



## WELCOME July 2020



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.

## 2020 CENSUS

Your household should receive a letter from the US government instructing you on how to participate in the 2020 Census

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FILL IT OUT**

## Why does the Census matter?

- The Census determines **how much voice Missourians have in the federal government**, including in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Electoral College
- The Census helps **identify health trends across the country** (i.e. obesity, cancer, etc.) so public health officials can best address them
- The Census determines **how much money the state receives from the Federal Government** (almost \$1,300 per person - you matter!). Filling out the Census ensures Missouri gets its fair share. This includes programs like SNAP, Head Start, Pell grants, Medicare, and more

The census can be filled out online, via phone, or via mail. Further instructions will be included in the mailing.

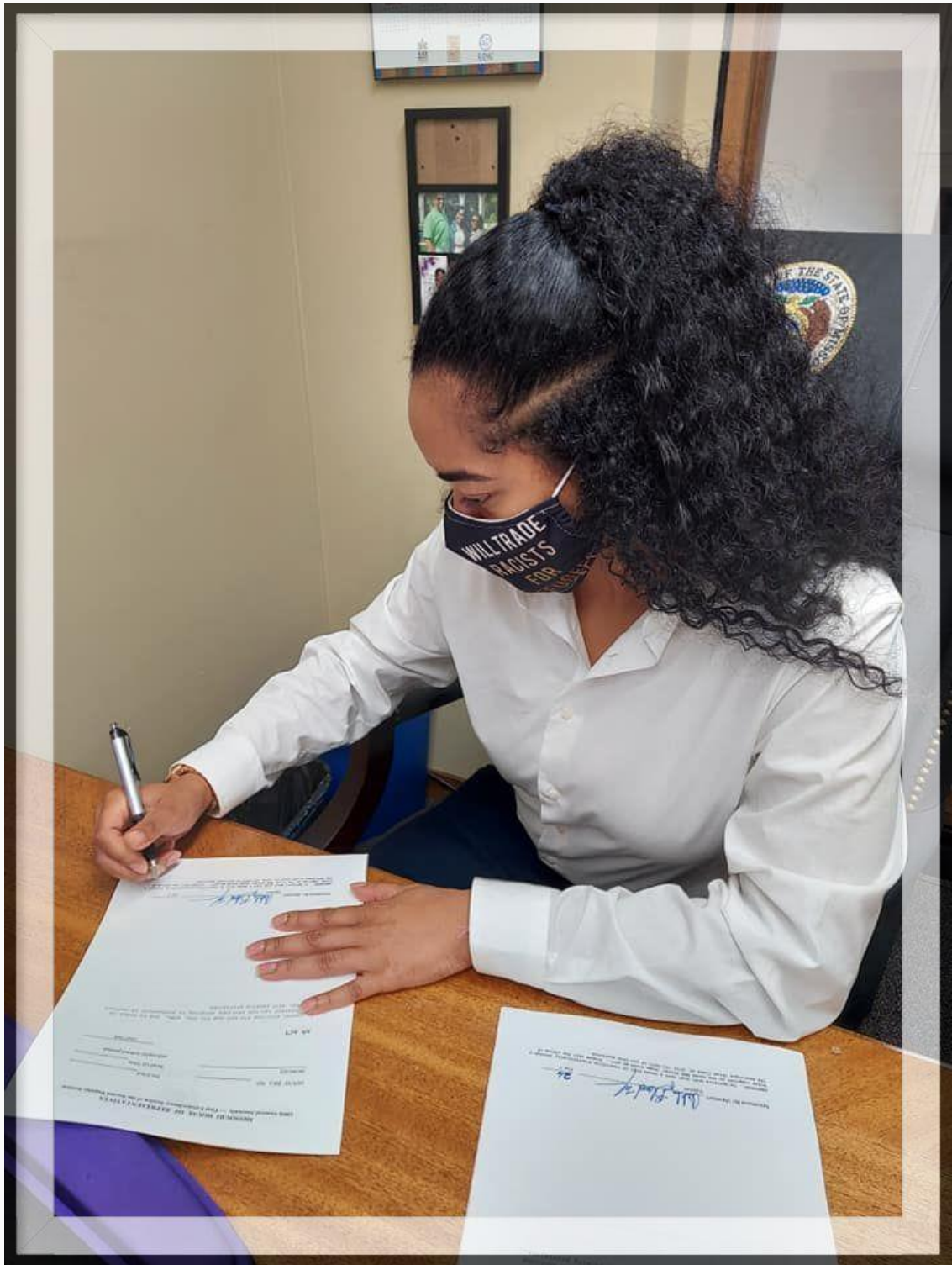


The Census Bureau is still hiring thousands of people in every city and neighborhood - **Right Now!**

