



Capitol Report

January 27 , 2022

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Dear Neighbor,

It was a fairly light work week on the House floor as we third read only one bill. This was the omnibus tax credit bill for the agriculture industry.

We are preparing to hear Covid related legislation very soon as hearings were held this week on 19 Covid bills, many related to mask mandates and vaccines. I know this has been a trying time with the pandemic, but the entire planet is trying to figure out the correct plan of action to eradicate the virus.

This week, the Missouri Attorney General filed suits against 45 Missouri school districts that have mask mandates including KCPS, Center 58, Hickman Mills C-1 and Raytown C-2; all of which I represent in our district. I support our locally elected school boards and the decisions they have made to protect the teachers and students in our buildings. As a retired teacher, I know first hand how easy it is to pass germs and viruses in our schools and it is vital to protect everyone so that we can continue in person learning for the children.

I want to encourage you to stay safe and continue to follow CDC recommendations to protect your loved ones and yourself. As the saying goes, "tough times don't last... but tough people do!"

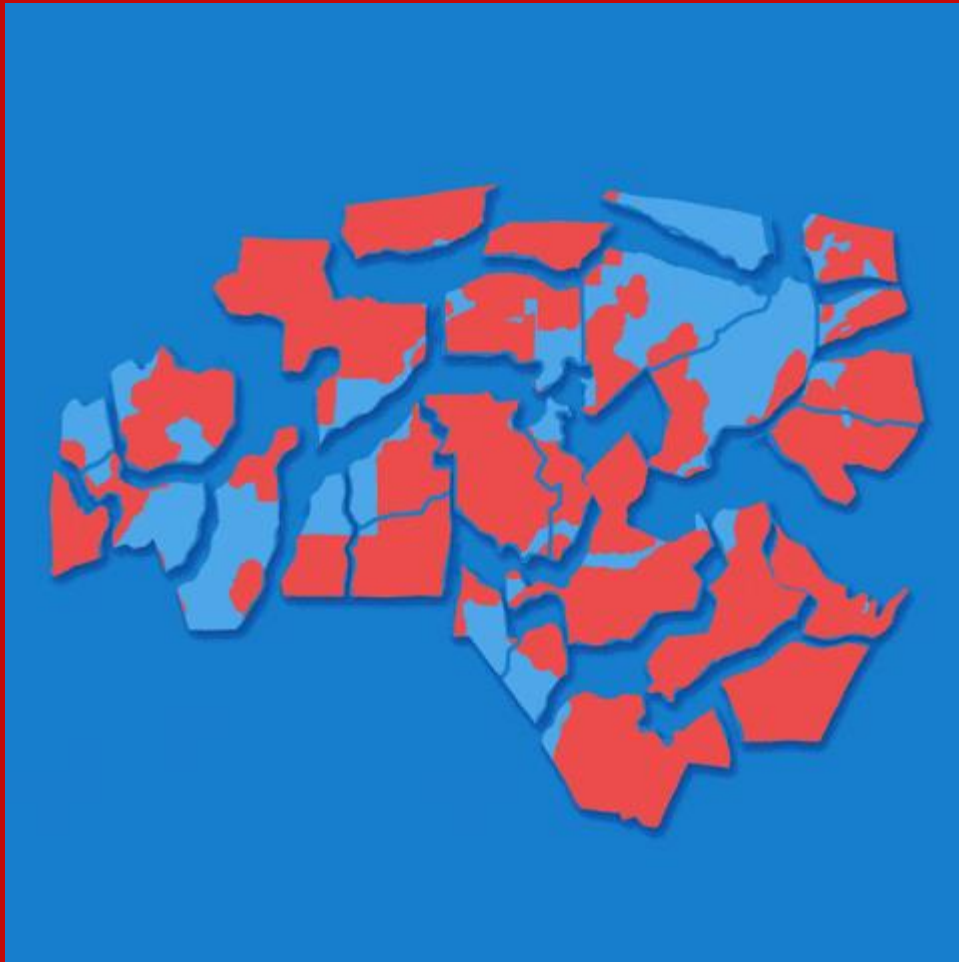
Have a great weekend and GO CHIEFS!

Yours in Service,
Rich

House Legislative Dashboard







Senate hardliners push for 7-1 GOP congressional map

The Missouri Senate's hardline conservative faction held the floor for five hours on Jan. 26 to protest a congressional redistricting bill that likely would preserve the current split of six Republicans and two Democrats in the state's congressional delegation. The handful of hardliners are demanding the chamber instead enact a plan they believe would result in a 7-1 split favoring Republicans.

