



**2-7-24**

**Dear Neighbor,**

**This week the Special Committee on Urban Issues that I chair heard House Bills 1900, 2515 and 1591 referred to as the Missouri CROWN Act. This legislation creates a protective hairstyle class and prohibits any person from being subject to discrimination based on wearing a protective hairstyle in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution. The committee will vote on these bills Monday, February 12.**

**Also during the committee hearing we heard legislation pertaining to the St. Louis City sheriff's office. House Bill 1784 would make it a requirement that St. Louis City sheriffs have a valid peace officer license. Currently, St. Louis City is the only jurisdiction that does not require their sheriff to hold a valid peace officer license. The bill also requires that the annual salary for the sheriffs' deputies in St. Louis City be at least \$50,000.**

**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)**



**In recognition of Black History Month I was recognized for a point of personal privilege when I honored the life of Bruce R. Watkins who was an influential African-American community leader in KCMO.**



**This past week the Special Committee on Urban Issues that I chair heard House Bills 1900, 2515 and 1591 called the Missouri CROWN Act. This legislation is sponsored by Representatives Raychel Proudie (St. Louis County), Ashley Bland Manlove (Kansas City) and LaKeySha Bosley (St. Louis City). It creates a protective hairstyle class and prohibits any person from being subject to discrimination on the basis of wearing a protective hairstyle in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution.**

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Wednesday February 7, 2024**

### **POLICE RIGHTS LAW CHALLENGE PROCEEDING**

The Missouri Supreme Court on Jan. 30 ruled St. Louis City's legal claim that a 2021 state law creating a "law enforcement officers' bill of rights" imposes an unconstitutional unfunded state mandate on local governments can proceed.

However, the court rejected the city's various other constitutional

challenges to the law which imposes restrictions on investigations of alleged police misconduct and grants legal protections to officers accused of wrongdoing.

Missouri was one of several states that moved to further shield police from facing consequences for questionable or unlawful actions as part of a backlash to nationwide protests calling for law enforcement reform after the 2020 killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Missouri's protections for officers were enacted as part of Senate Bill 26.

**St. Louis City challenged SB 26 on a variety of fronts, including that it interferes with the city's authority as a charter city to determine personnel matters and that its passage violated constitutional procedures for the passage of bills. The Supreme Court unanimously ruled against all of the city's points except the claim that the new police protections impose an unfunded state mandate on the city in violation of a provision of the state constitution's Hancock Amendment.**

However, the court did not rule that SB 26 actually imposes an unfunded mandate. Instead the judges said the city sufficiently pleaded its Hancock claim and that the trial judge incorrectly ruled against the city on that point at that stage of the litigation. The high court remanded the case to the trial court for additional proceedings on the unfunded mandate claim.

**Once the trial judge makes a determination on whether SB 26 imposes an unfunded mandate, another appeal to the Supreme Court is expected.**

The case is *City of St. Louis v. State of Missouri*.

**HOUSE NARROWLY PASSES OPEN ENROLLMENT**

The House of Representatives on Jan. 31 voted 86-73 in favor of legislation that would allow Missouri students to attend school in any public school district willing to take them, without regard to where a student lives. The bill, which passed with just four more “yes” votes than the 82-vote majority required to pass a bill, now advances to the Senate.

Missouri students typically must attend the public school district in which they reside. House Bill 1989 would authorize “open enrollment” that would allow K-12 students to transfer to other districts willing to accept them.

**As currently written, it would be up to each of Missouri’s 518 school districts to decide whether to accept students from other districts and wouldn’t force districts to take more outside students than they have capacity for. Districts would have no authority to stop their students from leaving for other districts.**

**Open enrollment supporters say it would give students and their families more educational options within the public school system. Opponents are concerned it would force local school districts - particularly smaller and less affluent ones – to drastically reduce their operating expenses by cutting teacher salaries. increasing class sizes or closing schools or to consolidate with other districts if substantial numbers of their students leave for districts with greater resources since most state aid to school districts is based on their student population.**

Most Republicans, but only one Democrat, voted for HB 1989, while 26 Republicans broke with their party to join almost all Democrats in opposing it.

