



Capitol Report

February 2, 2023

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*Dear Neighbor,*

This week the House passed HJR 43 along straight party lines 108 - 50. This resolution seeks to make it harder for the people to pass issues through the ballot initiative process in Missouri.

This new proposal seeks to raise the percentage number of votes to pass ballot initiatives. Should this happen, issues such as expanding Medicaid, enacting the Hancock amendment and medical/recreational marijuana would have failed because those measures passed by a simple majority instead of the proposed 60 percent in the resolution.

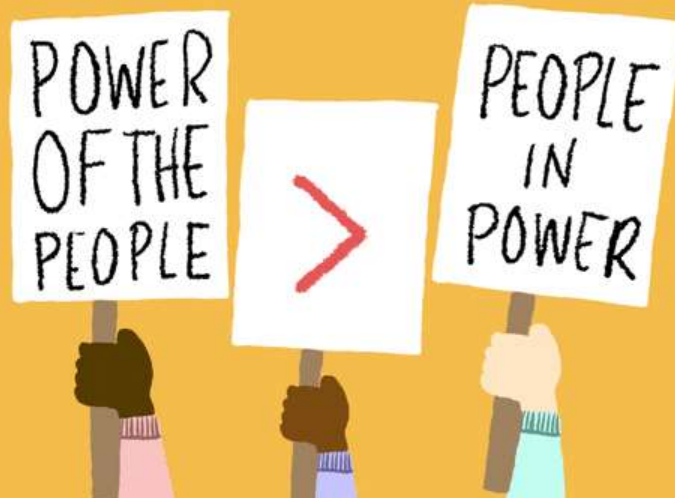
**I voted NO on HJR 43** as I believe this is an attack on our citizens rights to enact laws without going through the state legislature. Replacing our current ballot initiative process takes the power away from the people and gives it to politicians. I will continue to support the right of the people to control the government instead of the other way around.

*Yours in Service,*

*Rich*



#### House Legislative Dashboard



**House seeks to make it harder to  
amend state constitution**

On a straight party-line vote of 108-50, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives on Feb. 2 advanced a proposed constitutional amendment that would require a three-fifths supermajority of voters to approve future constitutional amendments proposed by the initiative petition. However, if this particular measure clears the legislature and makes it on the statewide ballot, only a simple majority would be needed for ratification – the same threshold for amendments that has been in place in Missouri since 1820.

Because the legislature can't unilaterally alter constitutional provisions, Republicans have prioritized making it harder to amend the Missouri Constitution after voters in recent years ratified a string of constitutional changes GOP lawmakers had opposed, including Medicaid expansion, recreational marijuana legalization and legislative ethics reform.

While the primary purpose of House Joint Resolution 43 is to require support from at least 60 percent of voters to ratify future constitutional amendments, the deceptive ballot language Republicans wrote for the measure falsely claims it would prevent non-citizens from voting on ballot measures. However, the Missouri Constitution already restricts voting to U.S. citizens. The new supermajority requirement – the main purpose for the measure – isn't mentioned until the very end of the ballot question.

HJR 43 now advances to the Senate. If approved by the upper chamber, it automatically would go on the November 2024 statewide ballot unless the governor exercises his constitutional authority to set an earlier election date.



**HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY**  
**MAHOMES SEES A SHADOW**



**WHICH MEANS ANOTHER  
52 WEEKS AS REIGNING  
SUPER BOWL CHAMPS**



## **Legal recreational marijuana sales begin Feb. 6 in Missouri**

Recreational marijuana sales to adults will begin at some Missouri dispensaries by Monday, Feb. 6 – the last day state regulators have to approve the first round of license conversion requests by existing medical marijuana sellers seeking to expand into the recreational market.

Missouri voters ratified a constitutional amendment legalizing recreational marijuana use and possession for those age 21 and older in November, and it took effect Dec. 8. However, legalized sales for recreational use didn't begin instantly since the amendment gives the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, which oversees the state's marijuana industry, up to 60 days to approve licenses for recreational sales.

All of those initial licenses will go to facilities that currently are approved to sell medical marijuana. For those that applied to convert their licenses on Dec. 8, the department must approve those applications no later than Feb. 6. Facilities that filed after Dec. 8 will be authorized to sell recreational marijuana no later than 60 days after their filing date.

