




Happy 4th of July!

Capitol Report

July 2, 2020

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds all is well with you and yours. In Kansas City, 2020 started out as a year we looked forward to beginning with the success our Kansas City Chiefs had during their historic playoff run. That optimism quickly changed with the advent of COVID-19.

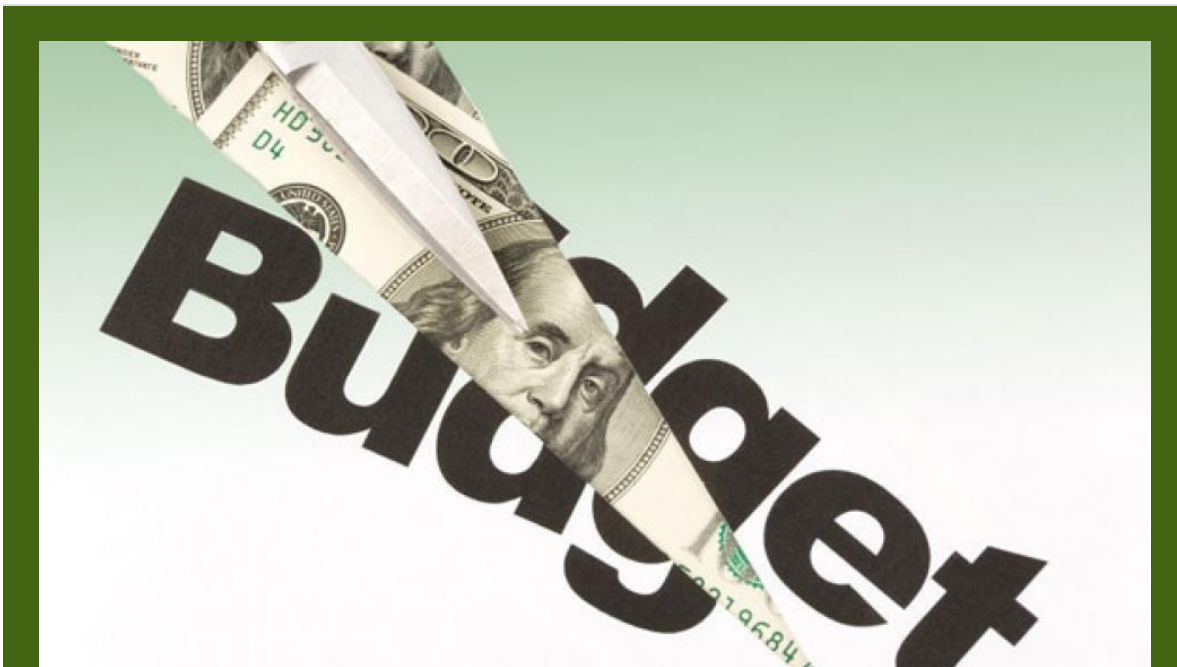
Despite the hardships and challenges we have faced in our global society over the past four months, we as Missourians and Americans continue to show ourselves as being resilient and able to withstand this critical time in humanity. We can all agree that much has changed in the world since

February 2, 2020 but by working together, we can facilitate these changes for the betterment of our society.

I want to encourage you to hold on and keep the faith as we continue moving forward into this new decade. I will continue to work with you and for you during these challenging times as our state and nation has to make tough daily decisions. Have a Happy 4th of July and please stay safe. Our health is our most precious asset.

Yours in Service,

Rich



PARSON CUTS \$448 MILLION TO START NEW FISCAL YEAR

As the 2021 state fiscal year was about to get underway, Republican Gov. Mike Parson on June 30 unilaterally froze \$448.85 million in spending authority and deleted another \$11 million by issuing roughly 200 line-item vetoes in order to put the state budget in

balance as state revenue collections continue to fall short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parson signed the remainder of the various FY 2021 budget bills into law.

The governor's action had been expected as it was widely acknowledged that the Republican-controlled General Assembly in May had enacted an unbalanced budget that authorized far more general revenue spending than the state expects to collect this year. The only question is how out of balance the legislature's budget will turn out to be.

As with the cuts Parson imposed during the final months of FY 2020, which ended June 30, Parson again targeted education with his FY 2021 reductions, slashing spending for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by \$132.55 million and taking \$55 million from the state Department of Higher Education.

Parson said his budget actions will result in about 500 state jobs being eliminated and roughly 300 current state workers being laid off. The remaining 200 jobs are vacancies that won't be filled.

