



Capitol Report

August 28, 2020

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Dear Neighbor,

Like everything else in this chaotic year, the Special Session the Governor called (You can read his proclamation [here](#)) for the General Assembly did not go as planned.

Senate Bill 1 was filed that contained the agenda the governor called the special for. The Senate passed a substitute for Senate Bill 1 and sent it to the House of Representatives.

This is where everything changed. . . .

Gov. Mike Parson on Monday, August 13 announced the expansion of special session which calls on the attorney general to help prosecute St. Louis homicides.

The multi-faceted anti-crime bill ([SB 1](#)) driving the special legislative session hit a snag in the House where SB 1 was shelved and the the House proceeded to simplify the process with six single-subject bills so the merits of each bill could be discussed individually. Ironically, missing

from the bill count was a controversial measure that would give Missouri's attorney general authority to take in murder cases that were not being prosecuted by the local prosecuting attorney for St. Louis City, Democrat Kim Gardner which the Governor expanded the call for.

The House third read and passed its versions of the bills on Tuesday, with five of the six provisions included in the governor's initial call heading to the Senate. The House refused to take up the bill regarding juvenile certification, essentially killing it.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your family. I encourage you to follow the recommendations of wearing masks, practice social distancing and use good hygiene; especially hand washing.

As the saying goes, "*Trouble don't last always.*"

Yours in Service,

Rich



I was in full protective gear as the House returned for the Special Session to deal with Missouri Violence.

Missouri House passes 5 special session bills

[HCS HB 2](#) -- TAMPERING WITH A WITNESS OR VICTIM

This bill would allow otherwise inadmissible evidence into a criminal trial, if a court finds at hearing without a jury and before the case is in front of a jury that a defendant tried to prevent a witness from testifying. I voted YES

[HB 11](#) -- ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD

This bill would criminalize knowingly encouraging, aiding or causing a child younger than 17 years old to engage in a weapons offense. I voted NO

[HCS HB 16](#) -- UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OF WEAPONS

This bill would make knowingly selling, leasing, lending, giving or delivering a firearm to a child under age 18 for the purposes of avoiding or preventing arrest of or prosecution for a crime a class E felony.

The latest version of the bill would end the misdemeanor crime of giving guns minors without parents' permission but would make it a felony to give firearms to children to avoid felony arrest or criminal investigation. I voted NO

[HCS HB 46](#) -- RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

This bill would eliminate and prohibit the requirement for St. Louis law enforcement officers and other public safety employees to have to live in the city, though they would still be required to live within an hour's response time of the city. I voted NO

[HB 66](#) -- PRETRIAL WITNESS PROTECTION SERVICES

This bill will create a pretrial witness protection services fund, to be administered by the state Department of Public Safety to law

enforcement agencies. The money would be used to provide security to witnesses, potential witnesses and their immediate families in criminal proceedings or investigations.

The provision does not include funding. It is likely if the Senate also passes this bill that the Governor will call another special session to fund the program. **I voted YES**

FY 2021 STARTS STRONG AS DELAYED TAXES COME DUE

Because of a three-month postponement in this year's income tax filing deadline, state revenue collections for the 2021 fiscal year got off to a robust start as income taxes that should have flowed into the state in April finally arrived in July.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government postponed the usual April 15 income tax filing deadline until July 15. Since the state's income tax is closely linked to a taxpayer's federal return, Missouri officials followed suit. Although the move granted taxpayers a reprieve while the state was in lockdown, it caused state revenue collections for the final quarter of FY 2020 to crater and prompted Republican Gov. Mike Parson to impose nearly \$435.38 million in unilateral budget cuts.

With FY 2021 getting underway as of July 1 and the delayed income tax bills finally due, net state general revenue collections for the first month of the new fiscal year increased a whopping 96.4 percent compared to July 2019, going from \$588.4 million last year to \$1.16 billion this year.

Despite the one-time influx of delayed revenue, Missouri's financial outlook is expected to remain bleak in the coming months as economic activity continues to be affected by the ongoing pandemic. In

addition to last year's spending reductions, Parson imposed another \$448.85 million in cuts to the FY 2021 state budget.



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.

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 General Election - November 3rd Deadlines

In-Person Absentee Voting: September 22 - November 2, 2020

Last Day to Register to Vote in the General Election is October 7

Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot is October 21, 2020 5:00PM

Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot: Tue November 3, 2020 7:00PM

November 3 ELECTION DAY. Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you can vote.

With all the controversy going on with the US Postal Service, it is recommended that everyone mail back their completed ballots early.

Two Amendments will be on the November 3rd Ballot.

