



Capitol Report

January 21, 2023

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Dear Neighbor,

The governor gave his State of the State address Wednesday. There was plenty to smile about as legislators from both sides of the aisle lauded many of his proposals for the FY24 budget.

Bottom line, there's a lot that our caucus likes in the governor's budget recommendations. With \$6 billion in the state coffers, it's refreshing to see the governor shares House Democrats commitment to providing more for essential government services

and increasing pay for state workers and teachers to remain competitive with other states in our region.

- The governor's budget is built on a foundation of ideas House Democrats' have pushed for years. We have fought to invest more resources our state's infrastructure, schools, social services, state employees and health care systems. It's good to see that the governor is finally listening.
- However, there's still a lot of room to do even more with the surplus we have. Even with this additional spending, the governor's recommendations leave roughly \$3.5 billion on the bottom line after FY 2024.
- **What the governor left out of his address is also telling:**
 - First, the ban on abortion that went into effect last year went completely unmentioned. The governor signed an executive order last year shortly after Roe was overturned to activate HB 126 (2019). That he failed to mention "achieving" a cornerstone policy that's been in the Republican platform for decades indicates just how unpopular they know that total ban on abortion really is.
 - Note: the governor mentioned Missouri's abysmal maternal mortality rate. [Multiple studies](#) have found states with more restrictive abortion laws have higher maternal mortality rates.
 - Second, the governor's comments on the CVPA High shooting left out that Missouri 's weak gun laws enabled the shooter. While he was right to praise the efforts of law enforcement on that day, he failed to mention that police officers and the assailant's family tried to take his gun away from him days before the shooting. However, Missouri law stopped them from doing the right thing.
- Budget Highlights:

- **Infrastructure:**

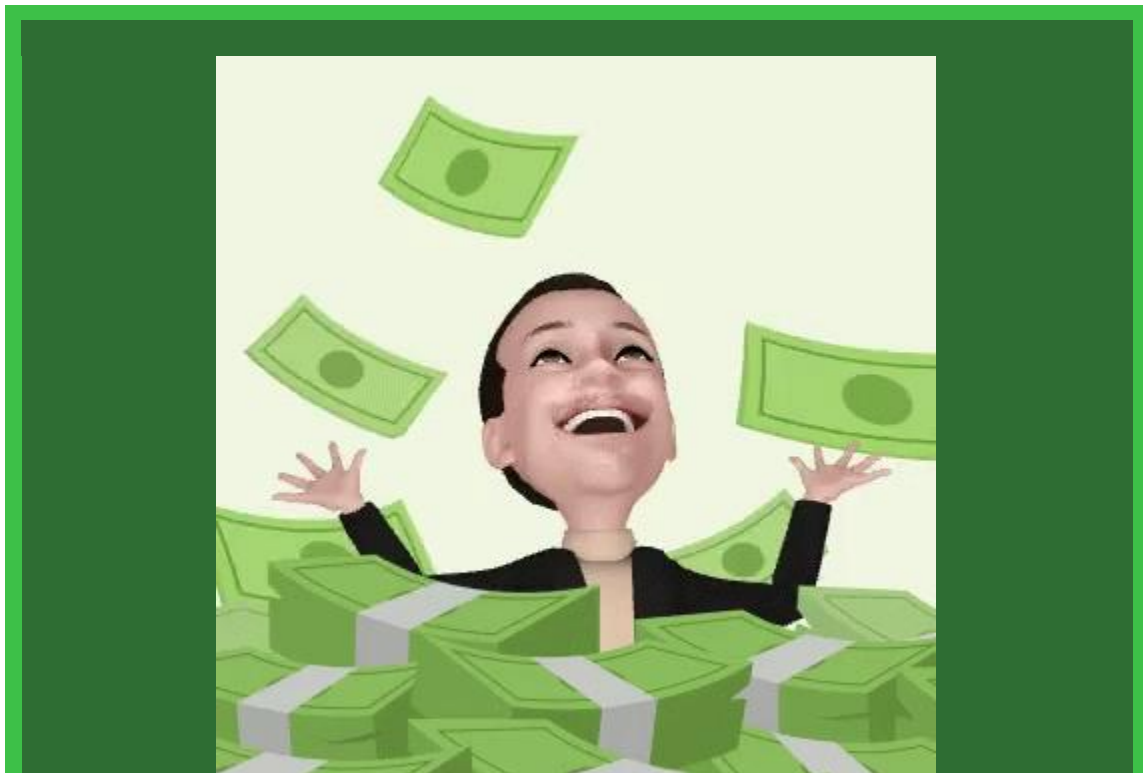
- **\$859 million to expand portions of I-70 to six lanes near KC, STL, and Columbia**
 - **Single largest line item in Parson's FY 2024 legislative priorities doc**
- **\$380 for MODOT State Improvement Plan (STIP)**
- **\$250 million to continue broadband expansion efforts**
- **\$35 million to update railway crossings across the state to modern day safety standards**

