



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

2-28-24

Dear Neighbor,

This week had an unusual start beginning with the Subcommittee on Appropriations for General Administration when the state Treasurer of Missouri came under fire for his office's involvement in providing promotional banners and electronic imagery on video lottery terminals (electronic gambling machines) showing the state Treasurer's name and seal with big bold letters "\$1 BILLION, IS ANY OF IT YOURS?"



State Treasurer Vivek Malek has argued that he is being very aggressive in trying to reach out to Missourians to check for any unclaimed property. Many members of the committee and I found it flat out strange that any official state promotional advertisements would be on what many consider are illegal and unregulated electronic gambling machines.

Since the committee adjourned the state Treasurer has

submitted a letter to the members of the appropriations subcommittee that he will be having those promotional banners removed from all VLTs and recognizes how it could be misleading or confusing to Missourians who are using these electronic gambling machines.

I have three pieces of legislation that I've filed that have been moving very quickly through the legislative process.

Blair's Law which creates state penalties for discharging a firearm with criminal negligence into or within city limits is currently on three legislative vehicles: House Bill 1659 is a lengthy public safety bill which includes Blair's Law that has passed out of the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.

Senate Bill 754 is the mirror version of HB 1659 and is one more floor vote away from passing the Senate. House Bill 1477 is the stand alone version of Blair's Law and has passed out of committee and is waiting to be brought up for discussion in the House.

My House Bill 2384 renews a 6-year sunset provision that expires this year for tax credits to be allocated to diaper banks across the state. Combined, these diaper banks in Missouri distribute millions of diapers to organizations and needy families. HappyBottoms

which is a diaper bank located in the Waldo area of Kansas City submitted testimony that it would lose \$200,000 in donations if the tax credits are not renewed, an amount that is critical for funding programs that provide diapers to more than 5,000 children each month. In total, diaper banks in Missouri who provided nearly 10 million diapers to families in need in 2023, estimate they would lose \$1,000,000 total in donations if the tax credits are not renewed.

Lastly, House Bill 2684 designates February 20th of every year as John Donaldson Day. Donaldson is a former Negro Leagues Baseball legend and many consider him one of the most talented pitchers during the Negro Leagues Baseball era.

Donaldson who was born and raised in Glasgow, Missouri, which is just northwest of Columbia, Missouri, played for the Kansas City Monarchs throughout the 1920's. According to the Kansas City Call, a black owned newspaper in Kansas City, J.L. Wilkinson who created the Kansas City Monarchs said that Donaldson himself suggested the name Monarchs. Wilkinson went on to say in the interview that Donaldson was one of the greatest pitchers who ever lived, black or white.

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



This week was the first week of filing for candidates seeking elected office this year, and I had a chance to take a photo after I filed to run for my third, two-year term. It has been a pleasure to serve the state of Missouri these past five years, and I am humbled by the opportunity to seek reelection.



In honor of Black History Month I made a point of personal privilege to recognize the great Kansas City Monarchs and them winning the 1924 Negro Leagues World Series. Before our beloved Kansas City Chiefs gave us four super bowl titles, the 1924 Kansas City Monarchs brought home the first championship trophy to Kansas City.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024

SLOT MACHINE ADS CRITICIZED

A House committee chairman on Feb. 21 called out State Treasurer Vivek Malek for advertising on unlicensed video lottery terminals that the Missouri Gaming Commission and State Highway Patrol consider to be illegal slot machines.

State Rep. Scott Cupps, R-Shell Knob, raised the issue during a hearing of the General Administration Appropriations Subcommittee which he chairs. Cupps showed photos of advertisements on several VLTs that feature Malek's name under the official state seal and promote the treasurer's unclaimed property program.

Cupps said the ads create the appearance the state of Missouri endorses the machines. Cupps said he asked Malek to testify at the hearing, but he declined.

“We need the treasurer here,” Cupps said, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. “I need to know who was involved in that. Man, this is bad. This is bad government. We have the state seal and the state treasurer’s name on illicit gambling machines.”

VLTs have proliferated throughout the state in recent years and can often be found in gas stations, bars and other places.

The highway patrol has seized and destroyed VLTs in

counties where prosecutors have been willing to file charges. However, prosecutors in some counties are less certain the machines violate state law and have declined to pursue cases against them.

Gov. Mike Parson appointed Malek as state treasurer in January 2023 to fill a vacancy. Malek, who had never previously held elected office, is seeking election to a full term this year but is running in a crowded Republican primary against more experienced officeholders.

SENATE APPROVES “RURAL VETO”

The Missouri Senate on Feb. 22 voted 22-9 to pass legislation intended to allow a minority of voters to block ratification of proposed constitutional amendments that win statewide support – but only after Democrats forced the chamber to strip out so-called “ballot candy” intended to entice voters into supporting it. The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives.

Missouri traditionally has required support from just a simple majority of voters to ratify amendments to the state constitution. Senate Joint Resolution 74 seeks to make ratification harder by also requiring approval in five of Missouri’s eight congressional districts.