The pay is \$12-13 per hour and you work as little as 10 hours or as much as 30 hours per week. You can work in your neighborhood to minimize drive time, transportation and other expenses. Retired, student, extra income seekers all are welcome!

**Please apply now!**

Spread the word- Over the next few months, the census plans to hire thousands of people throughout the country. [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)



**On July 27 I refiled HB1676 and HB 2442 for the special session on violence. One requires sales of weapons and ammo to be completed at a licensed dealer. The other, bans ammo feeding devices over 10 rounds.**

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## **CAPITOL UPDATE**

### **PARSON CRITICIZED FOR DOWNPLAYING VIRUS' RISK TO KIDS**

Republican Gov. Mike Parson sparked national criticism and condemnation after stating with certainty on a St. Louis radio program that Missouri children will contract COVID-19 when they return to school but that “they’re going to get over it.” Parson made his comments on July 17 during an interview on KFTK FM during which he discussed the need for public schools to reopen as scheduled next month.

“These kids have to get back to school,” Parson said. “They’re at the lowest risk possible. And if they do get COVID-19, which they will – and they will when they go to school –they’re not going to the hospitals. They’re going to go home and they’re going to get over it.”

Parson’s statement quickly spread on social media, with commenters denouncing his seeming ambivalence to children contracting the disease and ignoring the risk they would pose to older family members they might infect, even if the children themselves suffer few ill effects. Major national news organizations also picked up the story.

Parson attempted to walk back his comments during a July 22 interview on KMOX AM in St. Louis, saying: “I didn’t do a good job of explaining the point I was trying to make.” He also attacked those who criticized him as “sick individuals,” according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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Missouri has continued to frequently break daily records for new reported cases. On July 21, the state reported 1,138 new cases – marking the first time it topped the 1,000-case mark in a single day. Missouri shattered that record the next day with 1,301 new cases.

## **LAWMAKERS PUSH SPECIAL SESSION UNTIL AFTER PRIMARY**

While the special legislative session Gov. Mike Parson called to promote a tough-on-crime image heading into the fall elections officially will start July 27, the real work of the session won't begin until after the Aug. 4 party primary elections, according to tentative schedules released by Republican legislative leaders.

The full Senate plans to convene on July 27, but the full chamber won't meet again until the day after the primaries. As has been its special session practice for nearly 20 years, the House of Representatives will just hold a sparsely attended procedural session on the first day. The Senate plans to take up the session's legislation upon its Aug. 5 return and advance it to the House soon thereafter. The House isn't scheduled to fully reconvene until Aug. 12.

In announcing the special session on July 15, Parson said "protecting our citizens and upholding the laws of our state are of utmost importance to my administration." However, when House Democrats asked Parson, a Republican, to call a special session last summer on gun violence prevention, he refused, saying the issue could wait.

None of the proposed legislation Parson included in his special session call would prevent violent crimes but instead address court procedures and sentencing after a crime has been committed. Under the Missouri Constitution, the governor controls what topics lawmakers can consider during a special session.

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In addition to excluding legislation on violent crime prevention, Parson also chose not to include proposals to address police brutality and improve law enforcement accountability in his special session call, despite months of protests around Missouri over the issue and repeated requests from members of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus that he take leadership on the issue. As he did with last year's request for a special session on violent crime, Parson said the issue should wait for another time.

## **STATE FAIR CANCELLED FOR FIRST TIME SINCE WW II**

After planning for weeks to forge ahead with a scaled-back Missouri State Fair, organizers abruptly cancelled most of what was left on July 17 because of safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All that will remain at this year's version of the annual event in Sedalia are the outdoor youth livestock shows.

Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, repeatedly had touted the importance of holding the fair, which he said had previously been cancelled just once during its history, during World War II. During a June 11 press briefing, Parson said that as a rural governor he didn't want the fair cancelled on his watch. Parson had even planned to still hold the annual Governor's Ham Breakfast at the fair, a major event on Missouri's political calendar.

Lack of sponsor support likely contributed to the fair's cancellation, despite the governor's desire to push ahead. The day before organizers made their announcement, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported at least 20 major sponsored had pulled out of the event, including brewing giant A-B InBev. This year's fair was scheduled to run from Aug. 13-23. Five of the eight states bordering Missouri had already cancelled their state fairs, according to the Post-Dispatch. Only Arkansas, Kentucky and Nebraska still planned to hold theirs.

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## **COVID-19 Community Update for Visit KC Partners**

### **Help #SaveTravel with U.S. Travel's free advocacy toolkit**

With the release of the HEALS Act, Congress has begun negotiations for the next round of Coronavirus relief—and the travel industry needs to maintain its seat at the table. Take action and help our destination's voice be heard with a free advocacy toolkit from the Power of Travel Coalition. Resources include sample op-eds, persuasive social graphics and convenient email templates to contact your members of Congress. Timing is of the essence and your grassroots support is needed—click [here](#) to get started.

#### **Unite with 70+ area companies and sign the KC Clean Commitment**

To promote safe travel and to ensure the recovery of the travel and tourism industry—which employed more than 48,000 Kansas Citians in 2019—Visit KC and its partners are proud to unveil the KC Clean Commitment. This initiative bands together regional businesses under a common goal to protect our destination through common-sense health practices. There is no cost or membership requirement to participate and [70+ businesses](#) have already joined the cause. Unite with us and [pledge your business' commitment](#) to keep Kansas City safe and welcoming for all.

#### **KC Spirit Playbook: Learn more about KCMO's Comprehensive Plan**

The City Planning and Development Department is updating the City of Kansas City, Missouri's Comprehensive Plan. Join host BikeWalkKC and KCMO city planners Gerald Williams and Morgan Pemberton on Aug. 11 to learn more about how you can help create a “thriving, people-centered community” through the KC Spirit Playbook. The virtual event is free, but [registration is required](#).

#### **Share your thoughts on the future of KCI through new air traffic survey**

What are your hopes for the future of air travel in Kansas City? Which nonstop destinations are most important to you? The KC Chamber and other local civic organizations are looking to answer questions such as these, and we need as many responses from area residents as possible to help guide upcoming decisions by the Kansas City Aviation Department. Share your opinion and [take the survey](#) today.

#### **MARC, United Way host drive for childcare supplies**

To help combat the spread of COVID-19, the Mid-America Regional Council and the United Way of Greater Kansas City have partnered with several local organizations to collect essential supplies like baby items and PPE for area childcare providers.



Learn more about what is needed and how you can help [here](#).

### **Employment Opportunities**

TeamKC and the Kansas City Area Development Council are maintaining a list of job opportunities throughout the region. To view temporary and permanent opportunities currently available, such as those offered by ChowNow, SelectQuote and Waddell & Reed, click [here](#).

### **Good News from Around KC**

- [KC Jazz Alive celebrates Charlie Parker's 100th birthday with event series](#)
- [Sports Commission tees up inaugural golf classic](#)
- [National WWI Museum launches free resources for educators and students](#)
- [Crown Center District introduces "StayKCation" package](#)
- [Kemper Museum to debut new virtual exhibit on Aug. 11](#)
- [RideKC expands weekday service](#)
- [KC Parks adds notary services to community centers](#)

### **Additional Resources**

For other information and resources on how our region is persevering through the COVID-19 pandemic, go to [VisitKC.com/community](https://www.visitkc.com/community). Our team updates this section with new information on a daily basis.

**Keep Kansas City Strong**  
**#HOWWEDOKC**

## **Thinking About Traveling??**

### **If You Travel**

#### **Protect yourself and others during your trip:**

- Clean your hands often.
  - [Wash your hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, after touching surfaces frequently touched by others, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, and before touching your face or eating.
  - If soap and water are not available, bring and use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub your hands together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

- Avoid close contact with others.
  - Keep 6 feet of physical distance from others.
- [Wear a cloth face covering in public.](#)
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Pick up food at drive-throughs, curbside restaurant service, or stores.

