



Capitol Report

January 13, 2022

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GO CHIEFS

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! As a retired educator who spent my entire teaching career in Kansas City Public Schools, I would like to congratulate Dr. Bedell, his team, the parents, students, community partners and everyone who took interest in working to regain full accreditation for the district. It truly took a village to reach the goal of full accreditation. Thank you!

As we start the new year. I am very optimistic in getting legislation to the finish line that will help people in our state. As we return to the capitol, I have an idea of how things will go this year. Although there is no longer a Republican supermajority in the House, there will be the

expected legislation pertaining to guns and abortion, but I will focus on passing bills that have real meaning and a lasting effect on our state.

This includes creating tax credits for senior home owners, criminal justice reform (wrongful conviction compensation), and using the federal dollars that we have received during the COVID emergency to improve our infrastructure and give additional funding to much needed programs such as Medicaid and Head Start.

If you should plan to travel to Jefferson City between now and May, please let me know you are coming as I would like to invite you to my office for a visit. I am always thrilled when the neighbors I represent come to the Capitol.

Yours in Service,

Rich



Kansas City Public Schools regain full state accreditation

The Missouri State Board of Education voted unanimously on Jan. 11 to immediately restore full accreditation to the Kansas City

Public Schools. In making its decision, the board cited improved academic performance by students, better instructional systems and stability in the district's leadership.

"This is an opportunity to commend the really great things happening in KCPS," Board President Charlie Shields said. "While this is clearly a significant step in the right direction, KCPS and its leaders still have work to do and must ensure this momentum continues in the district."

The Kansas City district initially lost its accreditation in 2000 but made sufficient improvements to achieve provisional accreditation in 2002. The district again lost its accreditation in 2011 before regaining the provisional designation in 2014, a status it had maintained ever since.

House Legislative Dashboard





Raises for state workers needed amid turnover and vacancies, Missouri budget director says

Galen Bacharier, Springfield News-Leader
Tue, January 11, 2022, 9:13 AM

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri's budget director asked lawmakers to approve raises for state workers Monday, citing a "historically unique" labor market marked by high vacancies and turnover across the government. Outlining the specifics of Gov. Mike Parson's request for over \$5 billion of additional spending over several hours, Dan Haug told the House budget committee the money would provide a much-needed boost for departments and institutions struggling to recruit and retain workers. "We're seeing quite a bit of turnover in all areas," Haug said, pointing specifically to residential care facilities, prisons and

mental health providers working on strained skeleton staff. "On certain shifts, if someone on the next shift isn't there ... we're having to force people to stay overtime on the next shift. We need to be competitive in our wages."

State worker raises: [Gov. Parson recommends minimum wage hike to \\$15, 5.5% pay increase](#)

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House committee advances congressional redistricting bill

On an 8-3 party-line vote, a House committee on Jan. 12 approved a Republican plan to redraw Missouri's eight congressional districts to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census. The full House of Representatives is expected to

debate the bill Jan. 18, with the intent of advancing it to the Senate not long after.

Lawmakers must have new congressional districts in place before candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary elections opens on Feb. 22. Normally, redistricting would have been completed during the 2021 legislative session. However, since the pandemic resulted in the detailed Census data needed for the task not being made available to states until last fall – and the governor’s refusal to call a special session on the subject – the task was pushed until now.

Even if lawmakers pass the redistricting bill by the deadline, it would require an emergency clause in order to take effect in time for filing. Without one, pursuant to the state constitution, the bill wouldn’t take effect until Aug. 28, weeks after the primaries. Not only would an emergency clause require the support of two-thirds majorities in both chambers – itself an uncertain outcome – it is questionable whether one is even constitutionally allowed under the circumstances.

Rather than something lawmakers can add to a bill at their discretion as a matter of convenience, or even out of practical necessity, the state constitution permits emergency clauses only when “necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety.” As a result, it isn’t certain congressional redistricting meets that narrow constitutional standard.

Missouri’s congressional delegation currently consists of six Republicans and two Democrats, all who represent districts considered safe for their respective parties. House Bill 2117 would preserve that partisan split. However, some hardline conservatives want an aggressive gerrymander that seeks to create a 7-1 delegation favoring the GOP. But given the large number of Democratic voters that would have to be redistributed from a Kansas City-area district, such a move could easily backfire and cost Republicans seats over the 10-year life of the plan.

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



Mayor Lucas stopped in to visit this week.



Resignations Cost Republicans House Supermajority

A rash of resignations has cost Republicans their two-thirds supermajority in the Missouri House of Representatives at crucial moment when it could prove necessary to enact new congressional districts in time for candidate filing in February. The legislature must redraw the state's eight congressional districts this year to

reflect population shifts over the last decade.

House Republicans held a 114-49 advantage over Democrats during the 2021 session. However, the GOP numbers have since dropped to 108 – one short of the 109 votes constitutionally required to override a veto or, more importantly to the current situation, to enact an emergency clause allowing legislation to take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor.