On paper, the \$35.29 billion overall budget for FY 2021, which began July 1, appears to be a massive increase over the \$29.66 billion in appropriations lawmakers approved for FY 2020. However, much of the supposed increase comes from the legislature intentionally over-appropriating billions in federal COVID-19 relief funding to provide Parson greater flexibility in determining how it should be spent. Less clear is exactly how much money the federal government actually will send Missouri's way. Parson's budget freezes and line-item vetoes didn't target the overinflated federal spending authority.

While Parson can release the frozen spending authority later on in the fiscal year if state revenue collections improve, the vetoed spending authority can only be reinstated if the legislature votes to override the governor during its September veto session, which appears unlikely.

Despite issuing the most line-item vetoes since 2001, the amounts of

Parson's vetoes tended to be insignificant, with many dozens cutting less than \$100 in spending and more than a few cutting less than \$10. The bulk of the vetoes, including the low-dollar ones, involved eliminating a planned 6-cent mileage reimbursement for state agencies, funding for which was sprinkled in many places throughout the state budget bills.



GOVERNOR SIGNS EXPANDED VOTING OPTIONS INTO LAW

The governor signed legislation into law on June 4 that gives Missouri voters concerned about COVID-19 more options to avoid crowded polling places during this year's elections and vote by either absentee or mail-in ballot.

Unlike in many other states, Missouri law has long required voters to have a statutorily authorized reason for requesting an absentee ballot, the most common being that the voter will be out of their home

county on Election Day.

additionally authorizes registered voters age 65 or over, or those of any age who have a medical condition that makes them especially vulnerable to COVID-19, to cast an absentee ballot. The bill also creates a vote-by-mail process for all other Missouri voters. Unlike with absentee ballots, however, mail-in ballots would first have to be notarized.

Some local elections officials have also said that a provision of existing law allowing Missourians to vote absentee because of “incapacity or confinement due to illness” is applicable under the current circumstances. Voters who invoked this option would not have to have their ballots notarized.

The expanded absentee and mail-in ballot provisions of SB 631 only apply to the Aug. 4 primary and Nov. 3 general election and will expire at the end of the year.



There is a new combined ballot request form--both Absentee and Mail-In Ballots can be requested using this form for the August 2020 election. You can find it here:

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/ElectionGoVoteMissouri//2020/FillableBallotApplication.pdf>

And your local election authority contact info is here:

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localectionauthority>



- Are you confined, ill or at high risk of COVID-19? Vote Absentee - No Notary Required
- Permanent absentee voter - No Notary Required
- All other voters - Can vote by mail in 2020 - Ballot must be notarized

HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE OR BY MAIL IN MISSOURI IN 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

| | How Can I Vote by Mail? | Does my ballot need to be notarized? | How can I request a ballot? | Deadline to request a ballot? | How can I submit my ballot? | Deadline to submit the ballot |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Do you expect to be confined due to illness or disability, or are caring for someone who is? | Can vote absentee under excuse #2: (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability (permanent) | NO | By email, fax, in-person or by mail | Request for mail-ballot must be received by 2 nd Wednesday before Election Day Can vote absentee in person until 5p.m. day before Election Day | Can be returned in-person or by mail, by voter or a close relative of voter | Ballot must be received by close of polls on Election Day |
| Do you have or are you at risk of complications from COVID-19? At risk includes: • 65 years or older • in a long term care facility, • chronic lung disease or moderate/severe asthma • serious heart condition, • Immunocompromised, • diabetes, • liver disease, • chronic kidney disease/dialysis | Can vote absentee under excuse #7: (7) For an election that occurs during the year 2020, the voter has contracted or is in an at-risk category for contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (For 2020 only) | NO | By email, fax, in-person or by mail | Request for mail-ballot must be received by 2 nd Wednesday before Election Day Can cast absentee ballot in person until 5p.m. day before Election Day | Can be returned in-person or by mail, by voter or a close relative of voter | Ballot must be received by close of polls on Election Day |
| I wish to vote by mail but don't meet any of the excuses to vote absentee. | Any voter can vote by mail for 2020 elections. No excuse required. (For 2020 only) | YES | By mail only | Request for mail-ballot must be received by 2 nd Wednesday before Election Day | Must be returned to the election authority by MAIL only. | Ballot must be received by close of polls on Election Day |

MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION

Questions? denise@movpc.org

Sign up for alerts from MOVPC: Text MOVPC to 66866

The Primary election is just around the corner. I hope everyone is able to vote. Democracy is not something we should stand by and watch. If we do not participate in the democratic process, then democracy is not going to prosper.

Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners: (816) 842-4820

Residents of Kansas City information and voting location: <https://www.kceb.org/>

Jackson County Election Board: (816) 325-4600
Information and voting location: <https://www.jcebmo.org/election-information/voting-locations/>

Missouri State Primary Election - August 4, 2020

In-Person Absentee Voting: June 23 - Aug 3, 2020

Last Day to Register to Vote: Postmarked by Wed Jul 8, 2020

Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot: Received by Wed Jul 22, 2020 5:00PM CDT

Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot: Tue Aug 4, 2020 7:00PM CDT



COURTS CLEAR MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR AUG. 3 BALLOT

A Missouri court on June 8 ruled against two conservative groups' attempts to block voters from considering a proposed constitutional amendment on Medicaid expansion that will appear on the Aug. 4

statewide ballot. Hours after the second adverse ruling, the Missouri Supreme Court issued an order declining to hear the case on appeal, bringing it a swift and final resolution.

OVERVIEW:

Amendment 2 seeks to constitutionally establish the state's income eligibility threshold for qualifying for Medicaid, known in Missouri as MO HealthNet, at 138 percent of the federal poverty level in accordance with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It will appear on the Aug. 4 statewide ballot and, if ratified, is expected to extend health care coverage to more than 230,000 Missourians who don't currently have it.

For states that expand eligibility, the federal government pays for 90 percent of the cost, with the state picking up the remaining 10 percent. Currently, the federal government pays about 65 percent of cost of Medicaid in Missouri while the state pays about 35 percent. So, the financial terms of expansion are much more favorable to the state.

While MO HealthNet provides free coverage to children in families whose household income is as much as 150 percent of the federal poverty level, their parents only get coverage if the family's income is at or below 19 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$4,052 a year for a family of three. Able-bodied adults with no children are ineligible for MO HealthNet, regardless of their income.

Expanding Medicaid eligibility to 138 percent of the federal poverty level would extend coverage to those who earn up to \$17,236 a year as a single person or \$28,676 annually for a family of three.

Missouri is one of only 14 states that hasn't implemented Medicaid expansion.

The ballot language prepared for Amendment 2 by the Secretary of State's Office, followed by the official fiscal estimate prepared by the State Auditor's Office, says:

Amendment 2 – Medicaid Expansion

Official Ballot Title:

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:
adopt Medicaid Expansion for persons 19 to 64 years old with an income level at or below 133% of the federal poverty level, as set forth in the Affordable Care Act;

prohibit placing greater or additional burdens on eligibility or enrollment standards, methodologies or practices on persons covered under Medicaid Expansion than on any other population eligible for Medicaid; and

require state agencies to take all actions necessary to maximize federal financial participation in funding medical assistance under Medicaid Expansion?

State government entities are estimated to have one-time costs of approximately \$6.4 million and an unknown annual net fiscal impact by 2026 ranging from increased costs of at least \$200 million to savings of \$1 billion. Local governments expect costs to decrease by an unknown amount.

Fair Ballot Language:

A “**yes**” vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to adopt Medicaid Expansion for persons 19 to 64 years old with an income level at or below 133% of the federal poverty level, as set forth in the Affordable Care Act. Currently, Medicaid eligibility is set forth in state statute, but this amendment adds Medicaid Expansion to our constitution. This amendment prohibits placing greater or additional burdens on eligibility or enrollment standards, methodologies or

practices on persons covered under Medicaid Expansion than on any other population eligible for Medicaid. The amendment requires state agencies to take all actions necessary to maximize federal financial participation in funding medical assistance under Medicaid Expansion. Federal law requires states to fund a portion of the program in order to receive federal funding (state match). This amendment does not provide new state funding or specify existing funding sources for the required state match.

A “no” vote will not amend the Missouri Constitution to adopt Medicaid Expansion.

If passed, this measure has no direct impact on taxes.

[UNEMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS ARE BACK](#)

**Work Search Activities
Resume on July 5.**

Click here for more details.



[By Bailey Ketcham News-Press NOW](#)

As more businesses continue to reopen across Missouri, the Missouri Department of Labor’s Division of Employment Security

announced the return of unemployment requirements.

