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**Capitol Report**

**May 25, 2022**

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***Dear Neighbor,***

**What a Legislative Session this year was!**

I realize my newsletter is arriving later than usual but, with the Legislative Session not quite two weeks out from adjournment, I have already hit the road running.

Most of this year's session was held up by a few senators unhappy with their inability to further gerrymander congressional maps. With only 41 bills getting Truly Agreed and Finally Passed this year, I was disappointed that some of the legislation I hoped would make it to the finish line did not. And, some of the legislation I hoped wouldn't pass did.

I will continue to do newsletters during the interim, but they will be less frequent because there will be less news to report.

***Yours in Service,***

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## *Rich*

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Press Conference following the adjournment of the 101st General Assembly,  
Second Regular Session

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## House Legislative Dashboard

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**First Read:**

1595

**Third Read:**

148

**Truly Agreed:**

44

**Signed By Governor:**

3

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

To Lookup an individual bill [click here](#)

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## **SOME OF THE GOOD AND BAD LEGISLATION THAT PASSED AND DIDN'T PASS**

A total of 41 non-appropriations bills were truly aged and finally passed this year. This year's tally marks the lowest number of non-appropriations bills TAFP in a **full** session since at least 1994. The only time fewer bills were passed was during the pandemic-shortened 2020 session when the legislature shut down for about six weeks.

### **GOOD LEGISLATION THAT PASSED**

**MEDICAID FUNDING (Budget Appropriation):** Fully funded Missouri's Medicaid program, including the constitutionally mandated eligibility expansion, for the remainder of FY 2022, which ends June 30, and all of FY 2023, which begins July 1.

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION (Budget Appropriation):** Fully funded the state's share of local public local districts' student transportation costs for the first time since 1991.

**TEACHER PAY (Budget Appropriation):** Provides funding to ensure public school teachers are paid at least \$38,000 a year.

**CHARTER SCHOOLS (HB 1552):** Changes how charter schools are funded and increases oversight of their operations.

**STATE DESIGNATIONS (HB 2627):** Establishes several new state designations, including Historically Black College and University Week, "Sickle Cell Awareness Week," "Black History Month" and "Native American Heritage Month."

**FIFA TAX EXEMPTION (SB 652):** Exempts admission from taxation if Kansas City is awarded the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SB 672):** Modifies the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant program for worker training and establishes Targeted Industrial Manufacturing Enhancement

Zones to undertake infrastructure improvements relating to economic development.

**PRISON NURSERIES (SB 683):** Establishes prison nurseries so that women who give birth in prison can remain with their children for up to 18 months.

### **GOOD LEGISLATION THAT DIDN'T PASS**

**POSTPARTUM CARE (HB 2242/HB 2374):** Sought to provide a year of coverage for postpartum care under Missouri's Medicaid program.

**MISSOURI NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (HB 2580, SB 711):** Sought to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, banking or public accommodations.

**RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA (HB 2704, HJR 83):** Sought to legalize recreational marijuana use for those age 21 and older.

**NEEDLE EXCHANGE (SB 690):** Sought to establish a hypodermic needle exchange program to mitigate the spread of disease relating to intravenous drug use.

### **BAD LEGISLATION THAT PASSED**

**PHOTO VOTER ID (HB 1878):** Requires voters to possess an unexpired government-issued photo identification in order to cast a ballot.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION (HB 2485):** Prohibits the state from adopting hazardous waste management regulations that are stricter than federal regulations and authorizes "advance recycling" practices that produce hazardous chemical byproducts.

**CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (2909):** Redraws

Missouri's eight congressional districts to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census.

**KC POLICE FUNDING (SJR 38):** Puts a proposed constitutional amendment on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot asking voters to weaken the Hancock Amendment's prohibition against the state imposing unfunded mandates on local governments in order to allow the state to compel Kansas City to increase police funding.

**KC POLICE FUNDING (SB 678):** Companion legislation to SJR 38 that imposes an unfunded mandate on Kansas City to increase police funding. Will violate the Hancock Amendment unless SJR 38 is ratified.

