

#### Dear Neighbor,

On April 29, the Missouri Supreme Court unanimously rejected an election challenge filed by some business groups seeking to overturn voters' approval of Proposition A, which raises the state minimum wage and mandates earned sick leave for most workers. Missouri voters passed the measure in 2024 with 57.6% support.

The business groups argued that the ballot summary and fiscal estimate misled voters about the measure's true purpose and financial impact. They have since lobbied the Republican-led General Assembly to repeal Proposition A's earned sick leave provisions.

In an opinion authored by Chief Justice Mary Russell and joined by five other judges, the court found no merit to those claims.

"This case addresses whether the summary statement and fiscal note summary for Proposition A were so misleading that they constituted an irregularity of sufficient magnitude to cast doubt on the fairness of the election and the validity of its results," Russell wrote. "Because Contestants' claims fall well short of this high standard, this Court finds there was no election irregularity and the election results are valid."

The court also dismissed arguments that Proposition A violated technical requirements for drafting legislation, noting that such claims involve broader constitutional issues that are irrelevant to the election's validity.

In a concurring opinion, Judge Robin Ransom wrote that the court lacked jurisdiction to review post-election challenges to ballot measures and should have dismissed the case outright. Nonetheless, she agreed with the main opinion's conclusions on its merits.

Proposition A raised Missouri's minimum wage from \$12.30 to \$13.75 per hour in January, with a further increase to \$15 scheduled for 2026. As of May 1, it also requires private-sector employers to provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked.

Although the Missouri House passed a bill (HB 567) in March to repeal the sick leave mandate, Senate Democrats have blocked it from final passage. With the 2025 legislative session ending May 16, Senate Republicans are expected to renew efforts to overturn the requirement in the session's final days.

A proposed constitutional amendment clarifying that Jackson County must have an elected county assessor will appear on the November 2026 statewide ballot, following approval by the Missouri House of Representatives on May 1 by a vote of 129–0, with 18 members voting "present". The Senate had passed the measure 33–0 on April 29.

While the Missouri Constitution typically allows charter counties to decide whether certain offices are elected or appointed, voters in 2010 approved a

constitutional amendment requiring elected county assessors. That amendment included an exemption - prompted by controversies in St. Louis County - for charter counties "with more than 600,000 but fewer than 700,000 inhabitants", effectively excluding Jackson County at the time.

Jackson County had 674,158 residents in the 2010 Census, but its population grew to 717,204 by 2020, making the exemption no longer applicable. Nevertheless, the county has continued to appoint its assessor despite that constitutional requirement.

If approved by voters, House Joint Resolution 23 would remove the population-based exemption, making it crystal clear that Jackson County must elect its assessor.

After five hours of debate on April 30, the Missouri Senate shelved legislation that would have authorized a so-called "open enrollment" system, allowing students to attend public schools outside the district in which they reside. The proposal had previously passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 88–69.

House Bill 711 proposed a voluntary school choice system in which public school districts could choose to accept transfer students from other districts. To limit the impact on districts losing students, the House version capped transfers at 3% of a district's student population. The Senate version increased that cap to 5%.

Before setting the bill aside, senators amended it to suspend the open enrollment program in any year the state failed to meet statutory funding minimums for K–12 education, transportation costs or teacher salary grants. They also added various other provisions related to public education.

Critics contend the legislation would hurt public school districts that lack high overall levels of property valuations by diverting students - and associated state funding - to wealthier districts.

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

Special Committee on Urban Issues, Chairman
Crime and Pubic 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

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



Four Ruskin High School seniors who had already been awarded college scholarships from the Hickman Mills Educational Foundation each recently received additional matching scholarships through the Foundation from my father, John Sharp, and me. Shown with my father, from left, are Samyah Smith, Olivia Jones, Samreen Aqeel and Shubha Alam. Smith and Jones are both four-year cheerleaders at Ruskin who received Candice Richie Memorial Scholarships in memory of my late sister who also was a cheerleader for four years at Hickman Mills High School where I graduated. Aqeel and Alam received Sharp Student Leadership Scholarships for their leadership roles in student government and for their volunteer work in the community.

# 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT MAY DROP-OFF EVENT

## Saturday, May 3rd 8AM – Noon For All KC Residents

Trash, Bulky Item, Leaf & Brush, Tire Disposal and Document Shredding will be available at the following locations:

- · Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church 7406 Ward Parkway
- · First Baptist Church of KCMO 100 Red Bridge Road

# Electronics Disposal Available at Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church (7406 Ward Parkway)

#### **Accepted Items:**

- Home Appliances
- Kitchen Appliances
- Office Electronics
- Audio/Video Equipment

#### **Item Fees:**

- · Dehumidifiers: \$10.00/each
- · Air Conditioners: \$10.00/each
- Refrigerators: \$10.00/each
- Freezers \$10.00/each
- CRT TVs (based on size): \$30.00 \$50.00
- Console TVs and Projection TVs: \$50.00 each
- Flat Screen TVs: \$20.00 each

# Electronics Disposal Available at First Baptist Church of KCMO (100 Red Bridge Road):

#### **Accepted Items:**

- Computers & Networking Equipment
- Printers, Scanners, Copiers or Fax Machines
- Home/Pro Audio Equipment
- Home Video & Gaming
- Photography & Lighting
- Phone Systems
- Medical Equipment

#### **Item Fees:**

- CRT TVs: \$30.00 each
- LCD TVs: \$20.00 each
- Projection TVs: \$50.00 each
- · CRT Monitors: \$5.00 each



Visit kcmo.gov/trash for more info on upcoming drop-off events.

### **Hickman Mills United Neighborhoods Presents**



## Calling All Vendors, Food Trucks & Volunteers!

Join us on the 4th Saturday of every month from April 26, 2025, to October 25, 2025 at <u>Consuming Fire Ministries</u> (10306 Blue Ridge Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64134).

Come be a part of a vibrant community event where you can sell your products, advertise your business, and connect with your neighbors.



**Stay in Contact!** 

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April 26, 9 AM - 2 PM
May 24, (Memorial Day Weekend) 7 AM - 12 PM
June 28, 7 AM - 12 PM
July 26, 7 AM - 12 PM
August 23, 7 AM - 12 PM
September 27, 7 AM - 12 PM



Vendor Signup

October 25, 8 AM - 1 PM

Locations from June to October are subject to change, so please follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and check out our page, <u>hmunited.org</u>, for updates.

For Inquiries, Email Contact@hmunited.org



#### **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 <a href="mailto:info@cackc.org">info@cackc.org</a> 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 <a href="https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/">https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/</a>

**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.



#### REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



**WEB TIPS** 

KCcrimestoppers.com



REE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



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