



Capitol Report

April 7, 2022

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Dear Neighbor,

This week the legislative session focused on passing the remaining 15 bills that make up the state operating budget and sending them to the Senate to start their process. The Budget bills always start in the House.

The following is a breakdown of how I voted on the 15 appropriation bills for the \$46.52 billion FY 2023 budget.

I voted YES on HB 3001 (pays the state's debts). because we need to protect the state of Missouri's AAA credit rating.

I voted NO on HB 3002 (Elementary and Secondary Education) because Missouri is 49th in our nation when it comes to school funding (behind NH and DC). Many districts in Missouri are now having 4 day school weeks due to a shortfall in funding. We have a \$2 billion surplus in General Revenue. There is enough money to increase teacher pay in our state and the governor has requested an increase in starting teacher pay. Our children deserve better.

I voted NO on HCS HB 3003 (Higher Education) because Missouri is ranked 49th worse level per capita in the country when it comes to higher education funding. We have reduced funding by 14% over the past 10 years. This is a safe place to invest our money as we seek to increase workforce development in the state. We have the money in General Revenue to allocate to our colleges and universities. Also, Missouri's HBCU's (Harris Stowe and Lincoln University) continue to receive lower amounts of funding compared to other institutions.

I voted NO on HCS HB 3004 (Transportation) because we are still one of the worst states when it comes to funding public transportation. Missouri is at the

bottom when it comes to funding for highway miles and our MODOT employees deserve a pay increase. We have millions of dollars coming to the state in the form of federal dollars to improve our infrastructure. There is a shortfall for public transportation compared to other states. I am a strong proponent of public transit as it keeps our economy moving as people need it to get to work and school. Public transit is good for workforce development. The increase in the fuel tax last year cannot be used for public transit.

I voted YES on HCS HB 3005 (Employee Benefits and Office of Administration). Money was placed into the state pension plan to ensure the health of retirement benefits for state employees. We are providing long needed pay raises for state employees and investing in upgrading technology for our state agencies.

I voted YES on HCS HB 3006 (Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation) because all budgetary requests made by these departments were fulfilled and there were no major programs that were underfunded. It also included an increase in spending for urban agriculture and for food insecure areas of the state.

I voted NO on HCS HB 3007 (Economic Development, Insurance, Labor and Industrial relations) There is a shortage of 150,000 units for low-income housing. A lot of states are investing in this area and addressing homelessness. We should be addressing those issues as it relates to housing.

I voted YES on HCS HB 3008 (Public Safety) because there were no cuts in this area and there were allocations for programs for violence prevention and treatment for survivors of violence.

I voted YES for HCS HB 3009 (Corrections) because it provides funding to increase pay for correctional employees. There are other employers in the marketplace that pay higher salaries than the salaries of our correctional officers

and we need to be competitive in pay to retain and recruit Department of Corrections employees.

I voted NO on HCS HB 3010 (Mental Health and Health) because there was some problematic language in the bill. The governor asked for \$2.5 million for smoking cessation which was stripped out of the bill. This bill cuts out certain reproductive health providers (Planned Parenthood). This is dangerous because it will keep people from seeing their doctors. I also object to the restrictions of vaccinations and masking that are included in the bill. That language is problematic but I believe that language will be stripped out of the final bill when it reaches the senate.

I voted NO on HCS HB 3011 (Social Services) because the bill has some specific concerns that need to be addressed. We are removing reproductive health service options from individuals taking away individual's choice of care providers. The bill underfunds our family support division. It uses kids' social security money to pay for their services in foster care, unfairly taxing some children to pay for their own childhoods. Our Children's Division is critically underfunded and this hurts our most vulnerable children.

I voted NO on HCS HB 3012 (Elected Officials, Judiciary, Public Defender and General Assembly) because this is an area that we could spend more money, especially with the \$2 billion we have in surplus in General Revenue. This budget does not provide enough funding for public defender legal services. People have a right to adequate counsel in our legal system. Poor people will continue to suffer in the criminal justice system without adequate legal representation.

I voted YES on HCS HB 3013 (pays the leases of state offices and related services).

I voted **YES** on HCS HB 3015 (2nd Operating Supplemental Budget). We previously passed this bill at the beginning of session to keep the state operating.

I voted **YES** on HCS HB 3020 - (American Rescue Plan Act). These are federal stimulus dollars the state received due to the COVID pandemic resulting in the loss of revenue to the states and the financial harm felt by our citizens. Money is invested for broadband infrastructure. We learned how important broadband is to both urban and rural communities during the pandemic. We are spending the dollars we received from the federal government and set aside about 10% of the funds for future investment. This money was made available to help stabilize the American economy.