Amendment 1

[Proposed by 100th General Assembly \(First Regular Session\) SS SCS SJR 14 & 9](#)

Official Ballot Title:

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to extend the two term restriction that currently applies to the Governor and Treasurer to the Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor and the Attorney General?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings from this proposal.

Fair Ballot Language:

A “yes” vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to impose a two term restriction on all statewide elected officials, which currently only applies to the Governor and Treasurer.

A “no” vote will leave the terms that statewide elected officials may serve unchanged. If passed, this measure will have no impact on taxes.

Amendment 3

[Proposed by 100th General Assembly \(Second Regular Session\) SS3 SJR 38](#)

Official Ballot Title:

I will give information on this Amendment in the upcoming weeks. The reason for this is because a Cole County judge rewrote the ballot language for this amendment aimed at repealing new, voter-enacted redistricting reforms, calling various aspects of the original wording crafted by Republican lawmakers “misleading,” “objectively untrue,” “literally false” and a “deception,” among other strongly worded terms.

The Republican-controlled legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution 38 in May. The proposed constitutional amendment seeks to reverse an overhaul of Missouri’s statehouse redistricting process that voters overwhelmingly ratified in 2018 as Amendment 1, also known as Clean Missouri. SJR 38 will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot as Amendment 3.

Although the Missouri secretary of state traditionally writes the ballot language for measures sent to voters, SJR 38’s sponsor, state Senator Dan Hegeman, exercised his prerogative under state law to include his own ballot language in the legislation. Hegeman’s language makes no mention of repealing the new redistricting process created by Clean Missouri, an omission Cole County Circuit Judge Patricia Joyce said obscures SJR 38’s main goal.

“The ‘central purpose’ or ‘primary objective’ of SJR 38 is to effectively repeal Amendment 1,” Joyce wrote. “Accordingly, the summary statement must alert voters to that change in some fashion. Instead, the General Assembly’s statement does not mention the change at all. It is insufficient, unfair and must be rewritten.”



I toured the ReDiscover facility with Gov. Parson this week in South Kansas City. I advocated and lobbied the governor for more funding for mental health and substance addiction.

Missouri to start paying \$300 unemployment boost this week

Austin Huguelet/Springfield News-Leader

Missouri could begin paying out a \$300 per week federal supplement to unemployment benefits in the next few days, the state announced late Monday.

The state labor department said in a news release it is “working as expeditiously as possible” to issue the payments “as early as later this week.”

The payments are part of a program President Trump created by

executive order Aug. 8 to restore half of the \$600 weekly supplement authorized by Congress that expired at the end of July.

The program invited states to kick in \$100 per week to make it a \$400 bump, but the news release made no mention of Missouri taking it up on the offer.

The boost will apply to workers eligible for at least \$100 per week in state benefits and who self-certify that they are unemployed or partially unemployed as a result of the pandemic, according to the news release.

Eligible workers who self-certified that they were unemployed when they filed their initial will see the benefit added automatically; the state labor department will contact those who haven't by the end of next week.

The program applies to eligible claims starting with the week ending Aug. 1, so workers could feasibly receive payments for each week since the original aid expired.

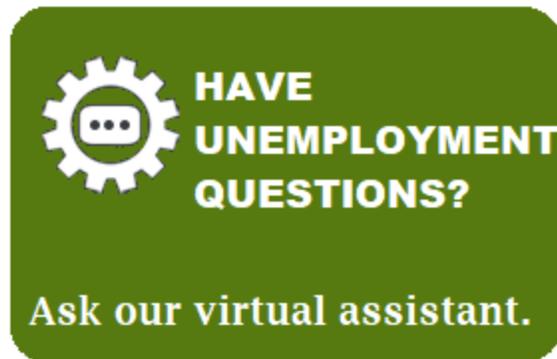
But the labor department said in its news release that enrollees should not expect to receive all owed payments at once.

"The first retroactive payment should be issued by the end of this week and all others by the latter part of next week," the release said.

It is not clear how long the program will last.

Trump's executive order capped federal spending on the program at \$44 billion, which would cover between 5-6 weeks of benefits if every state enrolls.

To read Missouri Department of Labor's press release [click here](#).



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>



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.



Food Distribution

Saturday, August 29, 2020

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

(Or until food is gone)

**Metropolitan Missionary
Baptist Church**

2310 E. Linwood Blvd, KCMO

(Parking lot located in the back of the Church)

Cars will line up at the corner of
Linwood Blvd & Olive Street
(facing west)

First Come - First Serve Basis

Volunteers wearing masks and gloves
will load food into cars

in Cooperation with

Harvesters | Kansas City Police Department | Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church

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
188 homicides in the Kansas City metro area in 2020.**

In Kansas City, Missouri, 130 people have been killed.

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



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



**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 Gentzsch 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.



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

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