## Considerations for Types of Travel

Travel increases your chances of getting and spreading COVID-19. We don't know if one type of travel is safer than others; however, airports, bus stations, train stations, and rest stops are all places travelers can be exposed to the virus in the air and on surfaces. These are also places where it can be hard to [social distance](#) (keep 6 feet apart from other people).

Consider the following risks for getting or spreading COVID-19, depending on how you travel:

- **Air travel:** Air travel requires spending time in security lines and airport terminals, which can bring you in close contact with other people and frequently touched surfaces. Most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on flights because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes. However, social distancing is difficult on crowded flights, and you may have to sit near others (within 6 feet), sometimes for hours. This may increase your risk for exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- **Bus or train travel:** Traveling on buses and trains for any length of time can involve sitting or standing within 6 feet of others.
- **Car travel:** Making stops along the way for gas, food, or bathroom breaks can put you and your traveling companions in close contact with other people and surfaces.
- **RV travel:** You may have to stop less often for food or bathroom breaks, but RV travel typically means staying at RV parks overnight and getting gas and supplies at other public places. These stops may put you and those with you in the RV in close contact with others.

## Unemployment Benefits

Regional Claims Center representatives are available by phone  
Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM by calling: 816-889-3101

-The President signed the CARES Act on 3/27. The act expands eligibility for unemployment benefits. Keep checking the Department's website link above for updates. The U.S. Department of Labor issued general guidance to state workforce agencies on April 2. Additional guidance documents on the specific programs have since been released:

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (\$600 supplement)

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (for the self-employed, etc.)

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (add 13 weeks)

-See here for the 4/15 press release from the Department advising the self-employed to apply for regular UI. They will likely receive a denial, but the department will then contact them when the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program is operational. You have to be ineligible for regular benefits to receive PUA.

Note from press briefing on 4/2: Governor Parson also announced in today's briefing that since Missouri signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor on Saturday, the \$600 federal supplement will be effective beginning March 29 for those filing unemployment payment requests this week. These monies will be paid retroactively for claims filed on or after March 29 after the federal government issues guidance and releases the funds.

From governor's email on 4/8: The \$600 federal supplement for those that are unemployed will be effective the week beginning March 29, 2020, for those filing their unemployment payment request for that week.

- Payments will be made retroactively for claims filed on or after March 29, 2020.
- The last payable week for the \$600 supplement will be the week ending July 25, 2020.
- During the FPUC program period, claimants who are eligible to receive regular unemployment weekly payments will receive the additional \$600 FPUC payment.

-Update on 3/25 - from governor's email:

The following flexibility measures will be temporarily implemented:

- Relax the work search requirement for COVID-19 related claims
- Waive waiting week for unemployment insurance claims filed due to COVID-19, decreasing processing time

• Waive charging COVID-19 related claims on employers' unemployment insurance accounts, helping employers avoid negative impact on their payroll tax rate

**General Information:**

- See [here](#) for general FAQs.

- Generally if you are receiving pay while off work (paid sick leave, vacation pay, etc.), you can't receive unemployment benefits

- to be eligible for unemployment benefits you need to have earned enough wages in insured work to establish a claim. Insured work is work performed for any employer that is required to contribute to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. Note that due to the CARES Act, people may qualify for assistance who would not meet this test. They might qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

- Your weekly benefit amount is 4 percent of the average of your two highest quarters in the base period. Missouri's maximum weekly benefit amount is \$320. See section 288.038. Note that the CARES Act contains a provision for temporary distribution of an additional \$600 a week. See above.

- 20 weeks of benefits is the maximum allowed during your benefit year. See section 288.060. Note that section 288.060 is a multiple. The law that is in effect is in the second version of section 288.060. Relevant language from that section:

The maximum total amount of benefits payable to any insured worker during any benefit year shall not exceed twenty times his or her weekly benefit amount, or thirty-three and one-third percent of his or her wage credits, whichever is the lesser.

- Rep. Morgan filed a bill this year to extend this to 26 times the weekly benefit. See HB 1862. It had been 26 before the legislature changed it to 20 in 2011 (see HB 163). Note that the CARES Act contains a provision for 13 additional weeks of unemployment assistance. See above.

