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**Capitol Report**

**September 19, 2022**

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***Dear Neighbor,***

I was back in the Capitol last week for the annual Veto Session, and a Special Legislative Session called by Governor Parson.

The Governor called the special legislative session for lawmakers to enact what he dubbed “the largest tax cut in state history,” as well as pass a new version of a bill providing special tax breaks for the agricultural industry to replace legislation he vetoed in June.

The General Election will be here before we know it. I hope everyone will 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. **The last day to register is October 12th to vote in the General Election on November 8th.**

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*Yours in Service,  
Rich*

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I am pictured with Congressman Jim Clyburn, Chairman of the January 6th Committee and Terese Spears Chambers at the Truman Gala in St. Louis.

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The House Chamber is currently under renovation. Members are currently seated at folding tables and chairs to conduct legislative business.

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## **VETO SESSION / SPECIAL SESSION UPDATE**

**After delaying special session, GOP also s  
veto session**

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After postponing the scheduled start of a special legislative session by eight days to figure out how to proceed with the governor's request for a massive election-year tax cut, Republican leaders on Sept. 14 unexpectedly delayed action in the annual veto session by a week as they continued to formulate a special session plan.

The constitutionally mandated veto session provides lawmakers the opportunity to reconsider bills passed during the regular legislative session but rejected by the governor, and typically last just a couple hours. After gaveling into this year's session, however, Republican leaders opted not to bring up the vetoed bills until later. Veto session will resume Sept. 20 in Senate and Sept. 21 in the House of Representatives.

In the separate special session, Gov. Mike Parson wants lawmakers to permanently slash income taxes by an estimated \$700 million to \$1.1 billion a year, with the benefit primarily going to the wealthy. He also is seeking a slew of targeted tax breaks for agricultural producers costing about another \$40 million annually. However, the governor's plan has encountered bipartisan opposition. Democrats and some fiscally cautious Republicans are concerned about the potentially devastating long-term impact the governor's plan could have on state finances, while hardline-conservatives are demanding even larger tax cuts.

The special session was supposed to begin Sept. 6, but GOP leaders instructed lawmakers not to show up until Sept. 14 while they worked on building consensus. Although the special session finally got underway shortly after the brief proceedings in veto session, a solid plan for it remained undetermined.

If progress on the tax legislation isn't made in the coming days, keeping the veto session in play preserves the option for lawmakers to override the veto of House Bill 1720, which contains the agricultural tax breaks the governor is seeking in special session. Parson vetoed the bill because it sunsets the breaks after just two years instead of six years, as the governor prefers.

Lawmakers likely will split the special session issues in two, with the

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income tax provisions included in one bill that will originate in the Senate and the agricultural tax credits going in a second bill filed in the House.

In another surprise move, House GOP leaders on Sept. 15 referred a bill to committee that would legalize sports gambling in Missouri and signaled they intend to bring up the legislation for debate on the House floor. Since the Missouri Constitution prohibits lawmakers from legislating on issues not authorized by the governor's special session call, the bill would be unconstitutional if it were to pass unless the governor later expanded the scope of the special session to include it.



Committees hearings are underway during the Veto and Special Session.

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## **Courts reject lawsuit to block vote on marijuana legalization**

Amendment 3 seeking to legalize recreational marijuana use by adults will remain on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot after a state appellate panel rejected a lawsuit seeking to block the measure and the Missouri Supreme Court declined to review the case.

The lawsuit, brought by an anti-drug activist, argued Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft failed to follow normal procedures in determining the initiative petition for Amendment 3 had sufficient signatures from registered Missouri voters to qualify for the ballot. The lawsuit also claimed the measure contains multiple subjects in violation of constitutional limitations.

Cole County Circuit Judge Cotton Walker, a Republican, dismissed the case Sept. 9, saying the plaintiff failed to prove she had legal standing to bring it. Although a three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District on Sept. 12 said the lower court erred in determining the plaintiff lacked standing, it ruled against her on the merits of the case.

The appellate ruling found that while Amendment 3 contains a large number of provisions, they all relate to the single subject of marijuana legalization and regulation. The judges also said Ashcroft acted well within his authority in certifying Amendment 3 for the ballot. The following day, the state Supreme Court declined

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to take the case and let the appellate ruling stand. The case is *Joy Sweeney v. Jay Ashcroft*.

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I spent three days traveling across the state with Trudy Busch Valentine recently.

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## **Court says counties waited too long to join health order case**

Five counties seeking to appeal a Cole County judge's controversial ruling striking down four state health department regulations last year waited too long to intervene in the case, a unanimous three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District ruled Sept. 13.

