



Capitol Report

February 16, 2023

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Dear Neighbor,

What a week! Congratulations to our Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs. It has been a festive time across our state which brought great enthusiasm for Wednesday's parade and the attention shifts to the NFL Draft, which will take place at Union Station in April.

The main piece of legislation passed out of the House was a supplemental budget that includes \$148.71 million for matching grants to federally qualified health centers and an 8.7 percent pay raise for state workers. The bill now heads to the Senate.

I hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day and have a great weekend!

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard





Senate approves restrictions on teaching about racism

The Missouri Senate on Feb. 14 voted 21-12 in favor of legislation imposing significant restrictions on how schools teach about past or present racism in society. The bill now advances to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

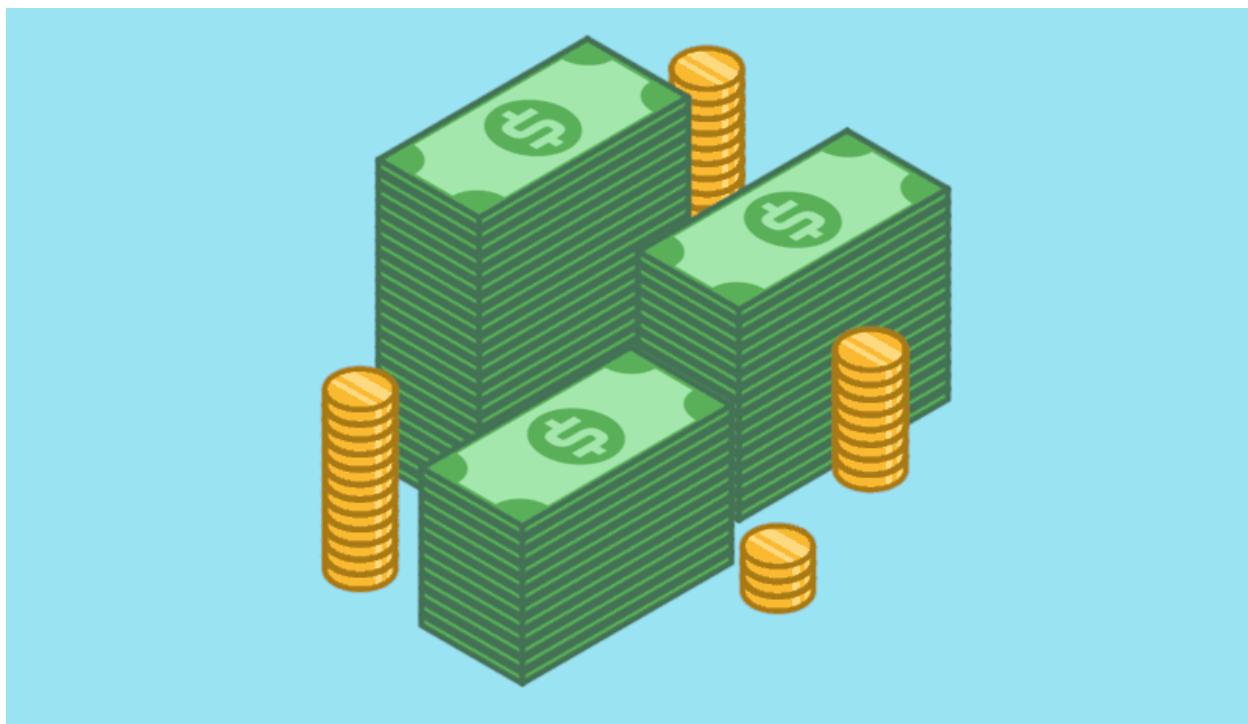
When the Senate originally debated Senate Bill 4 on the first day of Black History Month, it sparked fierce opposition from Black senators who branded the measure as a blatant attempt suppress unpleasant facts majority Republicans would rather not acknowledge, especially those pertaining to the historic mistreatment of Black Americans. As a compromise, the sponsor agreed to slightly soften the measure, but critics contend the bill is still designed to excise anti-racism instruction and the history of traditionally marginalized groups from public school curricula.

SB 4 passed on a largely party-line vote with all 10 Senate Democrats voting against it. Two far-right Republicans opposed the bill because they felt its restrictions on instruction didn't go far enough.