All the bills, except for four, were passed with more than 100 votes in favor of passage for each portion of the budget.

The appropriations bills that make up the state operating budget will now be sent to the Senate, which in the coming weeks will craft its own version of the bills.

Lawmakers will then negotiate final versions of the measures that must win final passage by a May 6 constitutional deadline. The 2023 fiscal year begins on July 1, 2022. Although **I do not serve on any Budget or Appropriations Committees**, I do believe we can and must do better as a state in meeting the needs of our people.

Yours in Service,

Rich



House sends \$46.52 billion state operating budget to Senate

With just four weeks left until the constitutional deadline for passing the FY 2023 state operating budget, the House of Representatives on April 7 voted to advance the various appropriations bills that make up the nearly \$46.52 billion spending plan to the Senate.

But in a move criticized by Democrats, majority Republicans took the unusual step of leaving \$1.8 billion in general revenue – plus billions more in federal funds – unallocated. As a result, the

Republican-controlled Senate is expected to include most, if not all, of that funding in its version of the budget and unilaterally decide how it is spent.

With an unprecedented general revenue surplus and billions of dollars in available federal pandemic relief funds, Missouri is in a position to fund a number of long neglected needs throughout state government. This includes fully funding the voter-mandated expansion of the state's Medicaid program and providing substantial spending authority for a wide range of infrastructure improvements.

Despite the general revenue surplus, the House plan keeps basic state aid for local public school districts flat from the current state fiscal year. Although that amount clears the low statutory bar for what is considered "full funding" of K-12 schools, it doesn't adjust for inflation, resulting in a de facto cut in terms of spending power. In addition, state reimbursement for student transportation costs remains \$214 million underfunded from what Missouri law says it should be. The House plan also omits funding for Republican Gov. Mike Parson's proposal to significantly increase minimum pay for public school teachers.

The budget process is several weeks behind the normal schedule, so senators will have just three weeks to run the appropriations bills through the committee process and get approval from the full Senate. That will leave the two chambers one week to negotiate

final versions of the appropriation bills and vote to send them to the governor. If lawmakers fail to finish the budget by 6 p.m. on May 6, the governor would have to call a special legislative session for them to complete the job. That has only happened once in state history, in 1997.

House Legislative Dashboard





Kansas City area Democrats wore Royal Blue for session
today! Play Ball!



House GOP pushes for minority rule on ballot measures

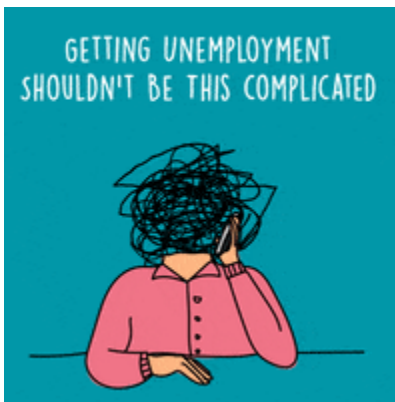
The Republican-controlled House of Representatives on April 6 granted first-round approval to legislation aimed at granting rural voters veto power over proposed amendments to the Missouri Constitution. A second vote is required to advance the measure to the Senate.

At present, a simple majority of the votes cast statewide is needed to ratify a proposed constitutional amendment. On occasion, an amendment unpopular in rural Missouri passes on the strength of voter support in more populous urban and suburban areas.

Under House Joint Resolution 132, ratification would require both a simple majority of the statewide vote and majority approval in at least 82 of Missouri's 163 state House of Representatives districts. As a result, even if an amendment passed by a wide margin in the statewide vote, ratification would fail if voters in a majority of House districts rejected it.

The same day, the House also granted first-round passage to another version of legislation it previously approved to make it impossible to ratify proposed constitutional amendments placed on the ballot via the initiative petition. Under House Joint Resolution 133, ratification would require approval from a simple majority of all registered voters instead of the traditional simple majority of votes cast.

Based on the nearly 4.34 million registered Missouri voters in 2020, an initiative measure would need about 2.17 million "yes" votes for passage, a number that exceeds total voter turnout at many elections. If approved by the legislature, both HJR 132 and HJR 133 would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot and require simple majorities of the votes cast to be ratified.



House votes to significantly reduce unemployment benefits

Republicans on April 6 took another run at significantly weakening the unemployment safety net by granting preliminary approval to legislation cutting the maximum number of weeks of benefits from the current 20 weeks to as low as six weeks **I voted NO!** A second vote is required to advance the bill, which Democrats opposed, to the Senate.