Now that the budget proposals have been made, it is up to us as a legislative body to act on these recommendations. Hopefully, this year will not pose a serious challenge to implementing these ideas.

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard



Governor proposes \$50.53 billion state budget for FY 2024

Gov. Mike Parson on Jan. 18 proposed a \$50.53 billion state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year that relies significantly on Missouri's current \$6 billion surplus just as state revenue collections are slowing to a trickle as a massive tax cut the governor championed last fall takes effect. Parson unveiled his budget plan as part of his annual State of the State address before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly.

An \$859 million proposal to rebuild and widen certain high-volume stretches of Interstate 70 provided the centerpiece for the governor's speech. The plan calls for expanding three key sections of I-70 – east from Kansas City to Odessa, west from St. Louis to Warrenton and several miles both east and west of Columbia – from four lanes to six.

Further details of the I-70 plan were unclear. Since the Missouri Constitution restricts lawmakers to appropriating funding for no more than two fiscal years and the project is anticipated to take much longer than that, Parson's ability to keep his commitment to it is questionable as he will leave office in January 2025 and the next governor could set different funding priorities.

The governor's budget calls for increasing overall spending by about \$2.41 billion more than the \$47.12 billion originally appropriated for FY 2023, which runs through June 30. Relying on the surplus, Parson's plan calls for a 16.3 percent increase in general revenue spending over current levels – from \$12.08 billion in FY 2023 to \$14.06 billion FY 2024 – even though budget officials expect general revenue collections for the upcoming year to increase just 0.7 percent.

General revenue is the state's most flexible funding source as it doesn't come with limitations on how it can be spent, unlike federal funds or constitutionally earmarked taxes. The new tax cuts are expected to cumulatively reduce general revenue collections by about \$2 billion a year once fully implemented.

Parson's budget priorities include fully funding both the formula for distributing basic aid to local public schools and the state's share of local student transportation costs, along with \$56 million to expand pre-kindergarten programs for 4-year-olds and \$78 million for additional child care subsidies. He also proposed a 7-percent core funding increase for public colleges and universities, which he said would be the largest in 25 years.

Democrats, who for years championed many of the initiatives the governor now backs, offered praise for Parson's plan. One particular proposal Democrats support is an additional \$22 million to improve staffing and resources at the troubled Children's Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services, which for years has suffered from excessive caseloads and high staff turnover.

Although the annual budget process begins with the governor presenting his plan, the legislature is free to accept, modify or ignore his various funding requests in the coming months as it crafts the appropriations bills that make up the state operating budget. Lawmakers face a May 5 constitutional deadline for granting final passage to those bills. The 2024 fiscal year starts July 1.



[Listen to the podcast here.](#)

Missouri Democratic Rep. Richard Brown expects more cooperation between parties this year

By [Sarah Kellogg](#),
[Jason Rosenbaum](#)

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson will give the annual State of the State address on Wednesday, outlining his budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

Some of those goals will have broad bipartisan support, including raises for state employees and an emphasis on child care in regard to workforce development.