The bill is part of a nationwide Republican campaign against "critical race theory," a law school concept that examines racism's continuing effect on institutions. Although it isn't taught in K-12 schools, Republicans commonly mischaracterize CRT to target any discussion of race or racism in public schools. The original version of SB 4 specifically banned CRT, although it didn't define it. The revised version removed the reference to CRT but retains the restrictions on race-related instruction.



Thanks Missouri Retired Teachers Association for inviting me to speak with you!



House advances supplemental spending bill to Senate

The Missouri Senate is expected to move quickly to finalize \$627.15 million in emergency supplemental spending for the current fiscal year after the House of Representatives on Feb. 14 voted 151-2 to approve the measure. Gov. Mike Parson wants lawmakers to send him the bill as soon as possible so that an 8.7 percent pay increase for state workers can take effect March 1. **I voted YES on the Bill.**

While the bulk of the spending authority in the measure is for the pay hikes and related benefits and costs, House Bill 14 also includes \$275 million for disaster aid grants, \$148.71 million for matching grants to federally qualified health centers, \$20 million to bolster security at local schools and \$3 million for the Wood Energy Tax Credit Program, among other items.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to hear the bill in the coming days. If the Senate passes HB 14 without changes, it would go to the governor to be signed into law. The bill includes additional spending authority for the final four months of the 2023 fiscal year, which ends June 30.



House takes aim at local vehicle charging station mandates

Local governments would be forced to pick up the tab for requiring businesses and property developers to install electric vehicle charging stations in their parking lots under legislation the Missouri House of Representatives approved Feb. 16 on a vote of 105-36. The bill now advances to the Senate.

House Bill 184 is in response to a 2021 St. Louis County ordinance requiring developers to install a certain amount of charging stations. The county eased the requirement the following year to apply only to parking lots with 30 or more spaces after complaints that the original ordinance imposed too onerous a burden.

Supporters of HB 184 say it will prevent local governments from imposing costly unfunded mandates on businesses and property owners. Opponents of the measure says it interferes with local control and ignores the growing need for charging stations as drivers increasingly switch to electric vehicles.



House Members recognized the Kansas City Chiefs this week on winning Super Bowl LVII.

PEACE FOR  UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



STATE SENATOR BARBARA ANNE WASHINGTON

TOWN HALL / DISCUSSION

Let your voice be heard!



Date: February 18
Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Morning Star Youth & Family Life Center
2525 E. 27th Street, Kansas City, MO 64127

FIND OUT:

- * How the new marijuana laws affect you
- * How to qualify for Medicaid Expansion services

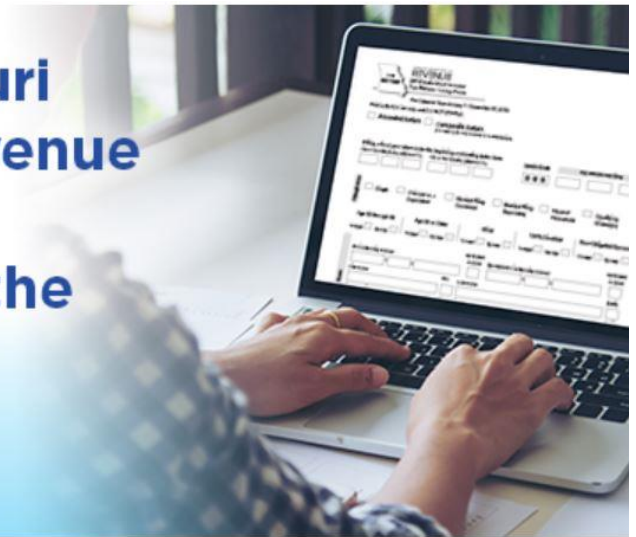
Bring your ideas and concerns.

RSVP to Brian.Farmer@senate.mo.gov
or call 573 - 751 - 3158
Breakfast will be served.