The full Senate had been expected to take up the bill Jan. 26,

one day after the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting voted 9-5 in favored of it. However, the hardliners took control of the Senate floor while the chamber was conducting procedural business. After a lengthy break, the Senate ultimately adjourned for the day without ever formally taking up the bill.

House Bill 2117, which has already cleared the House of Representatives, would largely maintain the status quo with two safe Democratic districts – one each in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas – and six safe Republican districts. While the hardliners want to carve up the Kansas City district to create another GOP-leaning seat, Republican legislative leadership is concerned the plan would dilute the party's voting strength in the affected districts, resulting in a so-called "dummymander" in which an overly aggressive gerrymander causes the party in power to lose seats instead of gaining them.

The Senate could debate the bill as soon as Jan. 31. If the measure passes without changes, it would go straight to the governor to be signed into law. Since the House previously rejected adding an emergency clause allowing the bill to take effect immediately upon being signed, it won't take effect until Aug. 28 – nearly four weeks after the Aug. 2 congressional primary elections. With candidate filing set to open Feb. 22, the timing issue still needs to be resolved.

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

THIS IS CHIEFS KINGDOM

When it's grim - be the Grim Reaper





Attorney general sues 45 school districts over masking rules

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt has filed 45 separate lawsuits against local public school districts seeking to block mask mandates put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff. Many districts, however, have pushed back, noting their actions are authorized under state law, while Schmitt claims to the contrary rest on a flimsy legal foundation.

For nearly two months, Schmitt, a Republican, had been threatening Missouri schools over their mask mandates, falsely claiming that a November ruling by a Cole County circuit judge prevents them from imposing such requirements. However, despite previously basing his entire position on that ruling, Schmitt didn't even mention it in his lawsuits. That likely because – Schmitt's prior claims

notwithstanding – the judge’s decision was limited to striking down four state health department regulations and didn’t in any way invalidate or restrict the statutory authority of public school districts to take actions to mitigate the spread of communicable disease.

In fact, the nearly identical lawsuits, while declaring that mask mandates are illegal and violate the rights of students and parents, cite little in the way of relevant legal authority in support of those declarations. Schmitt has made challenging COVID-19 mitigation efforts the central component of his campaign for the Republican nomination for a U.S. Senate seat.

Schmitt sued 36 districts on Jan. 21, trickling out announcements on social media about each one over the course of the day. He filed the remaining nine lawsuits on Jan. 24. So far, Schmitt hasn’t sued every public school district with a mask mandate and has not sued any public charter school with such a requirement.



Supreme Court appoints Appellate Redistricting Commission

The Missouri Supreme Court has appointed a commission of six appellate judges to draw new state Senate districts after another commission that had first crack at the job deadlocked on partisan lines. The court quietly issued an order appointing the new commission on Jan. 11, but it didn't officially take over the process until Jan. 23.

Under the Missouri Constitution, the Appellate Redistricting Commission has through April 23 to finalize 34 new Senate districts that reflect population shifts over the previous decade. As a practical matter, however, the commission needs to complete the job before candidate filing for the Aug. 2 party primary elections opens on Feb. 23.

The appellate commission consists of judges from the Missouri Court of Appeals' three districts, which are based in Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield. The panel is split evenly between judges appointed by Democratic and Republican governors.

The Democratic appointees are Judges Cynthia Martin of the Western District, Angela Turner Quigless of the Eastern District and Mary Scheffield of the Southern District. The Republican appointees are Judges Thomas Chapman of the Western District, Michael Gardner of the Eastern District and Gary Lynch of the Southern District.

The original Senate redistricting commission consisted of 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the two political parties. It reached an impasse before the Dec. 23 constitutional deadline for submitting a preliminary map and was formally discharged on Jan. 23. A similar House redistricting commission completed its work of drawing new districts for the 163-member lower chamber and finalized its plan on Jan. 19.



Traveler Information Map



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS







Jonathan Henry is with Richard Brown and 2 others.

20m · 🌐



The teacher that saved my life [Richard Brown](#)...

I was headed down a bad path in high school and was constantly getting into fights with a bad crowd.

One day the guys decided they didn't want to fight anymore and hid behind the school with a brick waiting on me.

I think [Tony Cloke](#) saved me by telling me this if I remember correctly.

I was upset and being young and immature I heard this and got even more upset.

Mr Brown got to me and explained to me that if I kept down this path with these guys I was gonna probably get killed...

I honestly never thought about it up until that point. I had very little regard for my own life at this time.

I listened to him and backed down once I saw my life flash before my eyes. It was a wake-up call I needed.

Awesome time to run into Mr. Brown on our trip to talk to representatives for funding for charter schools.