**HURDLES TO AMENDING CONSTITUTION ADVANCE**

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee on Jan. 30 approved legislation seeking to eliminate the doctrine of “one-person, one-vote” when ratifying amendments to the Missouri Constitution and essentially create a minority veto of many proposals that receive majority support statewide.

The full Senate is expected to debate the measure in the coming days.

Since the adoption of the first Missouri Constitution in 1820, ratification of constitutional amendments has always required just a simple majority of votes cast statewide.

**Senate Joint Resolution 74 would require future constitutional amendments to win both a statewide voter majority and also majorities in at least 82 of Missouri’s 163 state House districts. This could create situations in which an amendment passes statewide by a wide margin on the strength of urban and suburban voters but nonetheless fails due to strong rural opposition.**

SJR 74’s concurrent majority requirement would apply to both amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature and those proposed by initiative petition.

Some Republican lawmakers for years have sought to make amending the Missouri Constitution harder after voters passed several high-profile ballot initiatives on issues the GOP majority had blocked in the legislature, including Medicaid expansion, bolstering legislative ethics requirements and authorizing both medical and recreational marijuana use. The issue has taken on added urgency this year with an initiative petition currently being circulated to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to restore abortion rights in the state.

If both legislative chambers approve it, SJR 74 automatically would go

before Missouri voters in November. However, the governor is widely expected to exercise his authority to move the election to August. Ratification would require approval from just a simple majority of voters statewide.

**Although new constitutional amendments take effect 30 days after ratification, whether an amendment approved in August would apply to the abortion measure and any other proposed amendments on the November ballot likely would be subject to litigation.**

Since initiative petitions must be turned in months before the August vote, critics of SJR 74 have claimed adding a new requirement for voter ratification at that late point would amount to changing the rules in the middle of the game, and it is questionable whether the Missouri Supreme Court would approve.

## **FORMER SENATOR JEAN CARNAHAN DIES**

Former U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan, the first woman to represent Missouri in the U.S. Senate, died Jan. 30 at a St. Louis-area hospice center, her family announced. She was 90 years old.

Carnahan was married to former Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan and served as Missouri's first lady from 1993 to 2000. She and her future husband met while attending the same high school in her hometown of Washington, D.C. Mel Carnahan temporarily lived in the nation's capital while his father, A.S.J. Carnahan, represented Missouri in Congress. The couple married in 1954 and moved to Rolla, Mo.

**Gov. Carnahan, along with their eldest son Randy Carnahan and close aide Chris Sifford, died on Oct. 16, 2000, in a plane crash while campaigning to unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. John Ashcroft.**



**After Mel Carnahan still won the election three weeks later, Jean Carnahan was appointed to fill the vacant seat. She served nearly two years in the Senate, but narrowly lost a November 2002 special election to fill out the remaining four years on the term.**

Carnahan was born Jean Anne Carpenter on Dec. 20, 1933. She is survived by three children –Tom Carnahan, former Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and former U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan – and five grandchildren. A public memorial service is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Feb. 10 at the Sheldon Concert Hall at 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis.

## **CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION ADVANCES**

The House Special Committee on Education Reform on Jan. 29 approved legislation that would allow charter schools to expand to St. Louis and St. Charles Counties, as well as in the Columbia School District. The panel advanced the bill to the full House of Representatives on a vote of 7-2 with one committee member voting “present”.

**Charter schools are independent public schools that are exempt from many of the state regulations traditional public school districts must follow. Under existing law, they are only authorized to operate within the Kansas City and St. Louis City school districts.**

Although touted as a better alternative to struggling local schools, charter schools have produced mixed results in Missouri, with some achieving much academic success but others performing no better or in some cases even worse than their home districts.

