Grand Opening Celebration of the new
Boys & Girls Club at Smith-Hale Middle School

*Named in honor of former State Senator
Shalonn "Kiki" Curls*

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

9010A Old Santa Fe Road

Kansas City, MO 64138



*Special remarks from Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City executives,
Hickman Mills School District representatives, and City leaders.*

RSVP to Jason Roth:



816-462-0132



jroth@helpkckids.org



Congratulations to Chief Joseph Mabin. Last week Chief Mabin was sworn in as Kansas City, MO Police Chief on an interim basis. A national search is underway for a permanent police chief.

FIFTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

Monday, May 2, 2022

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

In-person only

Southeast Community Center,

4201 E. 63rd St., Kansas City, MO 64132

WITH GUEST SPEAKER(S):

5th District problem-solvers break-Out session with:

**Neighborhoods & Community Services
Housing & Community Development
Health Department
Parks & Recreation Department
Public Works Department
City Planning & Development Department
Kansas City Police Department
Water Department
Evergy
Spire Energy**

**Representatives from each department will be there
to answer questions and resolve any problems, or concerns.**



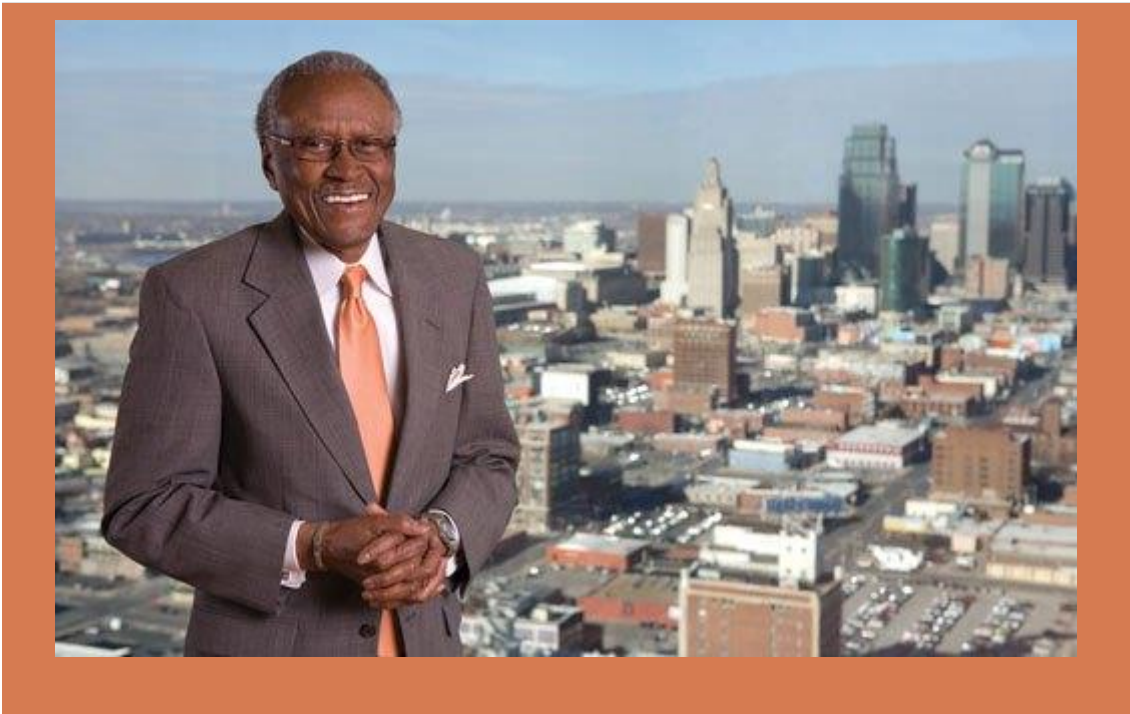
**The Pandemic aint over...
but we're getting there!**

Wash Your
Hands



Tobisan.id

Happy 90th Birthday
Mr. Alvin Brooks!



This week's press conference with Representatives Ashley Aune, Keri Ingle, Ian Mackey, Minority Floor Leader Crystal Quade and Peter Meredith. I am proud to be able to serve with these incredible people.



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

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MO House of Representatives

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