

Welcome January 2022



It is an honor and privilege to serve the 26th District in the Missouri House of Representatives. I've enjoyed getting to know so many people in our community, and I hope this e-mail newsletter allows me to hear from more of my constituents. Please forward this e-mail to your friends and family in the 26th District who want to know how what happens in the legislature affects all our lives.



Redistricting What you need to know

The HIBCC has produced two different maps, one drawn by Democrats and one drawn by Republicans. Criteria outlined in the Missouri Constitution says districts shall:

- be as nearly equal in population as may be possible (1-3% difference max)
- meet all requirements of US Constitution and federal laws, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- be contiguous and compact to the extent possible by natural or political boundaries
- preserve communities of interest and follow political subdivision lines
- have partisan fairness and competitiveness (subject to above priorities)

To view the **current district map** please visit

here: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::fbee4d97-5a12-4790-ac8b-fef44ce6432d>

To view the **Republican proposed map** please visit

here: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::b4fe40b2-c5f5-442f-9d90-f3922897281a>

To view the **Democrat proposed map** please visit

here: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::8ccecf64-03e6-4cae-834d-edcc8e57ba04>

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



Program Updates

- MHDC has partnered with Kansas City and Jackson County to sustain their local Emergency Rental Assistance Programs. [Read more about it here.](#)
- Reminder, there is [information available](#) to homeowners awaiting assistance. Homeowners can review our portal to learn more about actions they can take prior to SAFHR for Homeowners opening.

- Our Mortgage Assistance Counseling (MAC) program is live, with three partners that can help homeowners manage and avoid delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, and displacements. [The MAC Partners can be found here](#), and more will be added soon.
- Applicants can track their application status right in the SAFHR portal. Applicants can log back in to their accounts to check the status of approval, funding and more.
- **The Housing Stability and Eviction Diversion Program is still accepting applications!** Non-profit community organizations that provide housing-related services may apply now. Read more about the program on [our website](#).
- **The Mortgage Assistance Counseling Program is still accepting applications!** HUD-certified housing counseling and Legal Aid agencies that provide housing-related services may apply now. Read more about it on [our website](#).
 - Questions about the program? [Check out our FAQ](#).
- Do you know of an event happening in Missouri where we can share SAFHR information? Let us know! Email us at mo.safhr@mhdc.com.
- Do you have a successful SAFHR story? We'd love to hear it, email us at mo.safhr@mhdc.com.
 - Reminder: SAFHR is open to ALL Missouri residents.

Food/Household/Utility Resources:



Need food and hygiene items, emergency rent or utilities assistance, diapers or pull-ups, help with medicines and medical devices? CAC may be able to help. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

- **Harvesters Community Food Network.** Click [HERE](#) to find service in your area
- [Community Action Agency of Greater Kansas City](#)
- [Spire - Natural Gas Assistance](#)
- [Emergency Rent Assistance](#)

KANSAS CITY'S NEW EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Application process announcement mid-February

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

These agencies have city-provided funds available now for rent and/or utility help:

- **Journey to New Life** - (816) 960-4808
- **Metro Lutheran Ministries** - (816) 285-3137 (north)
(816) 285-3139 (south)
- **Greater KC Housing Info Center** - (816) 931-0443
- **Guadalupe Center** - (816) 421-1015
- **Save, Inc.** - (816) 531-8340, ext. 260



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

[KCMO.GOV/RentHelp](https://www.kcmo.gov/RentHelp)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Full Employment Council - Kansas City](#)

[KCTV5 - Job Connection](#)

[Ford - Claycomo](#)

[Truman Medical Center](#)

[Kansas City Research Hospital](#)

COVID RESOURCES

Access to resources for COVID 19 assistance can be found by clicking below.

[COVID Resources](#)

Please click [TEST SITES](#) for testing locations.

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged.

In addition, those who are *symptomatic* are encouraged to call 404-CARE, option 2, to schedule a test at one of our two hospital locations.

Updated vaccine information can be found [HERE](#)

We have implemented a COVID-19 Vaccine Waitlist for those who meet the Missouri resident criteria for Phase 1A, Phase 1B-Tier 1, and Phase 1B-Tier 2.

More information is at <https://www.trumed.org/forms/covid-19-vaccine-wait-list/>

Individuals also may call 404-CARE to talk to a scheduler.



Did you know that the Missouri Humanities has a major-grants program that funds projects up to \$10,000?

Applications are considered two times each year with submission deadlines of FEBRUARY 1st & AUGUST 1st.

Missouri Humanities is now accepting grant applications for major grants and must be submitted by February 1, 2022.

Want to find out more?

Go to MH's website, <https://mohumanities.org/grants/>, and fill out the application and email it to clarice@mohumanities.org.