Assistant House Minority Floor Leader Richard Brown, D-Kansas City, is the latest guest on the Politically Speaking podcast. He discussed the policies he would like to see passed regarding child care, as well as other House Democratic goals.

Here's some of what Brown talked about on the show:

- His background as a teacher, including how he ended up running for a Missouri House seat.
- The overall goals of House Democrats as well as his expectations for working across the aisle this year.
- Republicans' efforts to make it harder to amend the Missouri Constitution through initiative petition changes. Brown thinks that could backfire for Republicans in the future.
- House Democrats' efforts to pass gun control bills, including what legislation Brown thinks has a chance, even with a Republican supermajority.
- What bills related to education he expects to see and what he wants to focus on, including addressing teacher pay and the four-day school week that some Missouri school districts are pivoting to.
- The multiple bills filed by Republicans barring transgender girls from participating in sports that align with their gender identity. Brown calls the bills discriminatory.

Brown first ran for the Missouri House in 2016, beating then-Democratic incumbent Bonnaye Mims in the primary. He was elected as House assistant minority floor leader before the 2020 legislative session.

Prior to serving in the legislature, Brown was a public school teacher for 23 years in Kansas City.



Senate committee hears bill to ban teaching about racism

Signaling the desire of majority Republicans to prioritize hot-button culture war issues early in the 2023 session, the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee on Jan. 18 heard legislation that seeks to prohibit schools from teaching about past or present racism in American society. The committee took no immediate action on the bill but is expected to eventually advance it to the full Senate.

Senate Bill 4 would ban the teaching of “critical race theory” in K-12 classrooms. CRT is a concept taught in some law schools that examines the impact racism on institutions. It is not taught in elementary or secondary schools in Missouri. However, many Republican lawmakers here and elsewhere mischaracterize CRT to target any discussion of race or racism in public schools.



Vivek Malek becomes first person of color in high state office

Vivek Malek was sworn-in as the state’s 48th state treasurer on Jan. 17, becoming the first person of color in state history to hold one of Missouri’s six elected statewide executive branch offices. Gov. Mike Parson appointed Malek to the post to fill a vacancy.

