

Capitol Report

February 1, 2024

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Dear Neighbor,

Missouri students and their families could soon be allowed to go to school outside of the district they live in. A [bill](#) that would allow students to enroll in neighboring school districts won approval in the Missouri House for the fourth year in a row Wednesday on an 86-73 vote.

It is the [first bill](#) to be debated by the full House this legislative session and will be sent to the Senate for consideration. I voted NO on this bill as I am concerned it could bring irreparable harm to some of our local districts. This includes Center 58, Raytown Quality Schools, Hickman Mills C-1, Kansas City Public Schools and Grandview C-4. By allowing students in these districts to transfer to neighboring districts such as Lee's Summit, Fort Osage or Independence could reduce the number of students in the primarily urban districts that I just mentioned. The vote to allow open enrollment could also harm smaller rural districts surrounding cities like Columbia, Camdenton, Chillicothe, Springfield and Jefferson City as the students in the smaller districts can be absorbed into the larger school districts.

As a retired educator, I understand the desire for a quality education for our children. However, I am concerned about the survivability of certain school districts should Open Enrollment become law in

Missouri. I watched the opening of charter schools in Kansas City and St. Louis over 20 years ago and saw the large number of students exiting KCPS and STLPS. Today, there are high schools that have such a low student population that they cannot field athletic teams for their schools. Some schools, like Southeast and Central in Kansas City, had to field a combined football team last year to allow their students to participate in the sport.

These are concerns that every parent and student should be aware of when it comes to Open Enrollment. I will continue to work to protect and improve public education in Missouri.

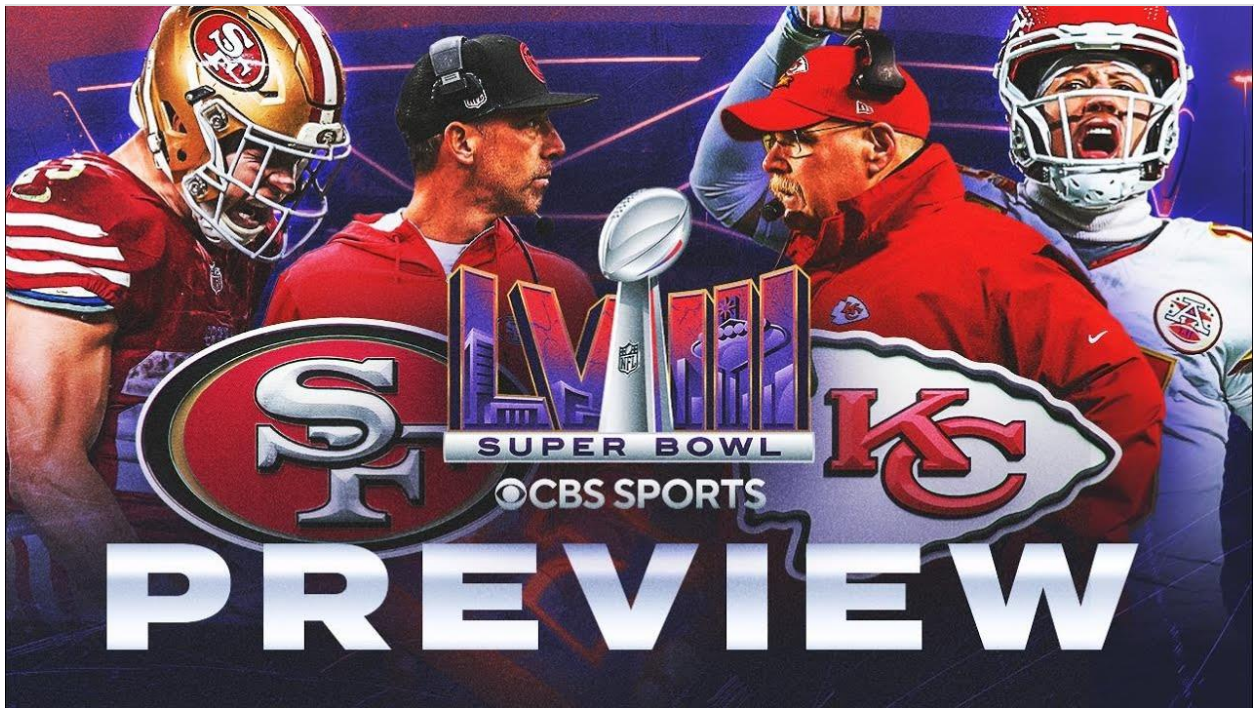
Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard



Let's Go Chiefs!



