



Dear Neighbor,

This week, the Missouri State Senate passed House Bill 495 on an initial vote which would strip oversight of the St. Louis City Police Department from local elected leaders and transfer control to the State of Missouri.

If passed, St. Louis would join Kansas City as the only other city in the state with its police force under state control—overriding the will of Missouri voters who previously supported local governance of St. Louis law enforcement.

Additionally, a provision was added requiring all law enforcement agencies to report the citizenship or immigration status of anyone arrested for certain offenses to the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

However, the lengthy bill also includes provisions that many members of the General Assembly in both the House and Senate have championed for years. These include:

- **A Task Force on Missing and Murdered African-American Women and Girls** – set to begin work in October 2025 and to expire at the end of 2027.
- **Improvements to Missouri’s Wrongful Conviction Laws** – expanding eligibility for restitution payments for wrongful imprisonment beyond DNA evidence to any method proving actual innocence. The bill also increases payments from \$100 per day to \$179, with a cap of \$65,000 per year for innocent persons who were wrongfully imprisoned.
- **Required Law Enforcement Training** – focusing on racial profiling and de-escalation techniques.
- **Stronger Laws Against Organized Retail Theft and Stunt Driving** – addressing these rising issues that have particularly plagued Kansas City.
- **Liability Protection for Out-of-State Law Enforcement** – covering officers assisting with major events in Missouri such as the recent Super Bowl Parade and the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- **Fentanyl & Child Welfare Endangerment** – adding fentanyl to the list of substances that can trigger child endangerment charges.
- **The Committee on School Safety** – tasked with submitting an annual report on best practices to reduce gun violence in schools.

These public safety measures are long overdue and represent progress on key issues. However, they do not justify stripping local control from St. Louis or overturning the will of Missouri voters as expressed in a 2012 statewide vote.

The bill now awaits a fiscal review hearing in the Senate, followed by a final Senate vote before returning to the Missouri House for final passage.

In other legislative news, several of my bills have been referred to committees this week, and I’ll be presenting multiple pieces of legislation soon. The Special Committee on Urban Issues that I chair also has been hearing important bills that impact our urban communities.

One of the key bills I’ll be presenting is **House Bill 984**, which seeks to update an outdated provision preventing **St. Joseph Medical Center**, located in my district, from obtaining a **Level 3 trauma center** designation. Under current Missouri law, a hospital cannot apply for this status if it is too close to a Level 1 or Level 2 trauma center. This antiquated rule prevents **ambulance services from transporting patients to St. Joseph Medical Center for Level 3 trauma care**, forcing residents of South Kansas City and nearby communities to travel farther for critical medical services. The law prioritizes

hospital classification over the needs of the community, and it's time for a change!

Additionally, I will be joining **Representatives Pattie Mansur and Sherri Gallick** as we present our respective bills before the **Special Committee on Urban Issues** that I chair this Tuesday. These hearings are an important step in advancing policies that directly impact our neighborhoods.

I'll continue to keep you updated on these legislative efforts. Let's all stay engaged and work toward positive change for our community!

Special Committee on Urban Issues, Chairman
Crime and Public Safety, Ranking Minority Member
Joint Committee on Capitol Security
Joint Committee on Legislative Research
Revision Subcommittee - Joint Committee on Legislative Research
Consent and House Procedure
Local Government

Here is my current list of committee assignments for the 103rd General Assembly:

If you would like to be added to this email or have any questions regarding state legislation or state issues please feel free to reach out to my legislative assistant Mariah Gilmore.

Mariah.Gilmore@house.mo.gov



This week, I had the opportunity to speak at both the **House Democrats' press conference (top)** and the **Missouri Legislative Black Caucus press conference** to address what I feel are both the good and bad changes proposed in state law by an omnibus public safety bill, **House Bill 495**, which shifts oversight of the St. Louis City Police Department back to the state. I also discussed **other public safety legislation** and highlighted key bills that have come through the **Special Committee on Urban Issues**, which I chair.



Please click on the image above to hear my comments on House Bill 742, the anti-DEI bill.

Let's Celebrate

JOHN A. SHARP's 81 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 great cause.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

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



**GOLD SPONSOR \$500 TABLE OF 8 / SILVER SPONSOR \$250 4 TICKETS /
BRONZE SPONSOR \$100 2 TICKETS / TABLE OF 8 PURCHASERS \$200 /
SINGLE TICKET \$25**

Sponsors and table purchasers will be recognized in the program and at the event.

No gifts please, but all donations of \$25 or more are gratefully accepted. All net revenue from this event will go to the matching **John Sharp Student Leadership Scholarships** awarded annually through the **Hickman Mills Educational Foundation** to two Ruskin High School seniors involved in student government or community service who are also receiving a Foundation scholarship. **Donate by mailing a check to the Hickman Mills Educational Foundation with Sharp Scholarship on the memo line to: John Sharp, 8401 E. 103rd Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64134-2106**

PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP AT JSHARP122@HOTMAIL.COM
SO ENOUGH FOOD AND SEATING ARE AVAILABLE.



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Every Saturday starting January 25, 2025

Time: 8:00 am -12:00 pm

Where: Community America Credit Union- Hickman Mills

11501 Blue Ridge Blvd.

Kansas City, MO 64134

Call 913.229.4159 to make an appointment



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. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

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/>

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.



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Missouri House of Representatives

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Please don't hesitate to contact me

with any feedback, questions or ideas!