Three of the vacancies occurred in recent days, starting with the Jan. 2 resignation of state Rep. Wayne Wallingford, R-Cape Girardeau, who stepped down to become director of the Missouri Department of Revenue. Days later, state Reps. Aaron Griesheimer of Washington and Justin Hill of Lake St. Louis resigned to take private sector jobs.

With candidate filing for the Aug. 2 party primary elections set to open Feb. 22, the congressional redistricting bill must be enacted and in effect by that time. However, without an emergency clause, bills passed in the regular legislative session don't take effect until Aug. 28, regardless of when the governor signs them into law. In this instance, that would be nearly four weeks after the primary election.

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft issued a news release on Jan. 5 asking Gov. Mike Parson, a fellow Republican, to immediately call special elections for April 5 to fill the six vacant seats. Parson had ample opportunity to call special elections for the first three vacancies, which were created in April, October and November, respectively, but chose not to do so. Even if he did call them now, it would prove no help for congressional redistricting since it likely would be early May before the winners could be seated. The session ends May 13.

As a result, enacting an emergency clause for the congressional redistricting bill would require Democratic support, which at the moment appears unlikely since the proposed Republican plan calls for packing Democrats into just two districts and maintaining six

safe GOP districts. Some far-right Republican lawmakers want to gerrymander even further by chopping up a Democratic district in the Kansas City area in an attempt to secure a 7-1 Republican congressional delegation. However, Republican legislative leaders have resisted that plan since it would dilute GOP strength in surrounding districts and potentially cost the party seats over the long term.



House committee hears bills banning teaching about racism

Parents, students and educators packed a House hearing on Jan. 11 to testify against so-called “parents bill of rights” legislation that would ban public schools from teaching about racism and allow parents to sue school districts and teachers for teaching subjects they find objectionable.

The vaguely worded House Bill 1995 would allow parents to object to their child being taught anything the parent deems “divisive or controversial.” Since the bill doesn’t define those terms, what is considered “divisive or controversial” is purely subjective. Schools could face civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for violations plus be required to pay the parents’ attorney fees.

The other measure, House Bill 1474, would broadly prohibit public schools from teaching about racism and its impact on institutions and society. It also would ban discussion of a list of particular works relating to racism.

Those opposed to the bills packed two House hearing rooms and overflowed into the surrounding hallways. Only a relative few testified against the bills. In addition, more than a thousand people submitted online testimony, primarily in opposition. The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee took no immediate action on either bill but is expected to vote on them at a later date.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



LOST YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION RECORD CARD?



Lost your vaccine card? Here's what you can do in Missouri

BY KAITLYN SCHALLHORN ON JUNE 18, 2021

<https://themissouritimes.com/lost-your-vaccine-card-heres-what-you-can-do-in-missouri/>

Those who have received any of the [COVID-19](#) vaccinations were given a small white card that lists the date and vaccine dose. While most places aren't requiring proof of vaccinations, some businesses, [like cruises and venues](#), might require proof of inoculation.

But what happens if you lose your card?

Missouri does not yet have a digital version of the vaccination card, but those who used the state's [Vaccine Navigator website](#) to schedule their shot would have emails and information on their profiles showing their vaccination information, said Lisa Cox, communications director for the Department of Health and Senior

Services (DHSS). However, that's not exactly a digital version of the vaccination record card.

DHSS is not giving out replacement cards, Cox said, but Missourians can request immunization records from DHSS which would include that information.

Missourians can also contact their providers as some pharmacies, [such as CVS](#), can reissue a card if the original has been lost or destroyed.

Some states, such as New York and [California](#), are offering digital vaccination cards. [Walmart](#), too, has a digital record for those who have been vaccinated at its pharmacies can access.

As of Friday, more than 2.3 million Missourians have completed the vaccination process. And 53.8 percent of adult Missourians have initiated the vaccination process. President Joe Biden [had set a goal](#) of 70 percent of adults in the U.S. receiving at least the first dose by July 4.



Each morning before the start of session,
the House pauses for prayer.

The Pandemic aint over!



STAY INFORMED

FREE COVID TESTING

DRIVE-THRU COVID TESTING PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF MISSOURI



NEXTGEN

MISSOURI SERVICES

PCR COVID TESTING



PCR TESTING

- Completely FREE
- Drive-thru
- No appointment
- Results within 48 hours, but usually by next day

4 DAYS A WEEK AT 2 KC LOCATIONS

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS

Labor Union Local #663
Parking Lot
7820 Prospect
KCMO 64132
10am - 6pm

SATURDAYS

Teamsters Local #955
Parking Lot
4501 Emanuel Cleaver II
KCMO 64130
10am - 6pm



HOURS: 10A - 6P

MON: 79th & Prospect

TUE: n/a

WED: n/a

THU: 79th & Prospect

FRI: 79th & Prospect

SAT: 45th & Cleaver Blvd

SUN: n/a





Ms. Bettylu Donaldson

October 26, 1926 ~ January 5, 2022

Mrs. Donaldson was my neighbor for 50 years.
She is the mother of Diane Cleaver and mother -in-law of
Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II.

**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 Gentsch 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!



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