Court says part of challenge to police rights law can advance

The Missouri Supreme Court on Jan. 30 ruled St. Louis city's legal claim that a 2021 state law creating a so-called "law enforcement officers' bill of rights" imposes an unconstitutional unfunded state mandate on local governments can proceed. However, the court rejected the city's various other constitutional challenges to the law, which sets tight restrictions on investigations of police misconduct and grants special legal protections to officers accused of wrongdoing.

Missouri was one of several Republican-controlled states that moved to further shield police from facing consequences for questionable or unlawful actions as part of a conservative backlash to nationwide protests calling for law enforcement reform after the 2020 murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Missouri's protections for officers were enacted as part of Senate Bill 26.

St. Louis city challenged SB 26 on a variety of fronts, including that it interferes with the city's authority as a charter city to determine personnel matters and violated constitutional procedures for the passage of bills. The Supreme Court unanimously ruled against all of the city's points except the claim that the new police protections impose an unfunded state mandate on the city in violation of a provision of the state constitution's Hancock Amendment.

However, the court did not rule that SB 26 actually imposes an unfunded mandate. Instead the judges said the city sufficiently pleaded its Hancock claim and that the trial judge incorrectly ruled against the city on that point at that stage of the litigation. The high court remanded the case to the circuit court for additional proceedings on the unfunded mandate claim.

Once the trial judge makes a determination on whether SB 26 imposes an unfunded mandate, another appeal to the Supreme

Court is expected. The case is *City of St. Louis v. State of Missouri*.



Ruby Leigh, a Missourian and 2023 Runner up on NBC's *The Voice* was honored at the Capitol today.



House narrowly passes public school open enrollment

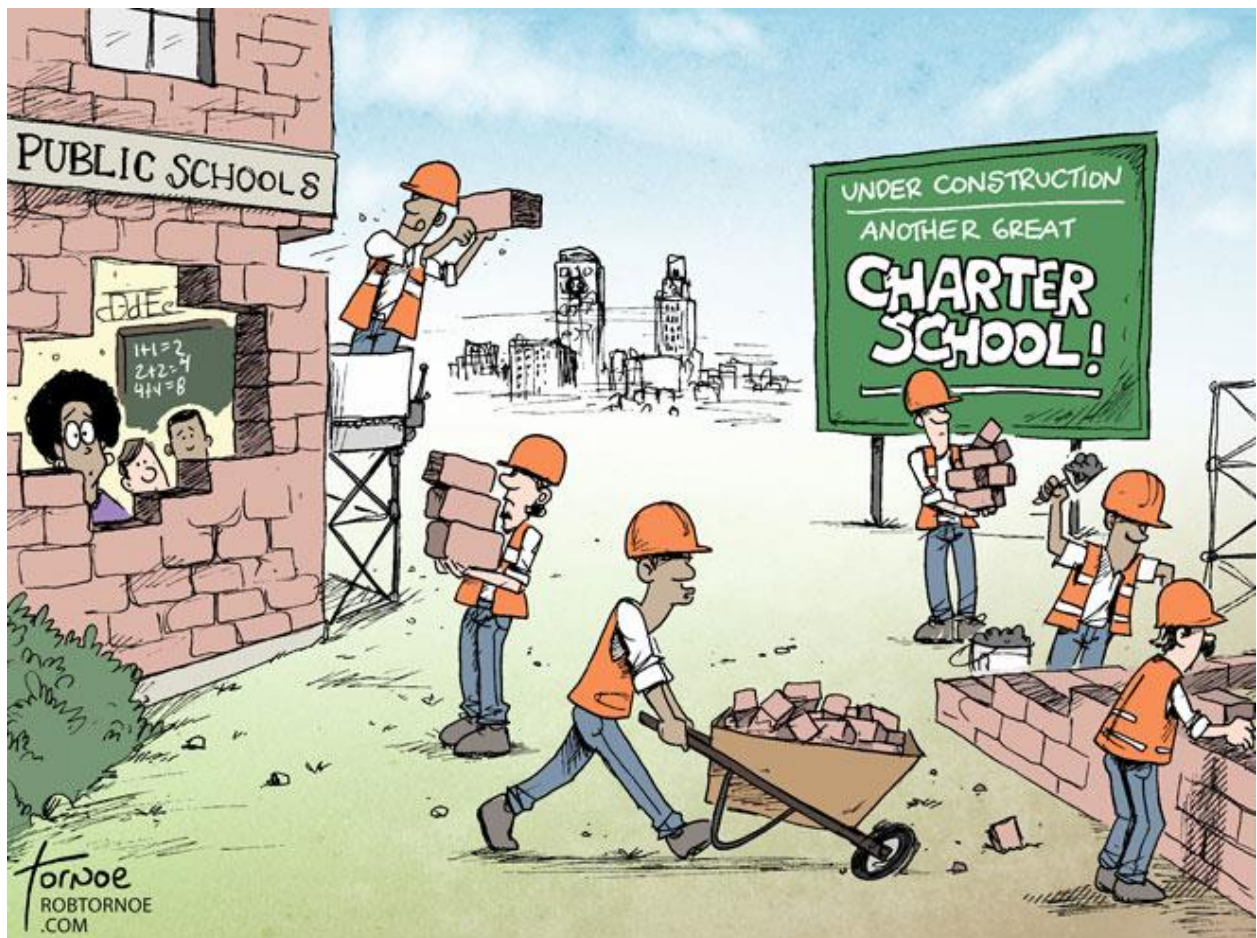
The House of Representatives on Jan. 31 voted 86-73 in favor of legislation that would allow Missouri students to attend any public school willing to take them, without regard to where a student lives. The bill, which passed with just four more “yes” votes than the minimum required for a House majority, now