Although adult recreational marijuana use and possession is generally legal in Missouri, many restrictions remain, including a ban on public consumption and a prohibition on use by minors, with violations punishable by a maximum \$100 civil fine. Civil fines for possessing more than 3 ounces of marijuana range from \$250 for a first offense to \$1,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

Initial marijuana sales are subject to a 6 percent state sales tax. However, cities and counties are also allowed to levy



additional sales taxes of up to 3 percent, subject to local voter approval. Several cities and counties already are planning to put local marijuana taxes on the April 4 ballot. Product sold at dispensaries located in a city and county that both impose marijuana taxes at the maximum allowed rate would be subject to a combined tax of 12 percent.



#### MARIJUANA IN MISSOURI

## Can you smoke marijuana in public in Missouri? Where weed isn't allowed

by: [Sean McDowell](#)

Posted: Jan 30, 2023 / 07:11 PM CST

Updated: Jan 30, 2023 / 09:02 PM CST

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Marijuana enthusiasts in Missouri know what Feb. 6 signifies.

That's when dispensaries are expected to be licensed and legal adult recreational use will go into effect in the Show-Me State. But advocates are reminding everyone about do's and don'ts.

### [How to apply to grow your own weed in Missouri](#)

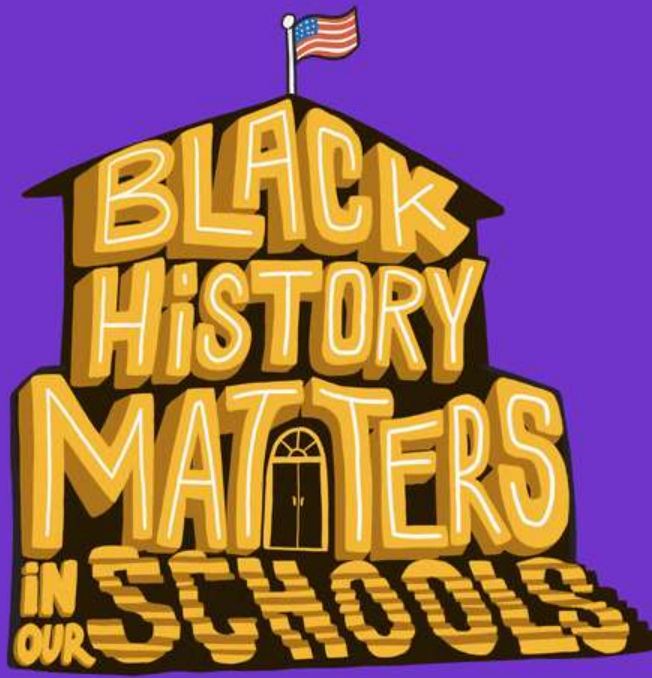
Missouri voters approved Amendment 3 in November to legalize marijuana use in private homes for adults 21 and over.

However, marijuana consumption in public won't be permitted, according to Jonathan Lewis, a marijuana advocate and owner of Mo Gro solutions.

"Education is the key. Knowing how to consume or what to consume is the key," Lewis said Monday.

Lewis actively lobbied for legal medical marijuana use in Kansas and Missouri. He believes marijuana is not a drug, but it's medicine that can help people in pain. Lewis is a veteran who uses a prosthetic leg to walk.

[Continue Reading and see the video](#)



## Black senators oppose bill banning teaching about racism

On the first day of Black History Month, the Missouri Senate on Feb. 1 began debating Republican-sponsored legislation to largely prohibit public schools from teaching about past or present racism in society. The Senate set the bill aside after Black senators spent about three hours airing their opposition to it, but the chamber is expected to return to it at a later date. Senate Bill 4 would ban K-12 schools from teaching “critical race theory,” a concept taught in some law schools that examines racism’s continuing effect on institutions but that is not taught in Missouri elementary or secondary schools. However, Republican politicians commonly mischaracterize CRT to encompass any discussion of race or racism in public schools.

MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES  
Timeline of Missouri's African American History

[Click here to read about Missouri Black History.](#)



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I had an opportunity to have a side conversation to express your concerns with the Governor and appreciate him taking time to listen.





Rep. Jerome Barnes and I represented our favorite hometown team on the House Floor.

