



Dear Neighbors,

In what many consider a politically motivated move, Governor Mike Kehoe placed two highly controversial constitutional amendments on the August 4 ballot rather than the November ballot.

The measures include Amendment 4, which would significantly alter Missouri's citizen initiative petition process, and Amendment 5, which would phase out Missouri's state income tax while authorizing future state lawmakers to expand sales taxes on goods and services in an effort to replace the resulting loss of revenue.

Amendment 4 would change Missouri's Constitution by requiring a proposed citizen-led constitutional amendment to receive approval in all eight congressional districts in addition to receiving statewide support. Under this

proposal, if a measure fails in just one congressional district, that district could effectively block the measure from taking effect statewide.

Had this requirement been in place in recent years, several successful citizen-led initiatives may not have passed, including the 2024 constitutional amendment protecting reproductive rights, the 2022 recreational marijuana initiative, and the 2020 Medicaid expansion measure.

I voted no on Amendment 4 and strongly encourage voters in Jackson County and across Missouri to do the same.

Amendment 5 would eliminate Missouri's state income tax over time. While that may sound appealing at first glance, the proposal contains additional provisions that deserve careful consideration.

The measure would also authorize future General Assembly members to expand state sales taxes on goods and services in an effort to offset the significant revenue loss created by eliminating the income tax.

Income tax currently accounts for a substantial portion of Missouri's state revenue, and many lawmakers, including myself have raised concerns about the long-term impact such changes could have on funding for public services and on working families.

I voted no on Amendment 5 and encourage Missourians to consider doing so as well. Many families are already struggling with the rising costs of groceries, childcare, housing, and utility bills. Any proposal that could increase the tax burden on everyday purchases should be voted down.

During the last week of session, I was proud to see DUI-related legislation that I have worked on for years officially clear both chambers of the Missouri General Assembly with overwhelming bipartisan support.

House Bill 1740, sponsored by my colleague and friend Representative David Griffith, contains several important provisions. Representative Griffith's portion of the bill establishes **Melanie's Law, which increases penalties for impaired driving crashes.**

The legislation also includes Bentley and Mason's Law, sponsored by my dear friend Representative Cecelie Dunlap Williams. **This provision allows a surviving parent or guardian to seek child maintenance payments from an impaired driver responsible for the death of the other parent or guardian.**

In addition, my provision reforms Missouri's ignition interlock program by creating a second tier requiring individuals convicted of a first or subsequent impaired driving offense with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 or higher to install an ignition interlock breathalyzer device in their vehicle.

The Senate added language establishing a significantly reduced fee schedule for low-income offenders who are required to install an ignition interlock device, an amendment I greatly appreciated.

The bill passed the Missouri Senate unanimously and was later approved by the Missouri House on a bipartisan vote of 144-2.

Missouri is among only a handful of states that have not adopted a second-tier ignition interlock requirement for high-BAC offenders. This legislation will strengthen accountability for impaired drivers while honoring the victims and families across Missouri who have suffered injury, loss, and heartbreak as a result of impaired driving.

I have remained in communication with Governor Mike Kehoe's office and am hopeful he will give strong consideration to signing this potentially life-saving legislation into law.

Finally, I invite you to join me on Monday, June 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the South Kansas City Alliance meeting, where I will be joined by fellow state lawmakers to provide an end-of-session legislative update.

We will discuss the major bills that passed, those that did not, and what Missourians can expect moving forward.

I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Sharp
State Representative, District 37

Committee Assignments

For the 2026 legislative session, I am honored to serve in the following roles:

- Chairman, Special House Committee on Urban Issues
- Ranking Democrat, House Committee on Crime and Public Safety
- Ranking Democrat, Special House Committee on Redistricting
- Member, Joint Committee on Capitol Security
- Member, Joint Committee on Legislative Research

As always, I will continue to keep you informed as this session progresses. Thank you for the trust you place in me to represent our community at the Missouri Capitol.

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 Nate Taylor.

Nate.Taylor@[house.mo.gov](mailto:Nate.Taylor@house.mo.gov)



I spoke in favor of House Bill 1740 just before the Missouri House took a final vote to truly agree and finally pass this potentially life saving DUI bill. This bill includes my provision to reform Missouri's ignition interlock device program.



Late in session I was asked by House Leadership to step-in and serve in the role as Missouri House Speaker, a privilege not often extended to a Democrat while Republicans serve in the Majority. This was an extension of the relationships I've cultivated over the last seven years working on bipartisan legislation.



As session came to a close I was presented with a Missouri House of Representatives Resolution for my seven years of service in the Missouri House of Representatives from my colleague Rep. Pattie Mansur. It has been an absolute pleasure to representative the area that raised me and I look forward to continuing to represent this area in a different capacity.



19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

NO VOTE. NO HOPE.



QIANA THOMASON
MORNING KEYNOTE



REV. JAMAL BRYANT
AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

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