



## **Mark A. Sharp Weekly Capitol Report**

**Feb 8th**

Dear Neighbor,

My name is Mark A. Sharp and I am the newly elected State Representative for District 36th. I wanted to present to you my new weekly "Capitol Report" which will include the latest news and legislative updates about major developments here at the state capitol. As a new member of The 100th General Assembly, 2nd Session, I am proud to serve the people of South Kansas City.

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 Brian Farmer 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.

Yours in Service,

*Mark A. Sharp*



#### Contact Information

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## Legislative Update

Friday, Feb. 7, 2020

### SENATE APPROVES REVERSING REDISTRICTING REFORM

The Republican-controlled Senate granted first-round approval on Feb. 4 to a proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to reverse statehouse redistricting reforms Missouri voters overwhelmingly ratified in 2018 and make it harder to challenge unconstitutional redistricting plans in court. A second vote is necessary to forward the measure to the House of Representatives.

Republicans opposed the 2018 amendment, known as Clean Missouri, and have since worked to undo it. Under its new redistricting system, state House and Senate districts are to be drawn by a non-partisan state demographer using constitutional criteria designed to maximize the number of competitive districts and ensure partisan fairness.

This system is scheduled to be used during the 2021 redistricting cycle, which will produce new districts to be used starting with the 2022 elections.

Senate Joint Resolution 38 would restore a modified version of the old system that gave partisan commissions composed of Republican and Democratic party loyalists first crack at drawing new maps but kicked the job to a panel of six appellate judges if the partisan commissions failed to agree, which is what typically happened.

Among the key departures from the old system contained in SJR 38, however, is a provision that would impose new hurdles to challenging unconstitutional redistricting plans. During the last redistricting cycle in 2011, the Missouri Supreme Court struck down the originally submitted Senate redistricting map as unconstitutional, requiring the process to start over. Under SJR 38, bringing such a challenge could prove more difficult.

SJR 38 also eliminates the traditional requirement that districts be based on the “total population of the state” and replaces it with an amorphous “one person, one vote” standard. Opponents argue this change is an attempt to exclude non-voters – children and adults who aren’t eligible to vote in Missouri for various reasons – from being counted for apportionment purposes and produce districts of unbalanced populations skewed to favor Republicans. Supporters, including the bill’s Republican sponsor, have been coy about what this change is supposed to achieve.

In addition, the measure would minimize the importance of competitiveness and partisan fairness in drawing new districts. If approved by both legislative chambers, the measure would go on the November 2020 statewide ballot for voter ratification.

## **HOUSE PANEL ENDORSES TOUGHER INITIATIVE PROCESS**

On party-line votes of 4-2, the House Elections Committee on Feb. 5 advanced a pair of constitutional amendments that would make it significantly more difficult to use the

initiative petition process to enact legislation independently of the Missouri General Assembly by going directly to voters. Majority Republicans supported the measures, while minority Democrats opposed them.

Under existing constitutional procedures, if the secretary of state certifies that an initiative petition has the requisite number of signatures to qualify for the ballot, it goes before voters to be approved or rejected by a simple majority. House Joint Resolution 97 would drastically change that process by first submitting the measure to the legislature, which could approve, reject or amend it.

If lawmakers amend or reject the measure, the initiative sponsors can opt to put the original version on the ballot, but it would require a two-thirds majority of voters to pass. If the legislature approves the measure without changes or the sponsors accept an amended version, only a simple majority would be required for approval.

The other measure approved by the Republican-controlled committee, House Joint Resolution 60, would increase the minimum number of signatures required from registered voters for an initiative proposing a constitutional amendment.

At present, petition supporters must hit a signature target of at least 8 percent of the vote total in the last gubernatorial election in two-thirds of the state's congressional districts. HJR 60 would require the minimum amount in all of Missouri's congressional districts.

If approved by both legislative chambers, HJR 60 and HJR 97 would go on the November 2020 statewide ballot for separate voter ratification.

## **COMMITTEE PASSES GAG ORDER ON LOCAL OFFICIALS**

By a tight 7-6 vote, the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee on Feb. 4 advanced legislation that would prohibit the local government and school officials

from testifying for or against the legislation before legislative committees. While most Republican committee members voted for the bill, two joined Democrats in opposition.

Existing state law prohibits local officials from donating public funds to campaigns for or against ballot measures or candidates for office. However, that law still allows them to speak on matters of public policy in their official capacity, including taking positions supporting or opposing the legislation.

Under House Bill 1347, local officials – including representatives of cities, counties and school districts – could continue to testify before legislative committees, but only if they take no position on a bill, which would largely defeat the purpose of testifying. At present, local officials testify for and against bills on a regular basis. Local officials who violated the bill could be subject to lawsuits and fines.

## **My Legislation**

[HB2107](#)- Modifies residency requirements for the A+ Schools Program

[HB2169](#)- Establishes Blair's Law, which creates the offense of unlawful discharge of a firearm for discharging a firearm within or into the limits of a municipality with criminal negligence



**Students from Forerunner Christian Academy visiting the capitol for Advocacy Day**



**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)**



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