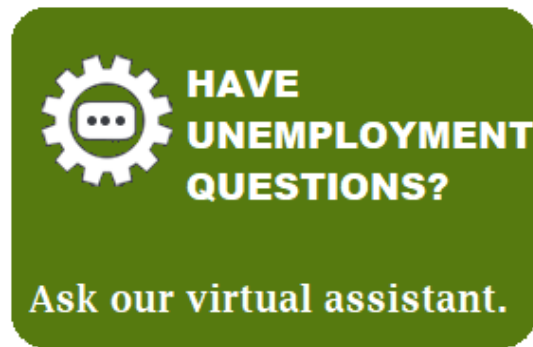
Starting the week of July 5, Missourians who want to continue receiving unemployment benefits will be required to complete three work search activities per week. Work searches were always a requirement for unemployment benefits but were lifted for those who filed a coronavirus-related unemployment claim.

Individuals with an employer-submitted recall date, in approved training, and employees on the Shared Work program are exempt from the work search requirement.

Work search activities include filing an application with an employer or through job posting sites, attending a job fair, job interview and re-employment service or skills workshop. Part-time employment performed during a week is credited on a per-day basis. All work searches must be reported each week on uinteract.labor.mo.gov or when filing the weekly request for payment.

People filing for unemployment in Missouri on or after July 5, now have a waiting week requirement again. The waiting week is the first week of a claim for which the individual is eligible for unemployment benefits but during this week, such individuals are not paid benefits. Missourians approved for benefits may receive compensation for the waiting week as the last payment on the regular unemployment claim.

Also beginning July 5, employers will be charged again for unemployment claims against their account. Employers wanting to reduce the amount of charges being made against their accounts must report employees that either refuse to return to work or are receiving pay through the Paycheck Protection Program.



Free online classes available to Missourians unemployed by coronavirus outbreak

MISSOURINET / BY ALISA NELSON

Missouri workers who have lost their jobs during the rash of COVID-19 cases can now enroll in free online classes. The Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development has partnered with Coursera, an online learning platform with 3,800 courses.

To read entire article and get more information, click [here](#)

Caregiver of the Year



Do you know someone who puts their life on hold to care for an ill family member or friend?

If so, the Department of Health and Senior Services invites you to nominate that person for Caregiver of the Year.

The department will feature a story and photo of an unpaid Missouri caregiver each month on its website. By December, an overall Caregiver of the Year will be selected.

For more information please call (573) 751-2413.

