



State Representative  
Mark A. Sharp  
District 37

## WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, December 18, 2023

### **INVESTMENTS IN CHINA PHASED OUT**

The Missouri State Employees Retirement System (MOSERS) Board of Trustees voted 9-2 on Dec. 12 to divest approximately \$190 million in investments in Chinese stocks and securities over the next three years according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The action marked a reversal from a voice vote the board took in November rejecting divestment.

**State Treasurer Vivek Malek, a member of the MOSERS board, has been pushing for the system to divest Chinese holdings. Gov. Mike Parson appointed Malek as treasurer in January to fill a vacancy.**

**MOSERS administers the pensions of most state workers and manages the investments that help fund benefits.**

According to the Missouri Independent, Sen. John Rizzo, D-Independence and one of MOSERS board members

opposed to the plan, accused Malek of advocating for divestment solely for political benefit and noted the system's professional investment managers predicted financial losses should the board follow through.

Malek denied being motivated by political concerns and said withdrawing investments from China is a sound decision due to the country's economic problems and growing aggressiveness to U.S. interests. Just hours later, however, Malek's campaign emailed supporters taking credit for the board's action, the Independent reported.

## **COURT RULES AGAINST HOUSE**

A three-judge panel of the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District on Dec. 12 unanimously upheld a \$3.3 million judgment against the Missouri House of Representatives brought by a former staffer who sued over disability discrimination and retaliation.

According to the court's opinion, the former staffer worked as a legislative analyst in House Research from January 2016 to March 2017 and had been diagnosed with several mental health disorders, including Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder prior to his employment.

**The staffer alleged he was denied reasonable accommodations for his disabilities and instead reprimanded for poor performance.**

The staffer further alleged he was fired by then-House Chief Clerk Adam Crumbliss, a named defendant in the case, minutes after broaching the possibility of filing a discrimination lawsuit.

Crumbliss left the House at the end of 2018 to work in

Gov. Mike Parson's administration.

**Following a trial last year, a Cole County jury ruled in favor of the staffer, who was awarded \$3.3 million in damages plus attorney fees. The appellate court remanded the case to the trial court to determine the amount of additional attorney fees the plaintiff should receive for prevailing on appeal.**

The House could appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court but would be subject to paying additional plaintiff's attorney fees should it lose again.

## **PARSON APPOINTS APPEALS COURT JUDGE**

Gov. Mike Parson on Dec. 8 appointed St. Charles County Circuit Judge Rebeca Navarro-McKelvey to the Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District.

**Navarro-McKelvey will replace Judge Kelly Broniec, whom Parson elevated to the Missouri Supreme Court in September.**

**Navarro-McKelvey was first elected as an associate circuit judge in 2016 before winning election as a circuit judge in 2020. Prior to joining the bench, she worked as an assistant prosecuting attorney in St. Louis City and St. Charles County. She is a 2000 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.**

Navarro-McKelvey was one of three finalists for the vacancy selected by the Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission. The others were St. Louis County Circuit Judge Virginia Lay and St. Louis attorney Susan Peterson.

The St. Louis-based Eastern District appellate court hears cases from 25 counties on the eastern side of the state plus St. Louis City.

## **STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS JAN. 24**

Gov. Mike Parson plans to deliver the 2024 State of the State address before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly on Jan. 24 at 3 p.m.

**During the address, Parson will present his proposed state operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year, which begins July 1, as well as highlight his policy priorities for the year.**

This will be Parson's sixth and final State of the State speech since taking office in June 2018 following the resignation of his predecessor. Term limits prevent Parson from seeking reelection next year.

Following longstanding tradition, the speech will take place in the House of Representatives chamber.



**Last week I was joined by my fellow co-chairs of the Kansas City Caucus, Representative Bill Allen from Clay County and Representative Sherrie Gallick from Cass County as we met with the KC Chamber and the Civic Council of Greater KC to discuss the upcoming session's legislative priorities for the business community. This Caucus was formed to allow Representatives to work together in a bi-partisan manner to identify legislation that can be presented during session for passage in the Missouri General Assembly. Right now, I'm in the process of negotiating legislation with my colleagues relating to child care, workforce access, public safety and the Truman Sports Complex.**



**Recently Congressman Emanuel Cleaver held a small event at Gates Bar-B-Q and in attendance were Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Hakeem Jeffries (left) from New York and U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar from California. It was a pleasure to meet both of them and to hear what it is like to be a member of the U.S. Congress during such divisive times.**

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2	\$46,500
3	\$52,320
4	\$58,080
5	\$62,760
6	\$67,380
7	\$72,060
8	\$76,680

\*AREA MEDIAN INCOME



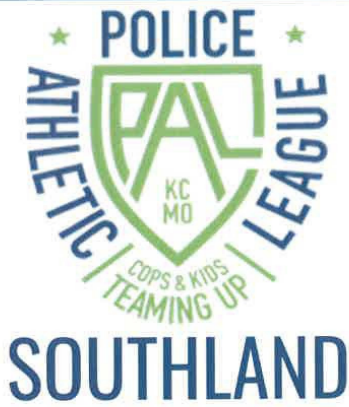
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## South KC Food Pantries

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 4 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.

**Serve and Lift Center** “South KC”, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at

<https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



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