Such a concurrent majority requirement could lead to

situations in which a measure overwhelmingly wins statewide with strong support in highly populated areas but still fails because of narrow losses in primarily rural congressional districts.

If SJR 74 makes it on the statewide ballot, the existing simple-majority ratification threshold would be used. However, because there is a strong likelihood voters won't go along with limiting their own power, some of the measure's proponents wanted to include unrelated provisions to make it more enticing while downplaying its primary purpose.

Before being removed, SJR 74's "ballot candy" included prohibiting using the initiative petition process to propose constitutional changes allowing public officials to receive gifts from lobbyists, increasing taxes on food or property or reducing law enforcement funding. Other provisions purported to prohibit non-citizens from voting on constitutional amendments, which already isn't allowed, and sought to bar foreign governments from sponsoring or supporting initiative petitions, which is not known to have ever happened.

Senate Democrats filibustered SJR 74 over four days, including an overnight run lasting about 20 straight hours. They ultimately agreed to stand down if the "ballot candy" was removed and straightforward ballot language

accurately describing the measure's purpose was added. Those changes were made on an 18-12 vote. Some House Republicans are expected to attempt to restore the disputed provisions.

If it clears the legislature, SJR 74 automatically would go on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot. However, some supporters are counting on Gov. Mike Parson exercising his constitutional authority to move the measure to the Aug. 6 primary ballot in hopes of applying its proposed higher ratification threshold to a proposed constitutional amendment protecting reproductive rights that will go before voters in November if supporters gather enough signatures on petitions.

HOUSE OKAYS PETITION RESTRICTIONS

The House of Representatives on Feb. 22 sent legislation to the Senate that would impose a host of procedural restrictions – including several of dubious constitutionality – on the collection of initiative petition signatures.

The action came on a straight party-line vote of 104-41, with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed.

House Bill 1749's provisions include specifying the font size and type that must be used on petitions, as well as the color of ink people must use when signing. The bill

also says only Missouri residents and U.S. citizens can gather petition signatures and that petition gatherers can't be paid based on the number of signatures collected.

Under decades-old Missouri Supreme Court precedent relating to initiative petitions, most recently expressed in the 2022 case *No Bans on Choice, et al., v. John R. Ashcroft*, the legislature cannot “use procedural formalities to interfere with or impede this constitutional right that is so integral to Missouri’s democratic system of government.”

As a result, the validity of several of the bill’s provisions is questionable.

HOUSE PASSES PUBLIC SAFETY BILL

The House of Representatives advanced omnibus public safety legislation to the Senate on Feb. 19 but only after some Democrats highlighted the need to further address gun violence following the mass shooting days earlier at the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl victory parade.

The bill which includes Blair’s Law to make discharging a firearm within or into city limits with criminal negligence a serious state offense instead of just a city ordinance violation designed to deter the

barrage of celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire that plagues Kansas City and other surrounding cities on some holidays and special events passed on a bipartisan vote of 120-26, with eight members voting “present”.

House Bill 1659 includes numerous public safety provisions besides Blair’s Law, including increasing penalties for drug trafficking, expanding when armed criminal action charges can be filed and increasing the minimum age to charge a juvenile as an adult from 12 to 14 for most felonies.

OMNIBUS JUDICIAL REFORM BILL STALLED

The House of Representatives on Feb. 19 voted to reject an omnibus bill seeking to make a slew of changes to state judicial proceedings. However, three days later the chamber agreed to send the bill back to committee to have several provisions lawmakers found objectionable removed.

House Bill 1886 was defeated on a vote of 58-85, with 12 lawmakers voting “present”. The House then voted 131-5 with five “present” votes on Feb. 22 to reconsider the earlier vote and recommit the bill to the House Judiciary Committee for revisions.

Many Democrats opposed it largely due to a provision that sought to eliminate mandatory background checks for people seeking appointment as guardian or conservator of a grandchild. Lawmakers with experience in social work noted such checks can reveal that a grandparent is unfit for the role due to past abuse allegations, criminal history or other factors.

One Republican lawmaker told the Missouri Independent that many members of his party had too many questions about too many provisions of the wide-ranging bill, which includes provisions relating to the dissolution of limited liability corporations, alternative dispute resolution procedures, spousal trusts, estate planning and increased juror pay, among others.

The bill's sponsor said the provision on background checks will be removed, with several others also being either deleted or modified. Once the committee makes changes, the bill will return to the House for further debate.

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://kcmo.gov/budget).

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

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



**KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI**

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/

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 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 or (816) 672-2828

WE'RE HIRING!

AmeriCorps VISTA
for the
Marlborough Conservancy

Apply online



Or email sarah@wearemarlborough.org
for more information!





Part-Time Child Care Jobs

Now Hiring!

North Kansas City
Kansas City Public Schools
Center
Hickman Mills
Grandview

LINC Caring Communities Sites

Contact: Carol Green, (816) 739-9314, cgreen@kclinc.org

Apply: kclinc.org/jobs



MEMORIAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

FOOD

Pantry



11424 HICKMAN MILLS DR. KCMO 64134

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 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. 103rd 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. 111th 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. 117th 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/>



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCCrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



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

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