### **BAD LEGISLATION THAT DIDN'T PASS**

**FUEL TAX REPEAL (HB 1594):** Sought to repeal a legislation enacted in 2021 that will gradually increase the state fuel tax from the 17 cents per gallon to 29.5 cents a gallon in 2025 to generate new revenue for road and bridge projects.

**UTILITIES (HB 1684):** Sought to allow power utilities to charge customers upfront for the cost of planning or constructing a nuclear power plant.

**VACCINE LAWSUITS (HB 1692):** Sought to create a legal cause of action for workers to sue their employers if they suffer a negative reaction to any vaccine there are required to take as a condition of employment

**CENSORING HISTORY (HB 1858):** Sought to prohibit public schools from teaching curricula that highlights traditionally overlooked or downplayed aspects of American history, including the impacts of slavery and racism.

**UNEMPLOYMENT (HB 1860):** Sought to cut the maximum number of weeks of unemployment benefits in Missouri from the current 20 weeks to as low as eight weeks.

**LEGALIZING MURDER (HB 2118, SB 666):** Sought to create a legal presumption that a person who uses physical or deadly force acted in self-defense and would be “immune from criminal prosecution or civil action.” The bill also would have prohibited suspects from being arrested, detained or charged with a crime unless authorities could prove “by clear and convincing evidence” that suspect didn’t act in self-defense.

**ELECTIONS (HB 2140):** Sought to empower the Missouri General Assembly to decide what federal election laws the state will follow and impose hefty fines on local election officials who follow federal law or accept federal funding without legislative approval.

**TRANSGENDER CHILDREN (HB 2649):** Sought to prohibit medical providers from providing care relating to gender transitioning to anyone under age 18.

**TRANSGENDER ATHLETES (HB 2734):** Sought to prohibit transgender girls from participating in high school girls’ athletics.

**INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM (HJR 79, HJR 91, HJR 132 & HJR 133):** Various proposals to amend the Missouri Constitution to make it harder, if not impossible, to amend the constitution using the initiative petition process.

**PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS (HJR 110):** Sought to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the Nov. 8 ballot to create a so-called “parents bill of rights” restricting how race and racism are taught in public schools.

**MEDICAID EXPANSION UNDO (HJR 117):** Sought to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the Nov. 8 ballot aimed at undoing the constitutionally mandated expansion of Medicaid eligibility voters ratified in 2020.

**VOTING RIGHTS (HJR 131):** Sought to weaken the Missouri Constitution’s voting rights protections and allow lawmakers to

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exclude certain legal voters from participating.

