



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

SENATE APPROVES OVERRIDING COURT

The Missouri Senate on March 7 voted 25-7 to approve a proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to circumvent longstanding Missouri Supreme Court precedent prohibiting revenue from fees imposed on court cases from being used for purposes other than judicial operations.

The measure now advances to the House of Representatives where a committee has already approved similar legislation.

Senate Joint Resolution 71 asks Missouri voters to amend the state constitution to authorize court fees that generate revenue for the salaries and benefits of current and retired county sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys.

Supreme Court precedent has prohibited levying court fees for non-judicial purposes since at least the 1980s, but SJR 71 was specifically prompted by a 2021 decision striking down a \$3 surcharge on traffic offenses to provide funding for the Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System.

Although the purpose of SJR 71 is to authorize a funding source for law enforcement and local prosecutors that the Supreme Court has deemed unconstitutional, the ballot language written into the measure instead asks voters if they want “to preserve funding of law enforcement personnel for the administration of justice” without mentioning it would authorize an unlimited amount of fees to be imposed.

The House Pensions Committee voted 8-0 on Feb. 6 to advance its version of the proposal - House Joint Resolution 92. That measure is currently on the House

debate calendar and could be taken up at any time.

If either the House or Senate version wins final legislative approval, the issue automatically would go on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot for voter ratification.

HOUSE VOTES ASSESSOR MUST BE ELECTED

The Missouri House of Representatives advanced a proposed constitutional amendment to the Senate on March 7 that would clarify Jackson County is required to have an elected county assessor.

The action came on a vote of 116-10, with 18 lawmakers voting present.

A 2010 constitutional change that Missouri voters ratified with 74.1% support requires all charter counties to have an elected county assessor, except those with populations between 600,000 and 700,000 residents – an exemption that at the time applied only to Jackson County. With the 2020 U.S. Census, however, Jackson County’s population now exceeds 700,000 residents, meaning it no longer enjoys the constitutional exemption.

Despite that fact, the Jackson County assessor has remained an appointed position, with the county

claiming a state law keeps the exemption in place even though the county's population has grown outside of the constitutionally exempted range. However, since constitutional provisions trump statutory ones, the law the county cites does not apply to this situation.

House Joint Resolution 68 would eliminate the population exemption to leave no argument that Jackson County is constitutionally required to have an elected assessor.

If also approved by the Senate, HJR 68 automatically would go on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot for voter ratification.

PARSON CRITICIZED FOR FREEING COACH'S SON

Drawing fierce bipartisan criticism, Gov. Mike Parson's office on March 1 announced he had commuted the prison sentence of a former Kansas City Chiefs assistant coach who caused life-altering brain injuries to a 5-year-old girl and also injured several others during a drunken driving crash in 2021.

Parson, a longtime Chiefs season ticket holder, made no public statement concerning the clemency which he issued in February.

Prosecutors said Britt Reid, the son of Chiefs head coach Andy Reid, was driving drunk at 83 miles per hour when he crashed his pickup into two vehicles that were stopped along a highway entrance ramp, according to The Kansas City Star. Ariel Young, a passenger in one of the vehicles, suffered a traumatic brain injury and was in a coma for 11 days.

The Chiefs subsequently fired Britt Reid and reached a financial settlement with Ariel's family to provide for her ongoing care. Last year, Reid pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated and causing serious injury and was sentenced to a three-year prison term.

Several state elected officials of both political parties condemned Parson's decision after it became public.

Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney Jean Peters Baker in a statement said Parson "used his political power to free a man with status, privilege and connections". She also blasted the governor for not contacting Ariel's family or prosecutors before making his decision.

"There simply can be no response that explains away the failure to notify victims of the offender," Baker said. "To Ariel's family, I offered my resolve to continue to fight for just sentences for those who injure others due to the reckless decision to drink alcohol and operate a motor vehicle."

Under the terms of his commutation, Reid was released from prison but remains under house arrest for the duration of his term, which runs until Oct. 31, 2025. He is required to meet weekly with a parole officer, work at least 30 hours per week and undertake 10 hours of community service per month.

HIGH COURT WON'T REVIEW OFFICER'S CONVICTION

Without comment, the Missouri Supreme Court on March 5 declined to consider the appeal of the only Kansas City police officer ever convicted of illegally killing a Black person. The former officer, who is serving a six-year prison term, already has asked Gov. Mike Parson for a pardon.

By not taking the case, the high court let stand former KCPD detective Eric DeValkenaere's convictions for involuntary manslaughter and armed criminal action for fatally shooting Cameron Lamb, a 26-year-old father of three, on Dec. 3, 2019. The Missouri Court of Appeals Western District rejected DeValkenaere's initial appeal in October.

DeValkenaere was investigating alleged traffic violations when he fatally shot Lamb as Lamb was parking his truck in his garage. Following a bench

trial, the judge determined DeValkenaere was illegally present on Lamb's property and had no legitimate cause for using deadly force. In rejecting his appeal, the Court of Appeals said DeValkenaere offered no evidence the conviction was erroneous.

The case took an unusual turn this summer when Attorney General Andrew Bailey, whose office typically defends convictions on appeal, instead sought to have DeValkenaere's convictions reversed. Given Bailey's position, the Jackson County prosecutor's office, which handled the case at trial, stepped in to argue for the convictions to be upheld.

Publicly, Parson has been noncommittal regarding whether he will pardon DeValkenaere. After the possibility was first publicly raised in July, Black community leaders and others in Kansas City strongly urged the governor not to do so.

The case is *State of Missouri v. Eric DeValkenaere*.

COUPLE WON'T GET THEIR GUNS BACK

A St. Louis couple whom Gov. Mike Parson pardoned after they pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges for brandishing firearms at anti-police brutality protesters won't get their guns back after the Missouri Supreme

Court on March 6 declined to hear their case.