Nomination forms are available at
<http://health.mo.gov/seniors/caregiver.php>





Unclaimed Property: Missouri's Largest Lost & Found

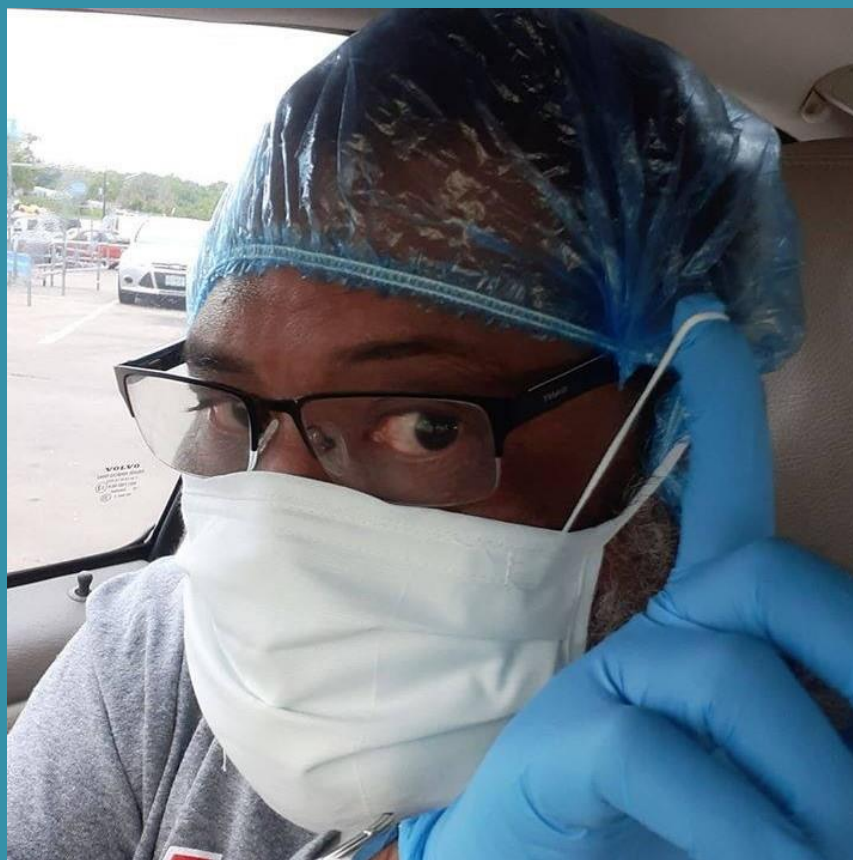
About Unclaimed Property

The Missouri State Treasurer holds \$1 billion in Unclaimed Property for Missouri in more than 5 million owner accounts. Each year financial institutions, businesses, government agencies, and other organizations turn over millions of dollars in cash and the contents of safe deposit boxes to the Treasurer's Office. These entities are required to turn over Unclaimed Property to the State Treasurer's Office after there has been no document transaction or contact with the owner for five years. One in ten Missourians has Unclaimed Property, and the average return is \$300.

A review of the Unclaimed Property database indicates the State Treasurer is currently holding \$5,356,706.24 belonging to approximately 51,679 account owners in my district. Banks, businesses, and insurance companies turn over Unclaimed Property to me after accounts have been inactive and owners cannot be successfully contacted for a statutorily defined period of time, generally five years.

Account owners can file a claim online or request a paper claim be mailed to them at any time by visiting www.ShowMeMoney.com. By

law, specific dollar amounts that exceed \$50 are not public record.



In the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19 I always wear a mask in public, practice social distancing and follow CDC recommendations when it comes to hand washing. Please stay safe!

Truman Medical Centers has available services for Jackson County residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



Practice Social Distancing





[Click here for the latest COVID-19 statistics for Missouri.](#)

**As of the time I have sent this mailing, there have been
132 homicides in the Kansas City metro area in 2020.**

In Kansas City, Missouri, 93 people have been killed.

[Click here for the Homicide Tracker.](#)


2019 Missouri
Crash Statistics

FATALITIES
880

NOT WEARING SEAT BELT
64%

As of 12/31/2019
**Seat belt stat includes only occupants of vehicles
with seat belts*


2020 Missouri
Crash Statistics

FATALITIES YTD
393

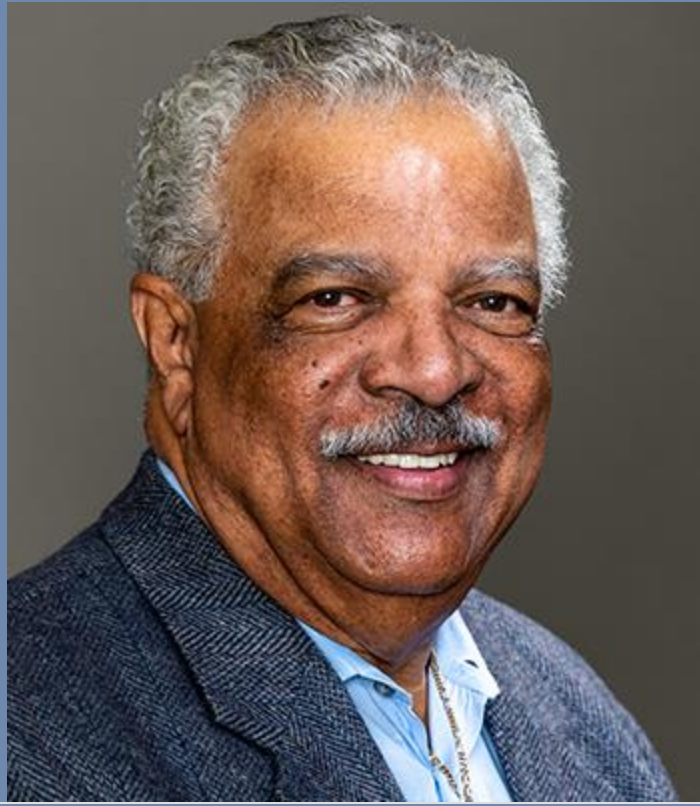
NOT WEARING SEAT BELT
71%

As of 6/22/2020
**Seat belt stat includes only occupants of vehicles
with seat belts*



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





In Memoriam
Bailus M. Tate
1946 - 2020
He will be missed.

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 109-G, 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

MO House of Representatives
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 109G
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone
573-751-7639
Email:

richard.brown@house.mo.gov

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