### **OTHER LEGISLATION THAT PASSED**

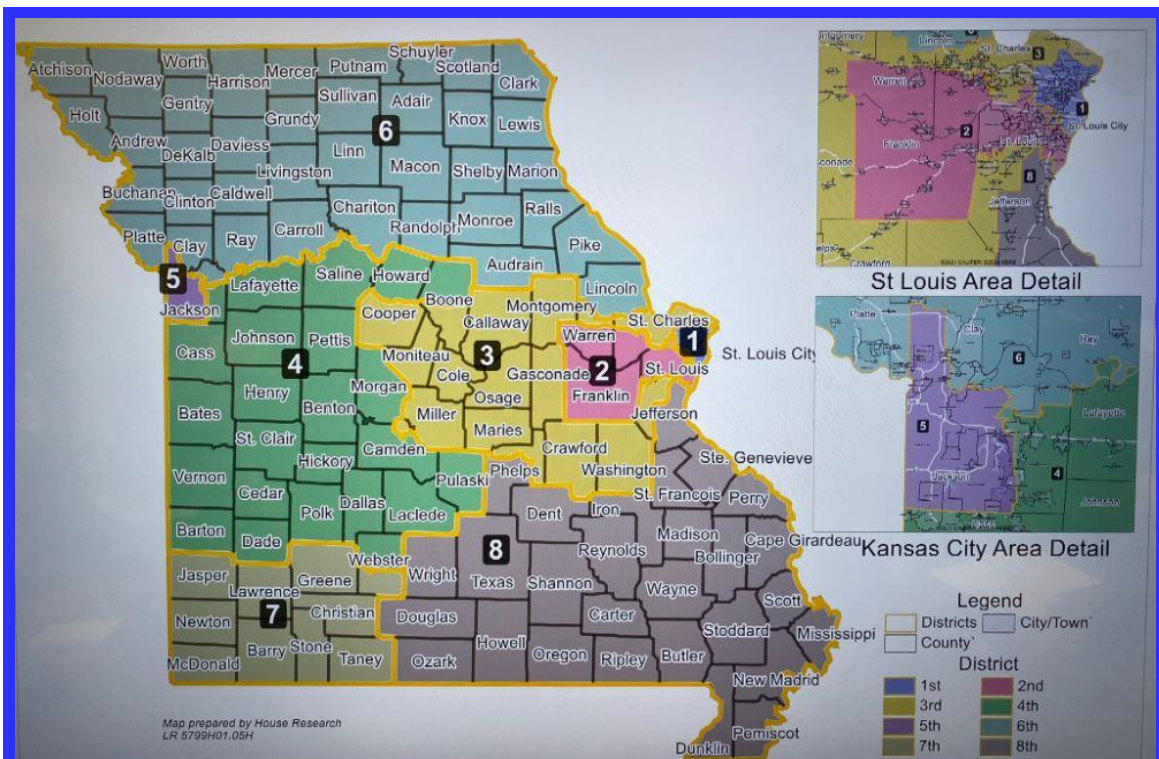
**EMINENT DOMAIN (HB 2005):** Places restrictions on the future use of eminent domain to construct power lines in rural areas.

**NATIONAL GUARD (HJR 116):** Puts a constitutional amendment on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot asking voters to expand the number of state departments from 16 to 17 so that the Missouri National Guard can be its own state department instead of a part of the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

### **OTHER LEGISLATION THAT DIDN'T PASS**

**SPORTS GAMBLING (HB 2502):** Sought to legalize wagering on sporting events.

**ILLEGAL SLOT MACHINES (SB 1237):** Sought to crackdown on the recent proliferation of illegal slot machines at various businesses.



## Governor signs congressional redistricting bill into law

Bringing a months-long political saga to a conclusion, Gov. Mike Parson signed a congressional redistricting bill into law on May 18, allowing for the new districts to be used for the Aug. 2 primary elections. The new districts preserve the existing partisan split in Missouri's congressional delegation of six Republicans and two Democrats.

Missouri lawmakers needed to update the state's eight congressional districts to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census. That process normally would have taken place during the 2021 legislative session, but the pandemic delayed the detailed Census data needed for redistricting from being provided to the states until the following fall.

The Governor had been expected to call a special session on congressional redistricting for the final months of 2021 so that new districts could be established well before candidate filing for the upcoming primaries opened in February. However, Parson

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surprised most lawmakers, especially majority Republicans, by dismissing the need for a special session, saying they could handle the task in the early months of the 2022 regular, which began in January.

While the House of Representatives passed a redistricting bill two weeks into session, the process hit a roadblock in the Senate, where a faction of hardline conservatives prevented the bill – and just about anything else – from being debated for months amid demands for an aggressive gerrymander they hoped would produce a 7-1 partisan split favoring Republicans.

The process remained in limbo until the session's waning days, when Republican leaders pushed a revised version of a 6-2 map through both legislative chambers. Although the hardline faction ultimately didn't attempt to block a final vote, the Senate immediately adjourned for the year – one day ahead of the constitutional adjournment deadline – after sending the bill to the governor.

Because new districts weren't yet established when candidate filing closed in March, candidates filed under the outdated congressional map enacted in 2011. Since passage of the new map one would-be congressional candidate already has dropped out because she no longer lives in the district she was seeking to represent.

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## VOTER ID

### **House approves photo voter ID, other election restrictions**

The House of Representatives on May 12 voted 97-47 to grant final passage to controversial legislation that would impose a photo voter identification requirement, make it harder to register

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people to vote, grant the secretary of state the power to withhold state funding from local election officials and eliminate Missouri's presidential primary election, among other provisions. The bill now goes to the governor to be signed into law.