- Under normal circumstances to be eligible for unemployment benefits you are required to make at least 3 work search activities each week, unless directed otherwise. On March 25 DOL announced it would be relaxing work search requirements for COVID-19 related claims.

- Weekly work search eligibility requirements are not required when there is a recall date within eight weeks of the temporary lay-off.

**Waiting Week Information:**

The waiting week is the first week of your claim for which you are eligible for unemployment benefits but not paid these benefits. You must file a weekly

request for payment for this week. You may receive compensation for the waiting week as the last payment on your regular unemployment claim. On March 25 DOL announced it would be waiving the waiting week for COVID-19 related claims.

**Shared Work Program:**

Can an employer participate in Missouri's shared work program whose business has temporarily declined due to the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Answer: An employer can participate in a shared work plan if they meet the eligibility requirements for Missouri's shared work program. The Shared Work Unemployment Compensation Program is an alternative to layoffs for employers faced with a reduction in available work. It allows an employer to divide the available work among a specified group of affected employees instead of a layoff. These employees receive a portion of their unemployment benefits while working reduced hours. For more information about the eligibility requirements for Missouri's shared work program, please visit [www.sharedwork.mo.gov](http://www.sharedwork.mo.gov), email [sharedworkinfo@labor.mo.gov](mailto:sharedworkinfo@labor.mo.gov) or call 573-751-WORK (9675).

**Mass Layoff:**

The Electronic Mass Claims Filing System is designed to assist employers and their employees during a temporary mass layoff. Employee information provided by the employer, allows the Division of Employment Security (DES) to file an initial or renewed unemployment claim on behalf of employees quickly and efficiently. Once the new or renewed claim is filed, the employee will be responsible for filing weekly unemployment certifications using UInteract. As part of the mass claims filing, a recall date is entered for temporary layoffs, not to exceed eight weeks from the last day worked. The eligibility requirements for a mass claim are as follows:

- The layoff must be due to a lack of work
- The layoff must be less than eight weeks in duration

For additional information,  
contact the Claims Programs Section at 573-751-0436.

**Extended Work Search Waiver:**

If you are on a layoff of eight weeks or less, give recall date information at the time you file for unemployment benefits.

If you have a date to return to work that is more than eight weeks from your last day worked, but within 16 weeks, your employer must submit a request to the Division of Employment Security Director for an extended work search waiver. The request can be submitted online at

Work Search Waivers or by fax to 573-751-5040. If requesting by fax, the request must be on company letterhead and include employer's unemployment account number and the name, Social Security Number, last day worked and recall date of the affected employees. The employer must sign and date the request.

## CONSTITUENT RESOURCES

### REAL ID

After **October 1, 2020**, REAL ID is required to:

- Fly Domestically
- Access Federal Facilities (including military bases, prisons, & courts)

To obtain a REAL ID:

- Go to a DMV
- Bring proper documentation
- Non-expired licenses can be updated for \$5

For more information, visit: <https://dor.mo.gov/drivers/real-id-information/>

 [Email: ashley.blandmanlove@house.mo.gov](mailto:ashley.blandmanlove@house.mo.gov)

 [House of Representatives](#)

