



**State Representative  
Mark A. Sharp  
District 37**

**Dear Neighbor,**

**A new session also means another year to defeat the anti-public school legislation allowing open-enrollment in Missouri. This legislation would allow parents the choice to pull their children out of their home public school to go to another school district as long as the receiving school district agrees. This works at the collegiate level, but this would have devastating impacts on many public school districts. Even with setting a cap for how many students can leave a school district at 3% per year which is what the bill says currently, this bill will still be harmful to many school districts. I also believe the cap will be increased at some point during the legislative process.**

**This bill is House Bill 1989, and it has already passed out of the Elementary and Secondary**

**Education Committee on a nearly party line vote. The one good thing about the bad weather is that it has pushed back the Rules-Regulatory Oversight Committee that it goes through next from today (Monday) to Wednesday, January 24th at 10:30 am. After it passes out of that committee, the bill will be added to the floor calendar to be brought up for debate. HB 1989 will not have my support, and I plan to speak against the bill when it is brought up for a full debate which I imagine will be sometime next week.**

**Blair's Law that I have sponsored with Representative Sherri Gallick has been rescheduled to be heard Tuesday at 12 noon in the Special Committee on Urban Issues that I chair. As many of you know, celebratory gunfire is a huge issue in our city and state and this bill would make it a state offense for discharging your firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits. This legislation is moving on several legislative vehicles including House Bills 1659, 1477, 1437 and Senate Bill 788.**

**Below are a list of my committee assignments and my legislative assistant's email if you have any questions or would like to be added to my email list:**

**Special Committee on Urban Issues,  
Chairman  
Special Committee on Education Reform,**

**Ranking Minority Member  
Special Committee on Public Policy, Ranking  
Minority Member  
Special Committee on Property Tax Reform  
Special Committee on Election Contests  
Joint Committee on Legislative Research  
Joint Committee on Legislative Research -  
Revision Subcommittee  
Crime Prevention and Public Safety  
Consent and House Procedure  
Subcommittee on Appropriations -  
General Administration**

**My legislative assistant, Mariah Gilmore**

**[Mariah.Gilmore@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mariah.Gilmore@house.mo.gov)**



**Here is a picture from this past week during the Special Committee on Education Reform which I'm Ranking Minority Member on, when we heard legislation expanding charter schools in St. Louis County, St. Charles County and the city of Columbia.**

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Monday, Jan. 22, 2024**

### **BILLS TARGET TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**

Transgender people would legally cease to exist under legislation a House committee considered Jan. 17 that would statutorily define someone as “male” or “female” based on their reproductive systems at birth.

The measure - House Bill 2309 - also would define additional terms in law such as “man”, “woman”, “girl”, “boy”, “mother” and “father” in ways that would exclude legal recognition of the gender identity of transgender people.

**The bill was one of seven measures targeting transgender people that the House Emerging Issues Committee considered as part of a marathon hearing lasting nearly nine hours. The committee took no immediate action on any of the bills.**

**This year's effort by several Republican legislators follows up on a pair of bills enacted into law last year that separately ban minors from receiving most gender-affirming care and prohibit transgender athletes from competing on school sports teams that correspond with their gender identity.**

As part of a compromise brokered to overcome a

filibuster by Senate Democrats, both measures are set to expire in 2027. However, one of the new bills heard by the Emerging Issues Committee would eliminate the sunset on the gender-affirming care ban, thus making its restrictions permanent.

Three of the other bills would restrict which public restrooms transgender people would be allowed to use, leaving the choice legally unclear for some.

Another measure would prohibit medical providers from being required to perform gender reassignment surgeries or other gender-affirming care, although no evidence was offered that this has ever happened in Missouri.

## **MEDICAID FUNDING MEASURE ADVANCES**

The Senate Appropriations Committee on Jan. 18 voted 12-1 to advance legislation renewing a key funding mechanism for Missouri's Medicaid program that must pass this year to avoid major cuts in service for the joint state-federal program that provides health care coverage for low-income persons.