Last November, Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green, a Republican, declared unconstitutional four Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services regulations authorizing local officials to respond to public health emergencies. Although the department wanted to appeal, Attorney General Eric Schmitt, whose office was representing it, refused.

Schmitt, a Republican who has made opposing coronavirus mitigation efforts a centerpiece of his U.S. Senate campaign, not only refused to represent his client's position but subsequently used Green's limited ruling to threaten local governments into dropping mask mandates and other efforts to limit the spread of the disease, including those based on authority derived from state laws not impacted by Green's decision.

St. Louis and Jackson counties, joined by the public health

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agencies in Cooper, Jefferson and Livingston counties, sought to intervene in the case in December in order to appeal the decision following Schmitt's refusal to do so. However, Green said the counties had ample opportunity to join the case prior to his ruling but chose not to. The appellate panel agreed, holding that the fact the counties had assumed the attorney general would adequately represent their legal interests prior to refusing to appeal the case doesn't justify their failure to protect their interests earlier in the litigation.

The appellate ruling did not uphold Green's underlying decision nor Schmitt's subsequent actions based on it. The counties could still appeal the case, *Shannon Robinson, et al., v. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, et al.*, to the state Supreme Court.

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I've been traveling across our state since the first of June. I have had an opportunity to meet many great people across Missouri.

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# NEW ELECTION LAW

## PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS

### What's New?

The Missouri Legislature passed a new election law that **Took** effect August 28th.

Voters should expect to show a photo ID to vote in all future elections.

### If you plan to vote in person, you need one of the following\*:

- Unexpired Missouri driver's license
- Unexpired Missouri non driver's license
- Unexpired Military ID with a photo
- Unexpired Photo ID issued by Missouri or the United States (like a passport)

\*If you DON'T have one of these IDs, you can still vote at your polling place by casting a provisional ballot. After election day, a bipartisan team of election judges will compare the signature on your provisional ballot envelope to your voter registration signature to count your vote.

### Photo ID FAQs

Are free IDs available?

Yes. Voters can get a free non driver's license for voting from the Department of Revenue and the Secretary of State's Office can help you get required documents for free. [Go to showit2vote.com](http://showit2vote.com) for more info.

Can I use my student ID or out-of-state driver's license to vote in November?

No. Also please note that applying for a non driver's license in Missouri will invalidate an out-of-state driver's license.

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[Samples of Acceptable Forms of ID](#)

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I recently met with a group of parents at the capitol concerning Early Childhood Education. As a retired educator, I support their efforts.

If a bus has it's stop sign out it is either loading or unloading a student. It is telling you to stop and look for students. Just STOP, IT'S THE LAW.



PEACE FOR  UKRAINE

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

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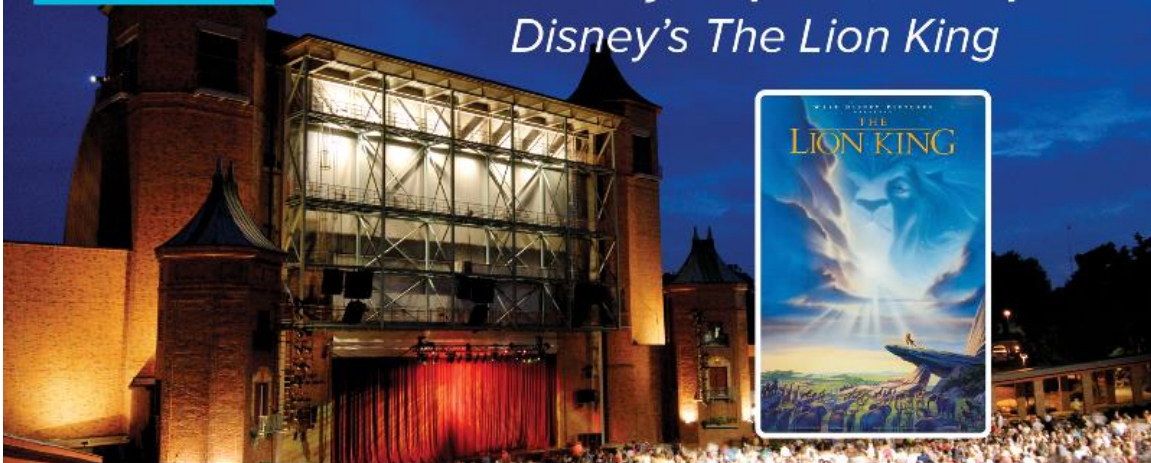


**DATE  
CHANGE!**

# FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.

*Disney's The Lion King*



**FREE EVENT! RSVP REQUIRED AT [KCSTARLIGHT.COM](http://KCSTARLIGHT.COM)**

Attendees **MUST** re-register for the **NEW DATE!**



Starlight





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# 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 were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit**

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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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