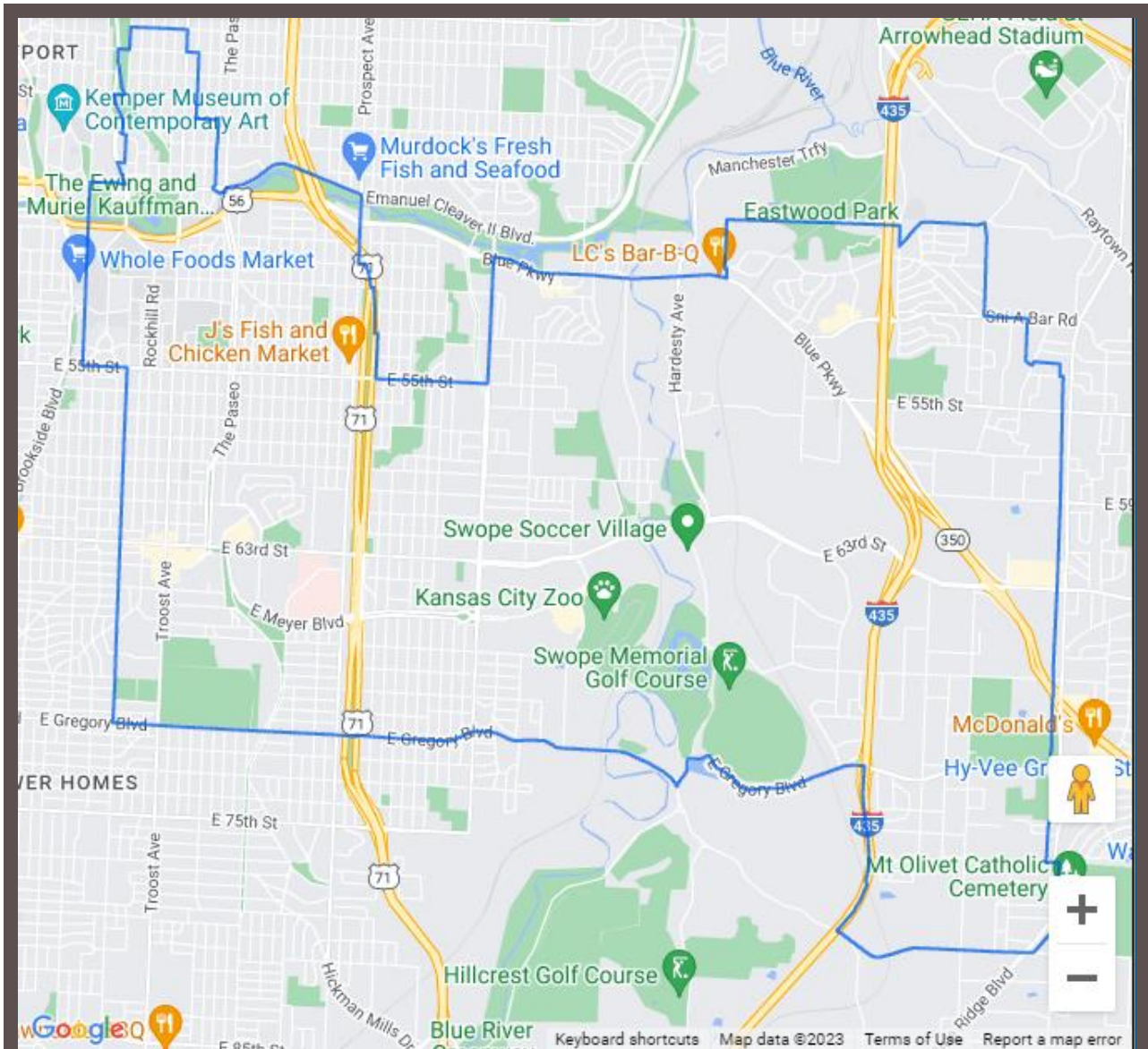
Malek, 45, was born and grew up in India but moved to Cape Girardeau in 2001 to attend graduate school at Southeast Missouri State University. He currently resides in Wildwood and

owns a law practice specializing in immigration issues. He will step away from the firm while serving as treasurer.

Malek replaces fellow Republican Scott Fitzpatrick, who resigned Jan. 9 after winning election in November as state auditor. Malek waited eight days to take over as treasurer in order to avoid triggering a quirk of the calendar that would have caused the partial term left by Fitzpatrick's departure to count for Malek as a full one under term limits.

Malek will serve the remainder of Fitzpatrick's term, which runs until early January 2025. Malek, a Republican, plans to seek election to a full term as treasurer in 2024.

His swearing-in marked the third straight week a new statewide official took the oath of office in Missouri, following Fitzpatrick the prior week and Attorney General Andrew Bailey the week before that. Parson appointed Bailey to replace Eric Schmitt, who resigned early this month after being elected to the U.S. Senate.



This is the map of the new boundaries for House District 27.
This map will be in effect for the next ten years.

PEACE FOR  UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



FIFTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

**Monday, February 6, 2023
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Southeast Community Center,
4601 E. 63rd St., Kansas City, MO 64130**

WITH GUEST SPEAKER(S):

**Name: Chief Stacey Graves
Title: Chief of Police, Kansas City Police Department
Topic: Introduction**

**Name: Krista Morrison
Title: Budget Officer, City of Kansas City, MO
Topic: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget public meeting schedule**

**Name: Wes Minder & Celeste Chaney-Tucker
Title: Director & Deputy Director, Water Services
Topic: Water Main Break update**

Medicaid Enrollment

We can help!

Kansas City Health Department

2400 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108

Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

FREE assistance

from experts with

KC Care Health Center & Swope Health

(Since Medicaid was expanded to include more people,
you could be eligible!)



swopeHEALTH





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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Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback, questions or ideas!

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