# Understanding and Accessing MISSOURI MEDICAID

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

Am I eligible?		How do I apply?	
Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross <b>monthly</b> household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, <b>you may qualify</b> .		<b>GOOD NEWS!</b> Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it! <b>Online:</b> Visit <a href="https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply">https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply</a> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal. <b>By Phone:</b> Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994 <b>By Mail or Email:</b> Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to: <b>Family Support Division</b> 615 E 13th St Kansas City, MO 64106 Or email to: <a href="mailto:FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov">FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov</a>	
			
1	\$1,481		
2	\$2,003		
3	\$2,525		
4	\$3,048		
5	\$3,570		
6	\$4,092		

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR MO HEALTHNET](#)

## MEDICAID UPDATE

### Medicaid Annual Renewals to Restart April 1, 2023

Since COVID hit, we have been in a Public Health Emergency (PHE). As part of the PHE, Missouri has not been able to disenroll anyone from Medicaid except in very limited circumstances.

The federal government is ending the PHE for Medicaid on April 1, and **Missouri will start the process of reviewing eligibility for all Medicaid participants.** Participants will be processed by their renewal month (generally the month the family initially signed up for Medicaid).

Get ready for renewals by keeping your contact information up to date so you can get important updates in the mail. **If your address has**

**changed in the last 3 years, you will need to notify the Family Support Division.** You can update your address [online](#), at a [Family Services Division office](#), or by calling 855-373-4636.

You will receive a letter in the mail sometime between April 2023 and April 2024. You can check the [annual renewal timeline](#) to find out when you should expect to get your letter. This letter will tell you what, if anything, you need to do next. If a response is required, make sure to submit it by the deadline so you do not risk losing your healthcare coverage.

### Important Medicaid Alert

Missouri will be restarting Medicaid eligibility renewals on April 1, 2023.



## PREPARE TO RENEW

Beginning April 1, the Family Support Division will again be required to check the eligibility of all MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) participants each year. This is called a Medicaid eligibility renewal, or annual renewal. Follow these steps to make sure you complete your renewal on time:



Report changes, like a new address, to the Family Support Division



Watch for an annual renewal form or letter in the mail



Complete renewal form (if you get one) by the deadline in letter

Learn more about renewals and update your address at [mydss.mo.gov/renew](https://mydss.mo.gov/renew).



home state health



Healthy Blue




UnitedHealthcare

Missouri Department of  
SOCIAL SERVICES

Learn more  
[mydss.mo.gov/renew](https://mydss.mo.gov/renew)









**CELEBRATING  
BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**


**VIRTUAL ZOOM  
LUNCH & LEARN  
SPEAKER SERIES**




**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1, 12-1 P.M.**  
**ALVIN BROOKS**  
FORMER KC MAYOR PRO TEM  
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/87087335286](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/87087335286)



**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 12-1 P.M.**  
**GWEN GRANT**  
PRESIDENT & CEO, URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY  
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/83124744873](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/83124744873)



**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, 12-1 P.M.**  
**ERIC WESSON**  
MANAGING EDITOR & PUBLISHER, THE KANSAS CITY CALL  
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/81848350358](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/81848350358)



**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 12-1 P.M.**  
**BRIDGETTE WILLIAMS**  
PRESIDENT & CEO, HEAVY CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION  
JOIN US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://SWOPEHEALTH.ZOOM.US/J/82542417907](https://swopehealth.zoom.us/j/82542417907)

**RIGHT TO COUNSEL**

FREE Legal Services for Tenants Facing Eviction



KC is the **13th city**  
to offer this service free



**Helped 100s of families**  
Since launching June 1



**JACKSON COUNTY  
HOUSING COURT  
EVICTION RATE**

without RtC **99%** **VS** with RtC **<20%**

816-474-5112 | [gkcassistanceprogram.org/EvictionDefense/](http://gkcassistanceprogram.org/EvictionDefense/)

**PEACE FOR  UKRAINE**

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





FOLLOW ME ON

facebook.

## FIFTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

Monday, February 6, 2023  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Southeast Community Center,  
4601 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> 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

## SOUTH KANSAS CITY FOOD PANTRIES

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

**Community Assistance Council**, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org) for appointments or questions.

**Red Bridge Area Food Pantry**, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:



**Center School District**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

**Center District Warehouse**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

**Evangel Church**, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

**United Believers Community Church**, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School**, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

**Colonial Presbyterian Church**, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

**Red Bridge United Methodist Church**, 636 E. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

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**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](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)**

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

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