Reducing unemployment benefits has been a Republican goal for more than a decade. In 2015, a bill cutting the duration of benefits to as few as 13 weeks cleared the legislature, but then-Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, vetoed it. The Missouri Supreme Court later ruled a subsequent veto override invalid because the Senate missed the constitutional window for taking its override vote.

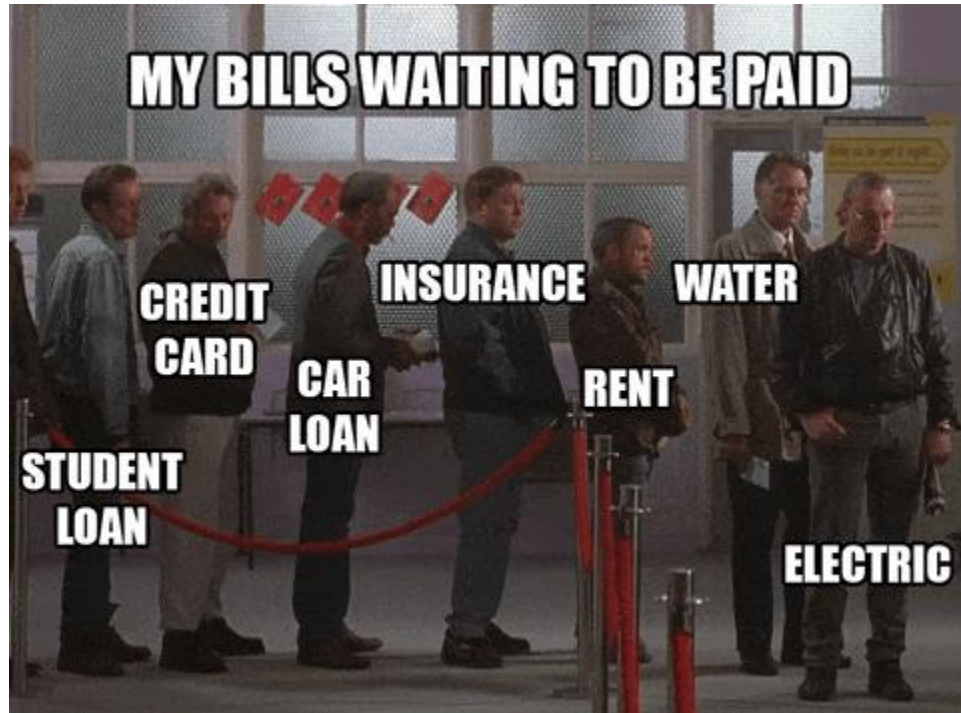
Republicans have been trying to enact unemployment benefit cuts into law ever since but so far have been unsuccessful. The latest legislation seeking to do so is House Bill 1860.



House approves weakening voting rights protections

The House of Representatives on April 6 voted 97-45 to pass Republican legislation that could severely weaken the Missouri Constitution's voting rights protections and allow lawmakers to exclude certain legal voters from participating. **I voted NO!** The measure advances to the Senate and would go on the Nov. 8 ballot for voter ratification if it wins final legislative passage.

The state constitution currently protects voting rights for "all" U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old, Missouri residents and registered to vote. House Joint Resolution 131 would change it to say "only" people who meet those requirements can vote. However, that simple one-word shift would eliminate the constitution's current absolute guarantee of voting rights to those who meet the constitutional requirements and enable the legislature to pass laws disenfranchising certain subsets of otherwise eligible voters.



House supports letting utilities pass on costs to customers

House Bill 1684 would create a loophole in a law Missouri voters enacted in 1976 with 63.1 percent support that prohibits power utilities from imposing costs on customers until a facility is on line and generating electricity.

Supporters say the change will encourage Ameren Missouri to build a second nuclear plant in the state. Opponents say utility investors should bear the upfront costs and associated risks and noted situations in other

states in which customers were charged billions of dollars for plants that were never built. **I voted NO!**

The House of Representatives voted 100-40 on April 6 to advance legislation to the Senate that would authorize investor-owned electric utilities to charge customers upfront for the cost of planning or constructing a nuclear power plant. Republicans supported the bill, while Democrats opposed it.



GOP officials sue over congressional redistricting failure

Two top Missouri Republican Party officials sued Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft on March 31 seeking to block him from using the state's decade-old congressional districts for the 2022 elections and asking a judge to draw new districts given the General Assembly's failure to do so. The lawsuit is similar to one filed weeks earlier on behalf of Democratic voters.