House Bill 1878, which the Senate approved a day earlier on a vote of 23-11, also would create a two-week period prior to an election in which Missourians could cast an absentee ballot without offering an excuse. Under existing law, voters must have a statutorily authorized reason for why they can't vote in person on Election Day in order to vote absentee.

Majority Republicans have been trying to enact a photo voter ID requirement for more than 15 years in order to reduce turnout among racial minorities and other groups that tend to support Democrats and are most likely not to have a government-issued photo ID. However, the Missouri Supreme Court has struck down previous efforts for placing an unconstitutional restriction on the fundamental right to vote. A lawsuit challenging the latest photo ID requirement is expected.

If the March presidential preference primary is eliminated, Missouri would revert to the caucus system under which members of each party meet in person to determine which candidates should get the state's delegates to their respective party's national presidential nominating convention. Missouri switched to the primary system for the 2000 presidential cycle. In 2012, however, the Missouri Republican Party disregarded the outcome of the state's presidential preference primary because it was held too early under national party rules and selected a different candidate using the caucus system.



### **Compromise charter school funding bill wins final passage**

The House of Representatives on May 12 voted 109-28-11 to grant final passage to legislation that would increase state funding for charter schools without taking resources from the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts. The Senate previously voted 29-5 in favor of the measure, which now goes to the governor.

The final version of House Bill 1552 calls for adjusting the statutory formula for distributing state funding to local schools so that charter schools would receive additional funding without reducing the amount of money going to the local districts. The plan, the result of a compromise reached in the Senate, would cost about \$62 million in additional funding for the upcoming fiscal year. As originally proposed, the bill would have redirected millions of dollars in state funding from the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts to the charter schools in their jurisdictions.

Charter schools are public schools that operate independently of their local school district and are exempt from many state education regulations. At present, they are allowed to operate only in Kansas City and St. Louis.

HB 1552 also includes reforms to how charter schools operate, such as requiring they be run by a not-for-profit entity and a mandate that only Missouri residents can be charter school board members. In addition, the bill also updates the rules for operating on-line virtual schools.

# INITIATIVE PETITIONS

## **Initiative petitions filed on legal pot, ranked-choice voting**

Supporters of separate initiative petitions to legalize recreational marijuana in Missouri and create a system of ranked-choice voting for state and federal elections turned in signatures by the May 8 deadline in hopes of getting their proposals on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot. The Missouri Secretary of State's Office must now verify that each petition has sufficient signatures to go before voters.

The initiative process allows voters to bypass the General Assembly to independently propose and enact legislation. Putting a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot requires a minimum of about 172,000 signatures from registered Missouri voters. According to The Associated Press, supporters of the marijuana initiative said they collected more than 385,000 signatures, while backers of the elections proposal touted gathering more than 300,000 signatures.

The recreational marijuana measure follows up on a successful 2019 initiative petition that legalized pot for medical use. In addition to legalizing recreational marijuana use for those age 21 and over, it also would automatically expunge past convictions for marijuana-related crimes – other than driving under the influence – for non-violent offenders.

Under the elections initiative, candidates for the state legislature, statewide executive branch office or Congress would appear on the same primary ballot without regard to party, with the top four candidates advancing to the general election. During that election, voters could vote for multiple candidates, ranking who they like best in order of preference. If no candidate received a majority on the first tabulation, the candidate with the fewest votes would be eliminated and their votes redistributed among the other candidates based on each voter's preference. That process would continue until a winner emerged.

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The signature verification process typically takes months, but there is an expedited process the secretary of state can use to get it done in a couple weeks. If that process is used, it's possible the petitions could be verified in time for the governor to exercise his authority to move one or both measures to the Aug. 2 primary ballot.



### **House defeats GOP attempt to limit teaching about racism**

On a strong bipartisan vote of 60-81-1, the House of Representatives rejected Republican legislation that sought to restrict teaching about how race and racism is discussed in public schools and grant parents overly expansive rights that could have made it harder for schools to operate. Democrats unanimously opposed the measure, as did 36 Republicans.