Individual Income Tax Electronic Filing

The IRS and Missouri Department of Revenue are now accepting e-filed returns for the 2022 tax year

[Click here for more information](#)



Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

Special Encore Screening of
"A Conversation in Dance"

*A film by Rodney M. Thompson and
W. Stinson McClendon*

and

"2-Step" Dance Showcase

hosted by De Barker

"KC's 2-Step Dance Queen"

with special guest DJ and KC Dance Couples

The documentary focuses on the Kansas City "2-Step", a variation of the jitterbug ballroom dance of the 1940's that is unique to Kansas City. The film chronicles the spirited quest of 25 couples vying to win the \$10,000 BIG STEP-OFF dance contest.

**Friday, February 24, 2023
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Bruce R. Watkins
Cultural Heritage Center**
3700 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Happy Hour Dance Showcase
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Film Screening and Q&A
6:45 - 8:30 p.m.

Free Admittance.

For more information, call 816.513.0700
www.brucewatkinscenter.com

kcparks.org





FOOD PANTRY KANSAS CITY

SERVICES PROVIDED

Food, SNAP application, education and enrollment, hygiene item assistance, internal program referrals, external program referrals, financial assistance.

ORDER ONLINE

www.ServeAndLiftCenter.org

HOURS

Monday	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

8001 LONGVIEW ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64134
816-929-1498

THANK YOU

PETER & VERONICA MALLOUK



Catholic
Charities
USA.




SERVEANDLIFTCENTER.ORG




MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES
Timeline of Missouri's African American History

[Click here to read about Missouri Black History.](#)




**CELEBRATING
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**


**VIRTUAL ZOOM
LUNCH & LEARN
SPEAKER SERIES**




WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1, 12-1 P.M.
ALVIN BROOKS
FORMER KC MAYOR PRO TEM
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/87087335286](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/87087335286)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 12-1 P.M.
GWEN GRANT
PRESIDENT & CEO, URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/83124744873](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/83124744873)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, 12-1 P.M.
ERIC WESSON
MANAGING EDITOR & PUBLISHER, THE KANSAS CITY CALL
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/81848350358](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/81848350358)



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 12-1 P.M.
BRIDGETTE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT & CEO, HEAVY CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/82542417907](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/82542417907)

RIGHT TO COUNSEL

FREE Legal Services for Tenants Facing Eviction



KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI



KC is the **13th city**
to offer this service free



Helped 100s of families
Since launching June 1

**JACKSON COUNTY
HOUSING COURT
EVICTION RATE**



without RtC

99%

VS

with RtC

<20%

816-474-5112 | gkcassistanceprogram.org/EvictionDefense/



**The Super Bowl Championship Parade
will forever be memorable.**

MEDICAID UPDATE

Medicaid Annual Renewals to Restart April 1, 2023

Since COVID hit, we have been in a Public Health Emergency (PHE). As part of the PHE, Missouri has not been able to disenroll anyone from Medicaid except in very

limited circumstances.

The federal government is ending the PHE for Medicaid on April 1, and **Missouri will start the process of reviewing eligibility for all Medicaid participants.** Participants will be processed by their renewal month (generally the month the family initially signed up for Medicaid).

Get ready for renewals by keeping your contact information up to date so you can get important updates in the mail. **If your address has changed in the last 3 years, you will need to notify the Family Support Division.** You can update your address [online](#), at a [Family Services Division office](#), or by calling 855-373-4636.

You will receive a letter in the mail sometime between April 2023 and April 2024. You can check the [annual renewal timeline](#) to find out when you should expect to get your letter. This letter will tell you what, if anything, you need to do next. If a response is required, make sure to submit it by the deadline so you do not risk losing your healthcare coverage.

Important Medicaid Alert

Missouri will be restarting
Medicaid eligibility renewals
on April 1, 2023.



PREPARE TO RENEW

Beginning April 1, the Family Support Division will again be required to check the eligibility of all MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) participants each year. This is called a Medicaid eligibility renewal, or annual renewal. Follow these steps to make sure you complete your renewal on time:



Report changes, like a
new address, to the
Family Support Division



Watch for an annual
renewal form or letter in
the mail



Complete renewal form
(if you get one) by the
deadline in letter

Learn more about renewals and update your address at mydss.mo.gov/renew.



home state health



Healthy Blue



UnitedHealthcare

Missouri Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES

Learn more
mydss.mo.gov/renew



**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

201 West Capitol Avenue

Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

richard.brown@house.mo.gov

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback,

questions or ideas!



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