**Although advocates have long pushed to expand charter schools statewide, there has been little political will among rural lawmakers to do so.**

House Bill 1749 would take a more incremental approach by authorizing charter schools in two more high-population counties in the St. Louis area - plus authorizing them in outstate Missouri for the first time, but on a limited basis - by including the Columbia School District.



# 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



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CHURCH**

5600 E 112TH TERRACE  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64137

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*Dedicated to a Unified Vision for South Kansas City, Missouri!*

Community Action  
Agency of Greater KC

Hickman Mills United  
Neighborhoods



# SKC COMMUNITY RESOURCES FAIR

10 AM - 1 PM  
SATURDAY  
FEB. 17

OPTIMIST  
BINGO HALL  
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FREE  
for the whole family

Resources for

EMPLOYMENT  
DIAPERS  
SNAP BENEFITS  
EDUCATION  
SAFETY &  
SECURITY

FAMILIES  
HEALTH  
UTILITY BILLS  
KIDS & SENIORS  
VOTER  
REGISTRATION

AND MORE



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

# *Let's Celebrate*

**JOHN A. SHARP's 80 years of life and over 50 years of service to south Kansas City as a public official and community volunteer while raising funds for a good cause.**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

5:30–6:30 p.m. – Reception & Free Museum Tours

6:30–8 p.m. – Dinner & Program

**NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM**

1616 E. 18th St. in the Historic 18th & Vine District

*Featured Speaker*

**U.S. CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER**



**No gifts please, but any donations are gratefully accepted.** All net revenue from this event will go to the **John Sharp Scholarship** awarded annually through the **Hickman Mills Educational Foundation** to a Ruskin High School senior involved in student government or community service. Donate online by clicking or scanning a QR code below, paying at the door or by mailing a check made out to the **Hickman Mills Educational Foundation** with **John Sharp Scholarship** on the memo line to: **John Sharp, 8401 E. 103rd Terr., KCMO 64134-2106.**

**[CLICK TO DONATE \\$25](#)**



**[CLICK TO DONATE \\$50](#)**



**[CLICK TO DONATE \\$100](#)**



**PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 19 TO [JSHARP122@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:JSHARP122@HOTMAIL.COM)**

# PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS



**Saturday, February 24, 9 AM – 12 PM**

Southeast Community Center, 4201 E 63rd St

**Saturday, March 2, 9 AM – 12 PM** (Virtual Option Available)

City Hall, 26th Floor, Council Chambers, 414 E 12th St

*Free parking at Wolfe Garage at 11th and Oak  
(validation slip provided to hearing attendees)*

**Monday, March 4, 6 – 8:30 PM**

Northland Neighborhoods Inc, 5340 Chouteau Trafficway



Please join us to provide your feedback on next year's budget. The meeting links and proposed budget are posted at [KCMO.GOV/BUDGET](https://www.kcmo.gov/budget).

If you can't attend the hearings, you can also email your feedback to us at [publictestimony@kcmo.org](mailto:publictestimony@kcmo.org). Please put "proposed budget" in the subject line.

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



**KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI**

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

## **MAKE AN IMPACT IN KANSAS CITY**

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Communication Specialist \* Fleet Operations \* Building  
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Administrators \* THE LIST GOES ON!!!!**

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# 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?



**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



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# SOUTHLAND

## SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

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

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AmeriCorps VISTA

for the

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for more information!





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

Apply: [klinc.org/jobs](http://klinc.org/jobs)

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HOURS OF OPERATION

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH :  
2PM - 5PM

EMERGENCY NEEDS BY APPOINTMENT  
CONTACT: MCI 816.363.7940

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS:  
CALL UNITED WAY AT 211



WWW.MCIKC.ORG - 816.363.7940

## 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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*State Representative Mark A.  
Sharp*

**Missouri House of Representatives  
Room 102-BA  
201 W Capitol Ave  
Jefferson City, Mo 65101  
Phone  
**573-751-0238****

**Email**

[mark.sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:mark.sharp@house.mo.gov)

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