The June 2020 incident generated national controversy after the St. Louis Post-Dispatch published photographs of Mark and Patricia McCloskey menacingly pointing their weapons at protesters who walked past their house on the way to the nearby home of then-St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson.

The McCloskeys originally were charged with felonies but in June 2021 pleaded guilty to misdemeanors, and as part of their plea agreement forfeited ownership of the weapons involved. Parson pardoned the couple about six weeks later.

Mark McCloskey subsequently sought a court order to have the firearms returned. A St. Louis judge rejected McCloskey's request, finding the pardon didn't entitle them to have the weapons back. The Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District upheld that ruling in December.

The case is *Mark T. McCloskey v. State of Missouri, et al.*

REVENUE COLLECTIONS UP 1.3%

Year-to-date net state general revenue collections increased 1.3% through the first eight months of the 2024 fiscal year compared to the same period in FY 2023, going

from \$8.31 billion last year to \$8.42 billion this year, according to revenue data reported March 6 by the Missouri Division of Budget & Planning.

Collections had been down 0.2% through the first seven months of the fiscal year.

Net general revenue collections in February 2024 increased 18% compared to those for February 2023, going from \$703.5 million last year to \$830.3 million this year. Growth in both income and sales tax collections contributed to the robust collections for the month.

Year-to-date collections now are currently outpacing the latest revised consensus revenue estimate for FY 2024 issued in December that predicted a 0.7% decline in collections by the time the fiscal year ends June 30.

The original FY 2024 estimate announced in December 2023 predicted 0.7% growth for the year.

FUNDING ADVANCES TO SEND TROOPS TO TEXAS

The Missouri House of Representatives on March 7 voted 122-12, with seven members voting present, to approve a \$2.2 million emergency supplementary appropriations bill to provide funding to send 200 Missouri National Guard

soldiers and 22 State Highway Patrol troopers to the Mexican border with Texas.

The bill now advances to the Senate.

Gov. Mike Parson asked for the funding after dispatching Missouri's forces to block migrants from entering the country under control of the state of Texas at the request of Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott.

About 250 Missouri Guard troops are already at the border under federal command at the request of President Joe Biden.



Last week the Special Committee on Public Policy heard a discriminatory bill that sought to penalize the drag show entertainment industry and specifically tax people who dress in drag. I took a point of personal privilege after the bill sponsor presented the bill to address the committee and state how discriminatory this bill was. There were over 20 people there to testify in opposition to the bill and witness testimony took over three hours. As the ranking minority member on this committee I have urged the Chair not to bring this bill up for a committee vote.



My father John Sharp and I had a chance to attend Avila University's Annual "Steer" dinner raising money for student scholarships. This was a wonderful event that highlighted many success stories past and present of international students that attend or have attended Avila.

Kansas City United For Safety

Public Safety Symposium and Community Forum

Join us as we bring together elected officials, community leaders, law enforcement, neighborhood and grassroots organizations, health professionals, educators, business leaders, violence prevention specialists and academic scholars to discuss strategies and collective actions to reduce gun violence in Kansas City. Our goal is to update local strategies, review national best practices and further develop and build on one comprehensive plan that we can all support.

Event is free, but registration is required.

**Public Safety Symposium
for Organizations and Businesses focused on
Creating a Safe and Thriving Community**

Friday, March 15th, 8:30A - 4:30P

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110

**Public Safety Community Forum
for Community Members focused on
Creating Safe and Thriving Communities**

Saturday, March 16th, 8:30A - 3:30P

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110



Scan to register
for FREE or go to
<https://bit.ly/KCUPS24>



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



*5th District-Wide Clean-Up Sponsored by Councilmembers Ryana Parks-Shaw and Darrell Curls



May 18,* June 29, Neighborhood Clean-Ups

Trash, Bulky Items, Tires (w/wo rims), Leaves, Limbs & Debris,
Reusable Household Items + Electronics (prices below)

Saturday 8 AM - Noon 8434 Paseo & 8131 Indiana

Volunteers Needed! Help us direct vehicles at 8434 Paseo for a 1.5 hour shift.
Or pick up litter for a neighbor who is unable to come!
To help, email sarah@wearemarlborough.org or call 816.866.6279

No \$\$ to recycle most electronics with the exceptions of:

- CRT Monitors = \$5.00 each
- CRT TV's 26" or less = \$30.00 each
- CRT TV's 27" or greater = \$50.00 each
- Wood Console and True Big Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00 each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV'S = \$20.00 each
- Any Freon containing unit = \$10.00 each



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

MARLBOROUGH EAST
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



SCHOOL
CENTER
DISTRICT

WALNUT GROVE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Marlborough Community Coalition | wearemarlborough.org | 816.866.6279 | sarah@wearemarlborough.org

Community **CRIME** MEETING



March 19



7 p.m.



**Annex Building
9701 Marion Park Drive
Kansas City, MO**



SOUTH PATROL DIVISION

RECYCLE



KCMO.GOV/RECYCLE



PAPER

all colors and types



CARTONS

empty and clean



CANS

Aluminum and Steel Cans
empty and dry



PLASTIC

Plastic Bottles, Jars and Jugs
empty and dry

DO NOT RECYCLE!



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/

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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 LIVE IN
KCMO

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



Center for Neighborhoods



Metropolitan Energy Center



Jerusalem Farm



Kansas City



Kansas City Public Library



Greenwood Consulting Group, LLC



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climate + energy



Sierra Club Missouri Chapter



Central Plains



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SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night
5:00 - 7:00 PM

- Open to Ages 8-15
- Dinner Provided

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2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



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

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Marlborough Conservancy

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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 **MCI**
MEMORIAL CHURCH

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/>



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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!**