Thanks again Mr. Brown for saving me. 😊



The Pandemic aint over!



**We Test
Because
We Care**

University Health (Truman Medical Centers) continue to offer COVID-19 tests and vaccines to the community. You may call 816-404-CARE to schedule an appointment at one of our two hospital locations. The Jackson County Health Department has numerous vaccine and testing clinics available. See <https://jacohtd.org/events/> . More information is available at <https://jacohtd.org/> . Please be patient -- because the demand is great for tests, there might be some wait time on the phone.

The **Center for COVID Recovery** is open to treat patients who experience long-term effects from the disease. For more information, visit <https://www.trumed.org/covid-19/center-for-covid-recovery/> ; please share this information with anyone who continues to struggle after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Related podcast: <https://www.kcur.org/podcast/up-to-date/2022-01-15/kansas-citians-struggle-with-long-term-effects-of-covid-19> .

Some Missourians are now eligible for Medicaid -- more information is available at <https://www.trumed.org/medicaid-application/> or 816.631-3234. Our Financial Counselors welcome the opportunity to assist you in the Medicaid application process. Here is a short video to assist you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gjsm4pYBDpU>



Get **free** COVID test kits at
COVIDtests.gov

- ▶ There are no shipping costs.
- ▶ You don't have to give a credit card or bank account number.
- ▶ You only need to give your name and address.

Anyone who asks for more information than that is a scammer.

Report them to the FTC at
ReportFraud.ftc.gov or your attorney
general at **ConsumerResources.org**.

 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL

 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Order your FREE COVID-19 Home Test Here.
<https://special.usps.com/testkits>



MISSOURI
CORONAVIRUS

STAY INFORMED

FREE COVID TESTING

DRIVE-THRU COVID TESTING PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF MISSOURI