If you have any questions call 314-781-9660 or email clarice@mohumanities.org.

CAPITOL UPDATE

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact us at 573.751.2124 or at ashley.blandmanlove@house.mo.gov

FRONTLOADED 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION - JAN. 5

The usual four-and-half-month marathon that is the Missouri General Assembly's annual legislative session has begun with some intense sprints this year as lawmakers must enact new congressional districts before candidate filing for the 2022 elections opens in February and pass a supplemental appropriations bill that the governor wants to sign into law by the end of January.

Missouri's eight congressional districts must be redrawn every 10 years to reflect population shifts under the most recent U.S. Census. Normally, lawmakers would have undertaken the job during the 2021 legislative session. However, since the detailed Census data needed for redistricting didn't become available until this fall due to pandemic-related delays, the task got kicked until 2022.

The delay puts lawmakers in a tight spot since candidates filing for the Aug. 2 party primaries for Congress and other elected offices open on Feb. 22. Although that gives lawmakers about

six weeks to complete the job, given the politically charged nature of redistricting – and the fact that at least a half-dozen Republican lawmakers are considering congressional bids this year and have competing interests regarding the composition of the new districts – they will need to move quickly to get it done in time.

Missouri's congressional delegation currently consists of six Republicans and two Democrats, and that partisan split likely will remain after redistricting. Although some Republicans have floated the idea of crafting a 7-1 map in their favor, there are numerous political and geographic hurdles to pulling that off, which is why a similar proposal gained little traction during the last redistricting cycle in 2011.

Lawmakers also will be pressed to pass a supplemental spending bill to sharply increase pay for state workers, a measure Republican Gov. Mike Parson said he wants in place in time for the raises to take effect Feb. 1. Parson wants to provide all state employees with a 5.5 percent raise and also establish a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for state jobs. Missouri consistently ranks dead last in the nation in state worker pay, and Parson said the poor wages are making it difficult to fill state government jobs.

Another budget issue awaiting lawmakers is fully funding the state's Medicaid program after the Missouri Supreme Court upheld the validity of a 2020 state constitutional amendment expanding eligibility for the program. Majority Republicans attempted to thwart expansion in 2021 by refusing to appropriate the funding – primarily provided by the federal government – needed to pay for services to additional recipients. The high court ruled that while the amendment doesn't require lawmakers to increase Medicaid appropriations, the state can't refuse to provide services to the expanded population.

Since the court required the state to enroll the expanded population last summer, lawmakers will either have to boost appropriations for the remaining months of the fiscal year or risk the program running out of spending authority. The legislature also must allocate billions of dollars in federal COVID-19 relief funds that are set to expire in 2022 if not spent soon.

Republicans outnumber Democrats 24-10 in the Senate and 110-49 in the House of Representatives, which will have four vacant seats. The majority party is expected to continue efforts from the previous year to restrict local governments' ability to mitigate the spread of communicable diseases, impose new barriers to voting, limit women's access to reproductive health services, ban teaching about racism in American society and curb the use of initiative

petitions to enact laws independently of the legislature.

STL COUNTY APPEALS IN CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS CASE

St. Louis County is appealing a Cole County judge's recent decision striking down several state health department regulations, a ruling they maintain has created "chaos" throughout the state as to what, if any, authority local governments have to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. The county submitted its notice of appeal with the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District in Kansas City on Dec. 28.

On Nov. 22, Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green, a Republican, declared unconstitutional four state regulations authorizing the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to delegate responses to public health emergencies to local officials. Despite representing the losing party in the case, Attorney General Eric Schmitt refused to appeal and instead began aggressively demanding that local governments cease any efforts to contain the coronavirus, including those based on authority derived from state law and not impacted by Green's ruling.

Several counties later filed motions to intervene in the case so they could appeal the decision, but Green denied those motions on Dec. 22. However, his denial of the intervention motions created a path for them to appeal anyway.

As the litigation proceeds, COVID-19 cases in Missouri and other parts of the nation are hitting some of their highest levels since the pandemic began nearly two years ago as the highly contagious omicron variant continues to spread.

STATE SENATE AND HOUSE REDISTRICTING REACH NEXT PHASES

While Senate redistricting commissioners were unable to agree on a tentative plan by the Dec. 23 deadline, House redistricting commissioners bought themselves more time to negotiate by taking the unprecedented step of submitting two tentative maps – one supported by Democrats and the other by Republicans.

Both commissions consist of 20 members evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, with 14 votes required for a commission to approve a redistricting plan. Since the Senate commission failed to submit a tentative plan by the deadline, another commission of six appellate judges appointed by the Supreme Court will take over the job of drawing new

Senate districts.