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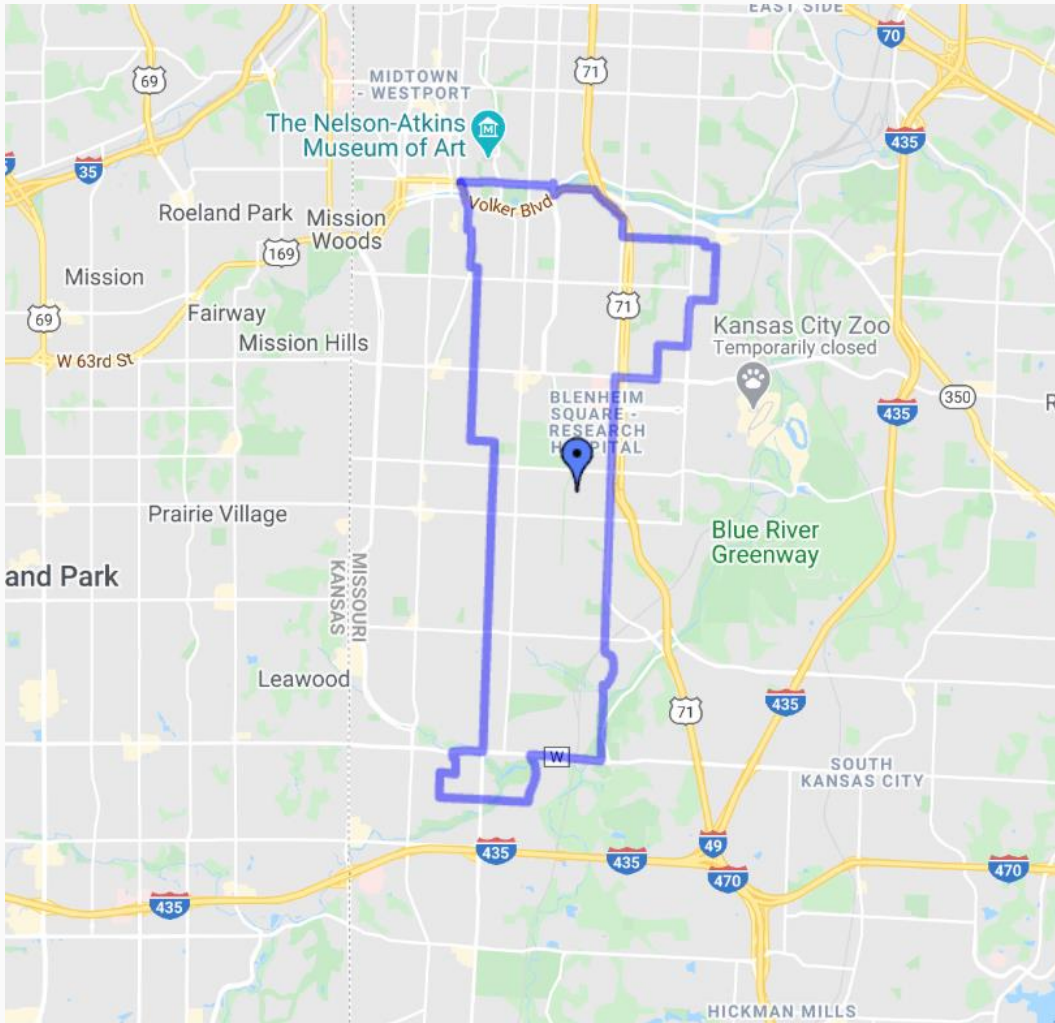
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## Committees:

- **Subcommittee on Appropriations - General Administration, Ranking Minority Member**
- **Budget**
- **Financial Institutions**
- **Special Committee on Disease Control and Prevention**

## Sponsored Bills:

- **HB 1573** - (4079H.01I) Modifies provisions relating to law enforcement officer's use of force in making an arrest.
- **HB 1591** - (3822H.01I) Establishes the National Popular Vote Act.
- **HB 1592** - (3261H.01I) Changes offenses not eligible for expungement.
- **HB 1593** - (3315H.01I) Allows a civil action for summoning a police officer.
- **HB 1594** - (3819H.02I) Creates provisions for automatic voter registration.
- **HB 1595** - (3270H.01I) Modifies provisions relating to compensation for victims of crime.
- **HB 1674** - (3531H.01I) Prohibits text messaging while driving for all drivers.
- **HB 1675** - (3314H.01I) Designates the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.
- **HB 1676** - (3730H.01I) Requires that all sales or transfers of firearms and ammunition be processed through a licensed firearms dealer.
- **HB 1848** - (3386H.01I) Establishes provisions requiring notice to the debtor before collecting debt through judicial means.
- **HB 2442** - (4271H.02I) Creates the offense of unlawful possession of an ammunition feeding device that holds more than ten rounds.
- **HB 2517** - (5416H.01I) Modifies the penalties for the offense of driving while revoked.
- **HB 2639** - (LR# 4910H.01I) - Modifies provisions relating to the carrying-out of wine and wine-based products from certain places
- **HB 2704** - (LR# 3575H.01I) - Prohibits the sale or distribution of novelty lighters



**Representative Bland Manlove  
26th District of Missouri**

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