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

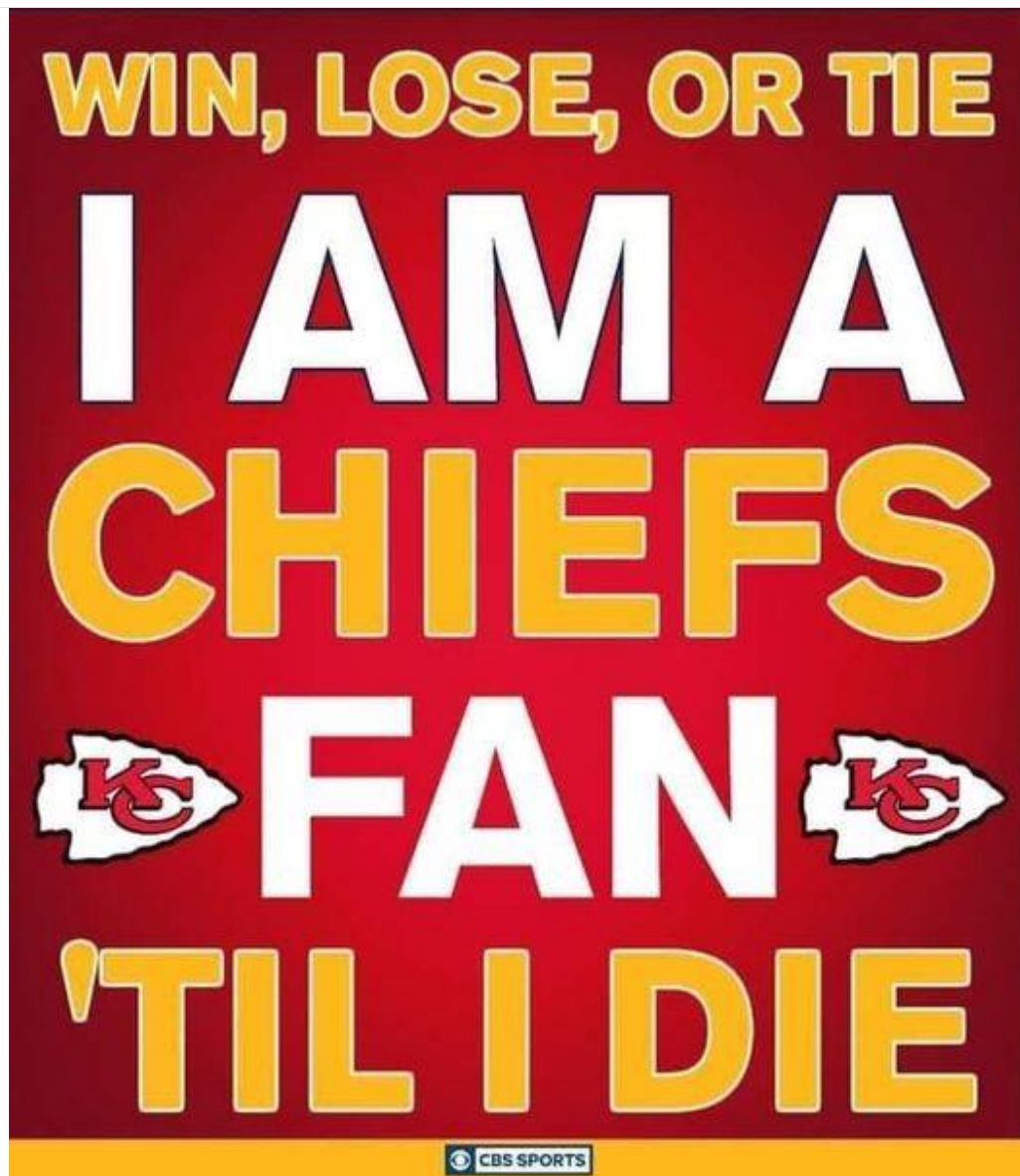
SAT: 45th & Cleaver Blvd

SUN: n/a

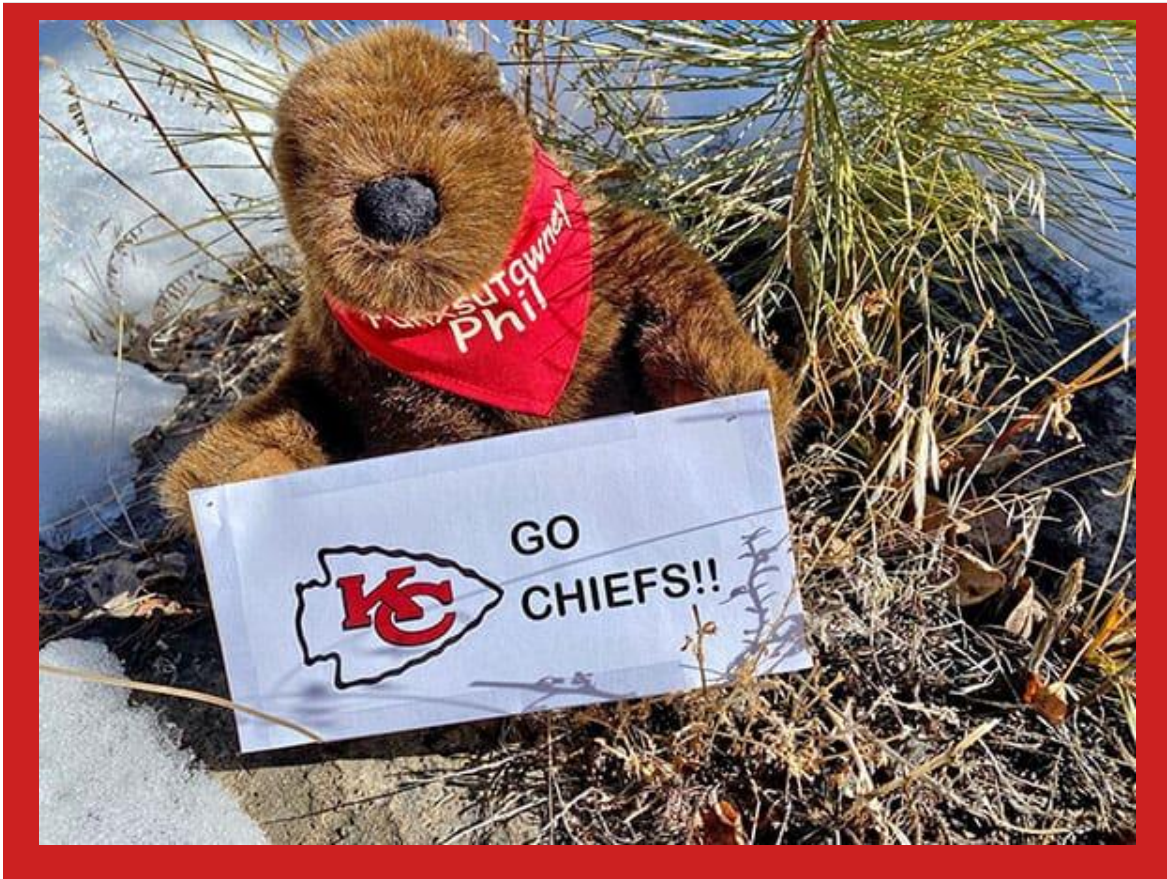
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/community-test.php>

Game time is Sunday @ 2:00 PM Central Time





Happy Groundhog Day!



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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