**However, some members of the chamber's hardline conservative faction have indicated the group intends to block the bill when it comes up for Senate debate unless unrelated language is added attempting to defund Planned Parenthood which provides women's health care services in Missouri and abortions in other states.**

Organizations representing many Missouri health care providers support the tax - known as the Federal Reimbursement Allowance - because it allows the state to leverage substantially more federal Medicaid funding. **The tax provides about \$4.3 billion a year, roughly a third of the funding for Missouri's Medicaid**

**program.**

Until recent years, lawmakers typically renewed the FRA without controversy.

**That changed in 2021 when the Senate's hardline conservative faction successfully prevented the last renewal bill from passing during the regular legislative session, forcing last-minute action in a subsequent special session to prevent an interruption in the tax and a major loss of Medicaid funding.**

The current measure - Senate Bill 748 - would permanently renew the tax, avoiding the need for future renewal fights.

**Although Medicaid doesn't cover abortion services, the hardliners have long sought to prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursements for providing other health care services for women since the organization performs abortions at some of its locations in other states. Because abortion is now illegal in Missouri in nearly all circumstances, however, no Planned Parenthood locations in the state currently offer the procedure.**

Federal law requires states to reimburse all participating providers of legally eligible medical services for low-income persons covered by Medicaid. Nationally, Medicaid covers more people than any other health insurance program.

## **BILL HEARD TO HIKE LICENSE FEES**

The House Transportation Infrastructure Committee on Jan. 17 heard legislation that would impose a 50% increase in the fee private contractors that run the state's license offices charge Missourians for obtaining or

renewing driver's licenses or license plates.

**The proposed hike comes just five years after lawmakers doubled the fee.**

**Contractors use the fee to cover their operating expenses and earn a profit. House Bill 1768 would increase the fee for two-year license plates and six-year driver's licenses from \$12 to \$18.**

This fee is in addition to the actual charges for the plates or licenses, the revenue from which goes to the state and would not increase under the bill.

**Lawmakers doubled the fee from \$6 to \$12 in 2019, providing what had been the first increase in more than two decades.**

**Supporters say another bump is necessary due to inflationary increases in contractors' operational expenses. Opponents say imposing another large fee hike on Missouri motorists so soon isn't justified.**

The House of Representatives narrowly approved a similar bill last year by just three more votes than the minimum necessary to advance it to the Senate, but it failed to win final passage. The committee took no immediate action on this year's version of the bill.



## SOUTH PATROL DIVISION COMMUNITY CRIME MEETING

Please join us at our South Patrol Division community meeting. The meeting will discuss current crime patterns and quality of life concerns within SPD. We will also have open conversation on how we can better provide information along with services to our many community partners.



**We welcome all residents, businesses, schools  
and faith-based groups to join us.**



Tuesday,  
January 23rd  
7:00PM



South Patrol Division-  
Community Room  
9701 Marion Park Drive  
Kansas City MO 64137

The boundaries of South Patrol are  
87th Street and Bannister Road to the Cass County line and State Line  
Rd. to Lee's Summit



KANSAS CITY MISSOURI  
POLICE DEPARTMENT



# SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

*Save the date*

Applications accepted

**JAN 8 - FEB 5**

## EXPLORE

- ✓ Professional Staff Positions
- ✓ Law Enforcement Roles
- ✓ Crime Laboratory Careers



Apply here

[KCPD.ORG/Careers](https://www.kcpd.org/careers)





Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw &  
Councilman Darrell Curls presents:

# 5th District Problem Solvers Community Meeting

**Monday, February 5, 2024  
6:00pm-7:30pm**

Southeast Community Center  
4201 E. 63rd St.,  
Kansas City, MO 64127

## Vendors:

KCPD  
Everty  
Spire Gas Company  
Essential Families  
KC Common Good  
Center for Neighborhoods  
American Family Insurance  
Oak St. Health