House Joint Resolution 110 proposed adding a so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights" to the Missouri Constitution. Supporters said it would protect the ability of parents to direct their child's education and object to the teaching of ideas they find objectionable. Opponents said it was a thinly veiled attempt to eliminate teaching about unpleasant aspects of American history and society and empower some individual parents to dictate what all children are taught.

# HANCOCK AMENDMENT

## Voters to decide on weakening unfunded state mandate ban

Missouri voters will decide later this year whether the state constitution's **Hancock Amendment** should be weakened to allow lawmakers to impose an unfunded mandate on Kansas City taxpayers by forcing the city to increase minimum funding for its police department. By default, the measure will go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot.

Originally, Senate Joint Resolution 38 would have allowed the legislature to impose unfunded mandates relating to law enforcement spending on all Missouri cities and counties. However, the Senate scaled it back so it applies just to Kansas City, the only Missouri city whose police department is run by a state-appointed board, even though local taxpayers pay its bills.

One provision of the tax-limiting Hancock Amendment prohibits the legislature from imposing mandates on local governments unless it provides state funding to fulfill the mandate. However, unfunded mandates in place at the time voters ratified the Hancock Amendment in 1980 are allowed to continue.

Under a pre-Hancock state law, Kansas City is required to allocate at least 20 percent of its general revenue to the police department. Senate Bill 678, a companion measure to SJR 38, seeks to bump that minimum to 25 percent. But unless voters ratify SJR 38 to carve out an exemption to the Hancock Amendment, SB 678 would be unconstitutional.

The House of Representatives granted final passage to both measures on May 13. The Senate previously approved them in March. All but one House Republican supported weakening the Hancock Amendment, while most House Democrats opposed doing so. Although SJR 38 heads straight to the ballot, SB 678 goes to the governor to be signed into law.



### **Legislation to establish prison nurseries sent to governor**

Mothers who give birth while incarcerated in Missouri prisons could stay united with their babies for up to 18 months under legislation the House sent to the governor on May 13 authorizing prison nurseries. The nurseries provision was attached to larger measure relating to child care, Senate Bill 683, which passed on final votes of 32-1 in the Senate and 144-1 in the House of Representatives.

A handful of states already have established nurseries in women's prisons. Supporters say it helps build and maintain the crucial bond between mothers and babies during the early months of life and also reduces recidivism among offenders. Nearly a half-million dollars is included in the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year to help launch the program.

According to the Missouri Department of Corrections, 25 women gave birth in Missouri prisons in 2021, with an average time served post-delivery of 3.1 months. In 2020, 26 women gave birth behind bars with an average postpartum stay of 2.32 months.



While in Washington DC, I ran into Senator Joe Manchin. We had a brief conversation about the events in Texas and Buffalo.



### **Could you be the owner of unclaimed property?**

The Treasurer's office is currently holding **\$6,215,449.90** belonging to approximately 59,635 account owners in our district. Banks, businesses, and insurance companies turn over Unclaimed Property to the Treasurer's office after accounts have been inactive and owners cannot be successfully contacted for a statutorily defined period of time, generally five years.

To file a claim or check to see if you have unclaimed property, you can visit [www.ShowMeMoney.com](http://www.ShowMeMoney.com) or write to the Treasurer's office at PO Box 1004, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1004.

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### **Check the status of your Missouri State Tax returns**

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**PEACE FOR  UKRAINE**

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**Are you StormAware?**

M I S S O U R I



***StormAware***

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**COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS**

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CLASS OF

2022  
*graduate*

CONGRATULATIONS!

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**In memory of my wife and biggest supporter,  
Regina A. Brown  
September 1, 1963 - May 14, 2018**



**The Pandemic aint over...  
but we're getting there!**

# Wash Your Hands





The reward has been raised to  
**\$30,000** for Dominic



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**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**

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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](http://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](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**

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\* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

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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.

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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.



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## 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](mailto:richard.brown@house.mo.gov)

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