The House of Representatives and Senate, both controlled by Republicans, remain deadlocked over redrawing Missouri's eight congressional districts to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census. In the absence of new districts, Ashcroft, also a Republican, allowed candidates for the Aug. 2 congressional primaries to file under the state's outdated congressional map enacted in 2011. Both the Republican and Democratic lawsuits contend the current districts are unconstitutional and can't be used since they aren't based on the most recent Census.

The two cases were filed in Cole County and assigned to the same judge. As of April 6, no action had been taken in either.



Net general revenue up 5.6 percent compared to last year

Net state general revenue collections for the first nine months of the 2022 fiscal year were up 5.6 percent compared to the same period in FY 2021, going from \$7.85 billion last year to \$8.29 billion this year, according the Missouri Division of Budget and Planning. Year-to-date net general revenue had been up just 2.2 percent through the first eight months of the fiscal year.

The big jump in year-to-date revenue in just one month was due to unusually strong collections in March, which saw net collections rise by a whopping 42.6 percent compared to March 2021, going from \$650.2 million last year to

\$926.9 million this year.

BILLS THIRD READ IN THE HOUSE THIS WEEK

HB 1472 - Modifies the offense of money laundering

HB 1562 - Establishes the Stars and Stripes Historic Region

HB 1597 - Authorizes the conveyance of certain state property

HB 1662 - Changes the laws regarding restrictive covenants by expanding the definition of prohibited covenants and establishes a procedure to remove prohibited covenants from deeds

HB 1682 - Prohibits a county, municipality, or other political subdivision from imposing or enforcing a moratorium on eviction proceedings unless authorized by state law

HB 1684 - Prohibits a county, municipality, or other political subdivision from imposing or enforcing a moratorium on eviction proceedings unless authorized by state law

HB 1954 - Establishes provisions requiring certain persons convicted of driving while intoxicated to pay child maintenance

HB 2000 - Establishes Holocaust Education Week

HB 2012 - Modifies provisions relating to health care

HB 2032 - Establishes and modifies provisions relating to child trafficking

HB 2088 - Establishes the Earning Safe Reentry Through Work Act of 2021

HB 2120 - Creates the Personal Privacy Protection Act

HB 2127 - Modifies and establishes offenses involving teller machines

HB 2143 - Changes the laws regarding cemetery trust funds to allow use of principal funds in certain situations

HB 2151 - Changes provisions governing the provision of services to children

HB 2289 - Changes the law regarding advertisements and orders of publication in newspapers

HB 2387 - Establishes the soybean producers assessment and its relationship to the federal assessment

HB 2400 - Modifies provisions relating to professional employer organizations

HB 2416 - Modifies provisions relating to motor vehicle dealer sales practices

HB 2462 - Designates several health-related awareness holidays

HB 2485 - Enacts provisions governing advanced recycling

HB 2587 - Establishes the Regulatory Sandbox Act

HB 2607 - Modifies provisions relating to excursion gambling boat facilities

HB 2627 - Designates two new public holidays

HB 2697 - Establishes the offense of organized retail theft

To read more on these bills [click here](#)

These bills now head to the Senate

Congratulations to Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson!

The U.S. Senate voted today to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown

Jackson as the 116th Supreme Court justice and the first Black woman and former public defender to ever serve on the court.



**Certain taxpayers may
qualify to e-file their
federal and state
income tax returns
free of charge.**

[Click here to see if you qualify](#)



Individual Income Tax FAQs

Check the status of your Missouri State Tax returns





The Capitol Dome was shining teal Wednesday, April 6, 2022, until sunrise on Thursday, April 7, 2022, in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. If you or someone you know is in need of care or support, please contact the National **Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE).**

For more information on available resources, please visit the @MoPublicSafety resources for crime victims webpage: <https://dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/cvsu/victim-resources.php> ...

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





Leaf & Brush

Spring 2022
Set-out Dates

KCMO.GOV/
LEAFANDBRUSH

----- YOUR ----- TRASH DAY	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
MONDAY	APRIL 11	MARCH 28	APRIL 25
TUESDAY	APRIL 12	MARCH 29	APRIL 26
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 13	MARCH 30	APRIL 27
THURSDAY	APRIL 14	MARCH 31	APRIL 28
FRIDAY	APRIL 15	APRIL 1	APRIL 29

2 Years of **FREE** College!

Missouri **A+** Scholarship Program

Talk to your counselor.
Enroll today!

Start your game plan:

- Maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher
- Make 95% attendance
- Perform community service
- Show good citizenship
- Pass a math exam





**LET'S GO
ROYALS!**

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.



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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