## City Departments:

Public Works Department  
Water Department  
KCPD  
Neighborhood Services  
Department  
Parks & Recreation Department  
City Planning Department  
Housing Department  
Minor Home Repair Depart  
Health Homes Department





# DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS



*FREE College Workshop for  
High School Seniors featuring:*

-  **ACT Prep**
-  **FAFSA Assistance**
-  **Scholarship Application Assistance**



**SATURDAY**  
**FEB 10 2024**

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



**UNITED BELIEVERS  
CHURCH**

5600 E 112TH TERRACE  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64137

**REGISTER NOW!**

**SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT  
SCHOLARSMARTS.COM/UPCOMING**



**FREE HOT CHOCOLATE,  
COOKIES & RAFFLE PRIZES  
FOR ATTENDEES!**

PRESENTED BY



HOSPITALITY HOST



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Kid ID, Hygiene Items



Western Missouri & Eastern Kansas Resumes & Job Applications



Great Jobs KC

first call

KC Mothers In Charge



LINCWORKS Your path to skills & work. lincworks.org



Community Action Agency of Greater KC

Hickman Mills United Neighborhoods



COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

# SKC COMMUNITY RESOURCES FAIR

10 AM - 1 PM  
SATURDAY  
FEB. 17

OPTIMIST  
BINGO HALL  
11154 Blue Ridge  
Blvd, KCMO

FREE  
for the whole family

Resources for

EMPLOYMENT  
DIAPERS  
SNAP BENEFITS  
EDUCATION  
SAFETY &  
SECURITY  
AND MORE

FAMILIES  
HEALTH  
UTILITY BILLS  
KIDS & SENIORS  
VOTER  
REGISTRATION



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Rachel Casey,  
rachel.casey@cackc.org, 816-762-3277 x 103, www.cackc.org/resources

**WE'RE HIRING!!!!**

**MAKE AN IMPACT IN KANSAS CITY**

Police Officer \* Detention Officer \* Parking Control \*  
Communication Specialist \* Fleet Operations \* Building  
Operations \* Analyst \* Administrative and Fiscal  
Administrators \* THE LIST GOES ON!!!!

[www.careers.kcpd.org/](http://www.careers.kcpd.org/)

# Want lower electric bills?

Share the Sun can help. Share the Sun is a free solar energy program to reduce energy burdens. Eligible homeowners can receive a 10-panel, 4-kW solar energy system with a 25-year warranty at no cost. Go to [www.info.solarcrowdsource.com/skc-share-the-sun](http://www.info.solarcrowdsource.com/skc-share-the-sun) for more information and to apply.

DO YOU QUALIFY?



YOUR ROOF MUST BE LESS THAN

10

YEARS OLD



YOU MUST MAKE LESS THAN 60% AMI\*

Household Size	2021 Household Income
1	\$40,680
2	\$46,500
3	\$52,320
4	\$58,080
5	\$62,760
6	\$67,380
7	\$72,060
8	\$76,680

\*AREA MEDIAN INCOME



Share the Sun is brought to Kansas City, MO by the following organizations with generous support from the KCMO Government and Metropolitan Energy Center



Westside Housing



Scan for more information



## SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

- Open to Ages 8-15
- Dinner Provided

9701 Marion Park Drive | KCMO 64137  
2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



For more information contact PO McCall at  
[mary.mccall@kcpd.org](mailto:mary.mccall@kcpd.org) or (816) 672-2828

# WE'RE HIRING!

AmeriCorps VISTA  
for the  
Marlborough Conservancy

[Apply online](#)



Or email [sarah@wearemarlborough.org](mailto:sarah@wearemarlborough.org)  
for more information!



North Kansas City  
Kansas City Public Schools  
Center  
Hickman Mills  
Grandview

## LINC Caring Communities Sites

Contact: Carol Green, (816) 739-9314, [cgreen@klinc.org](mailto:cgreen@klinc.org)  
Apply: [klinc.org/jobs](http://klinc.org/jobs)

## 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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**816-474-8477**



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**P3Tips.com**



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