The work of the House commission continues, however. Although the Democratic and Republican commissioners have agreed on new House districts for most of Missouri, disagreements remain regarding district boundaries for Boone, Greene, Jackson, and St. Louis counties. The House commission now must agree to a single House plan no later than Jan. 23 or the Appellate Redistricting Commission will take over drawing House districts as well.

With candidate filing for the Aug. 2 party primaries scheduled to begin Feb. 22, the appellate commission will face an extremely tight timetable for finalizing new districts.

GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS SET FOR JAN. 19

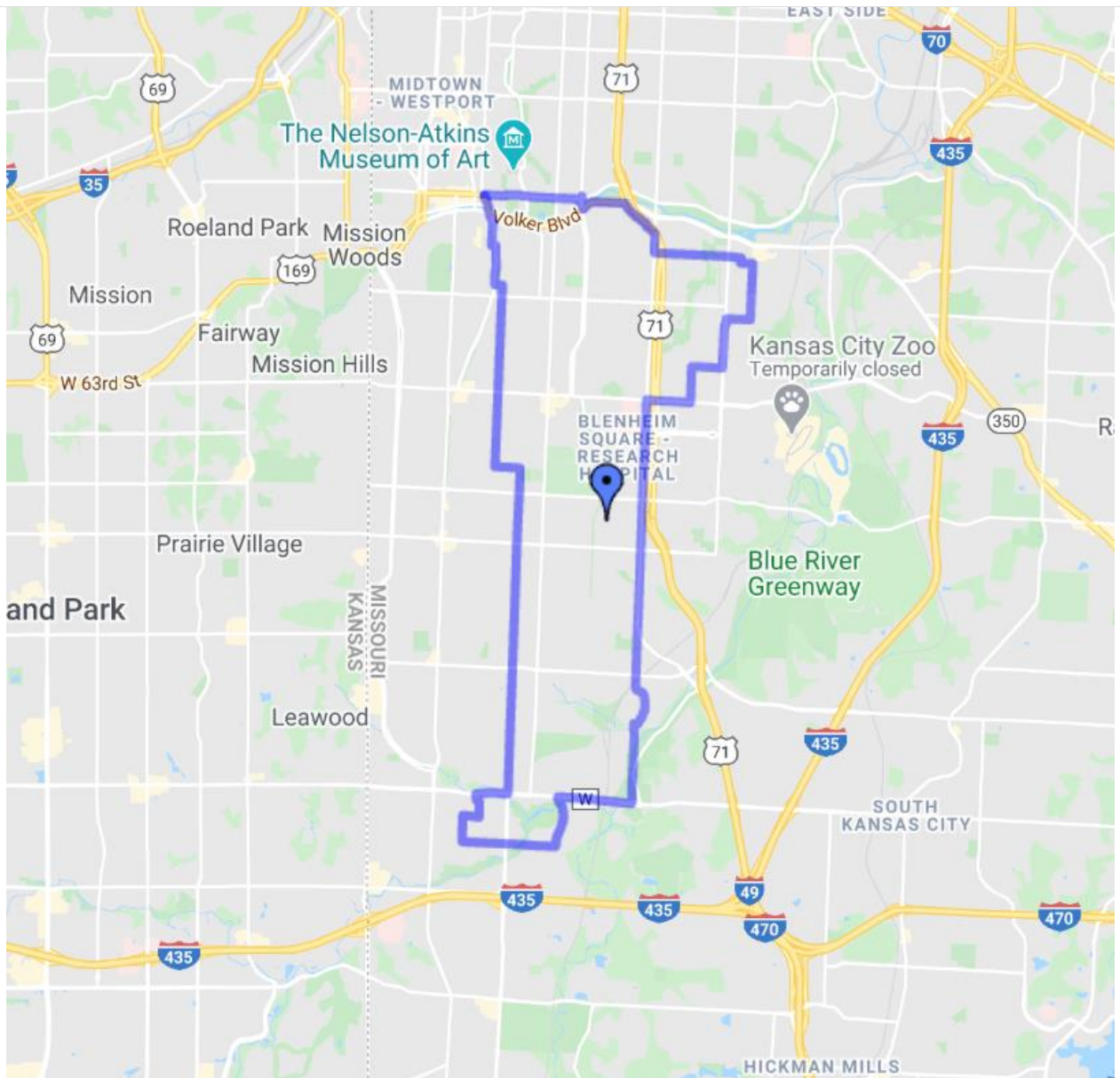
Gov. Mike Parson will deliver the 2022 State of the State address before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly on Jan. 19. During the annual speech, Parson is will announce his policy agenda for the year and unveil the proposed state operating budget for the 2023 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The address is scheduled to be held in the House of Representatives chamber, its traditional location. Following a spat between the governor and Republican House leaders last year over COVID-19 concerns, the 2021 State of the State address was abruptly moved to the Senate chamber just hours before it was slated to start.



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