

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE Wednesday, April 10, 2024

HOUSE OKAYS "MINORITY VETO"

The Missouri House of Representatives on April 3 voted 106-49 to approve its version of legislation that could undermine majority rule in the state by enabling a minority of voters to block ratification of future constitutional amendments supported by the majority.

A day earlier, a House committee voted to advance a

similar measure that already had passed the Senate.

The legislation is part of a last-ditch Republican effort to thwart a proposed constitutional amendment to restore abortion rights in the state that is expected to be placed on the November ballot by initiative petition.

Both the House and Senate versions seek to impose a concurrent majority requirement of both a simple majority of votes cast statewide, as well as approval in at least five of Missouri's eight Congressional districts. Ratification traditionally has required only a simple statewide majority.

So even if a proposed constitutional amendment wins overwhelmingly in four of the state's Congressional districts, it will still fail even if it barely loses in the other four.

House Joint Resolution 86 also includes several items of so-called "ballot candy" - unrelated provisions intended to persuade voters to support legislation they likely otherwise would oppose. Those provisions include specifying that non-citizens can't vote and that foreign governments can't sponsor or finance initiatives - provisions that merely restate existing law.

Although the Senate stripped the "ballot candy" from its version (Senate Joint Resolution 74) prior to passage, the

House Elections Committee restored it before voting along party lines to send the measure to the full House for debate. However, changing SJR 74 in the House would require the measure to return to the Senate. Since the "ballot candy" was removed to overcome a Democratic filibuster, the measure's chances of winning another Senate vote are uncertain.

If either SJR 74 or HJR 86 clears the legislature, it automatically would go on the Nov. 5 general election ballot. However, it is expected Gov. Mike Parson might exercise his authority to move the measure to the Aug. 6 primary election in order for the concurrent majority requirement to have a chance of being approved before the November abortion rights vote.

REWRITING HOUSE BUDGET PLAN LIKELY

The Missouri House of Representatives on April 4 advanced a \$50.07 billion state operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year beginning July 1 to the Senate, which is expected to completely rewrite the spending plan to restore much of the nearly \$2 billion in additional spending authority recommended by the governor but stripped out by House Republicans.

The House also approved another \$717.19 million in

spending authority for various capital improvement projects.

While the House plan largely avoids major spending cuts to existing programs, Democratic lawmakers were critical of the majority party for failing to use the state's large revenue surplus to invest in public education, health care and other areas where spending has failed to keep up with inflation.

Republicans rejected Democratic efforts to improve minimum teacher pay, increase state childcare subsidies and bolster funding for in-home care providers, among other items.

Although Republicans also control the Senate, the upper chamber in recent years has ignored the House's more austere budget plans in favor of putting available revenues to use providing state services or funding capital projects. During final budget negotiations with the House, the Senate's more generous position typically prevails in most instances.

With the process now in the Senate, just five weeks remain for lawmakers to grant final passage to the various appropriations bills that make up the FY 2025 operating budget by the May 10 constitutional deadline for budget passage.

CONSTITUTIONAL ABORTION BAN ADVANCES

The House General Laws Committee on April 3 voted 10-5 in favor of a proposed constitutional amendment to make it a felony to perform or induce an abortion in nearly all circumstances and prohibit future lawmakers from enacting exceptions without voter approval.

The measure passed on straight party lines with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed.

House Joint Resolution 131 would constitutionally prohibit abortion "from the moment of conception" except in cases of medical emergency when a pregnant woman is at "serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function" or to avert death. HJR 131 would provide no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. Violation of the measure would be a felony punishable by between 5 and 15 years in prison.

HJR 131 mirrors Missouri's existing statutory ban on abortion. However, enshrining the ban in the state constitution would prohibit lawmakers from later repealing or relaxing restrictions without asking voters to ratify another constitutional amendment. Instead of informing voters of its true intent to constitutionally ban abortion rights, HJR 131's ballot language says it would "guarantee that abortion laws protect a pregnant mother from serious risk to life or physical health".

If approved by the legislature, HJR 131 automatically would go on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot where it likely would compete with a rival constitutional amendment seeking to protect reproductive rights, including abortion and access to contraception.

An initiative petition to put the abortion rights measure to a statewide vote is currently being circulated and is expected to be submitted by the early May deadline to qualify for the fall ballot.



Recently, I spoke on House Bill 2780, a bill that was heard in the Special Committee on Public Policy where I am Ranking Minority Member. Sponsored by Rep. Justin Hicks who represents St. Charles County, this bill modifies provisions related to commercial transactions by prohibiting public entities from accepting payments using any central bank digital currency, foreign or domestic. Digital currency is not cryptocurrency.

Join the Kansas City Health Department's COMMUNITY WELLNESS AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Accepting Applications April 1st 2024 - April 30th 2024

or until the application acceptance platform capacity is reached

Community Wellness Ambassadors Participants will serve as Ambassadors from August 2024 through May 2025 and receive a \$255/month stipend for training.

Ambassadors are placed throughout the city to reach residents in every council district, including Spanish speaking ambassadors for our Hispanic and LatinX communities.

Scan the QR code to Apply!

For more information contact Kimberly McCauley at **Kimberly.McCauley@kcmo.org**



PUBLIC WORKS

6TH DISTRICT DROP-OFF EVENT

Saturday, May 4th 8AM – Noon For All KC Residents

Trash & Bulky Items, Tires, Shredder

First Baptist Church - 100 W Red Bridge Rd South Broadland Church - 7850 Holmes Rd

Electronics - Price per unit

South Broadland Church - 7850 Holmes Rd

- CRT TVs 26" or less: \$30.00 each
- CRT TVs 27" or greater (This includes Console TVs, True Big Screen TVs and Projection TVs): \$50.00 each
- Flat Screen TVs All sizes (LED, LCD, and Plasma):
 \$20.00 each
- Freon Containing Items (Freezers, Refrigerators,
- AC Units, Dehumidifiers, etc.): \$10.00 each
- All Printers, Copiers, MFP's: \$5.00 each
- Tanning beds with lamps: \$150 each
- CRT Computer Monitors: \$5.00 each

Accepted Items

- LCD Computer Monitors: Free
- Vape Pens: \$1.00 each
- Straight Linear Fluorescent Bulbs: \$0.33 per foot
- U-Tube, Biax, CFL, Circular Fluorescent, Incandescent, Quartz, Halogen Bulbs: \$1.23 each
- HID, Mercury, Metal Halide, LPS, HPS, Shielded, Coated Bulbs: **\$3.19 each**
- LED Bulbs: \$1.39 each
- Ultraviolet, Tanning Bed, Arc, Ignitron, Germicidal, Projection Bulbs: **\$7.85 each**
- DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY BROKEN BULBS OR LAMPS.

All Televisions, CRT Monitors, Freon Containing Devices (Refrigerators, AC Units, Dehumidifiers, etc.), Printers, Copiers, MFP's, Magnetic Media (VHS Tapes, Cassette Tapes, Floppy Disks, et cetera), Optical Discs (CDs/DVDs), Alkaline Batteries, Ink/Toner Cartridges, Tanning Beds (with lamps)



Sponsored by Councilmembers: Andrea Bough 6th District at Large Johnathan Duncan 6th District

.





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.





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











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 <u>info@cackc.org</u> 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/





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!