advances to the Senate.

Missouri students typically must attend the public school district in which they reside. House Bill 1989 would authorize so-called “open enrollment” that would allow K-12 students to transfer to other districts. As currently written, however, it would be up to each of Missouri’s 518 school districts to decide whether to accept kids from other districts and wouldn’t force districts to take more outside students than they have capacity for. Districts would have no authority to stop students from leaving for other districts.

Open enrollment supporters say it would give students and their families more educational options within the public school context. Opponents are concerned it would force local school districts, particularly smaller ones in rural areas, to consolidate if students leave for districts with greater resources.

Most majority Republicans, but only one Democrat, voted for HB 1989, while 26 Republicans broke with their party to join Democrats in opposing it.



House committee approves charter school expansion

The House Special Committee on Education Reform on Jan. 29 approved legislation that would allow charter schools to expand to St. Louis and St. Charles counties, as well as in the Columbia School District. The panel advanced the bill to the full House of Representatives on a vote of 7-2 with one committee member voting “present.”

Charter schools are independent public schools that are exempt from many of the state regulations traditional public school districts must follow. Under existing law, they are only authorized to operate within the Kansas City of St. Louis city school districts. Although touted as an alternative to struggling local schools, charters have produced decidedly mixed results in Missouri, with some achieving academic success but most performing no better or even worse than their home district.

Although advocates have long pushed to expand charter schools statewide, there has been little political will among rural lawmakers to do so. House Bill 1749 would take a more incremental approach by expanding charters to two high-population counties in the St. Louis area, plus authorizing them in outstate Missouri for the first time, but on a limited basis, by including Columbia.



Senate panel advances new hurdles to changing constitution

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee on Jan. 30 approved legislation seeking to eliminate the doctrine of “one-person, one-vote” when ratifying amendments to the Missouri Constitution and essentially create a minority veto of many proposals that receive majority support statewide. The full Senate is expected to debate the measure in the coming days.

Since the adoption of the first Missouri Constitution in 1820, ratification of constitutional amendments has always required just a simple majority of votes cast statewide. Senate Joint Resolution 74 would require future constitutional amendments to win both a statewide majority and also majorities in at least 82 of Missouri’s 163 state House districts. This could create situations in which an amendment passes statewide by a wide margin on the strength of

urban and suburban voters but nonetheless fails due to rural opposition. SJR 74's concurrent majority requirement would apply to both amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature and those proposed by initiative petition.

Republican lawmakers for years have sought to make amending the Missouri Constitution harder after voters passed several high-profile ballot initiatives on issues the GOP majority had blocked in the legislature, including Medicaid expansion, bolstering legislative ethics requirements and authorizing both medical and recreational marijuana use. The issue has taken on added urgency for Republicans this year with an initiative petition currently being circulated to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to restore abortion rights in the state.

If both legislative chambers approve it, SJR 74 automatically would go before Missouri voters in November. However, the governor could exercise his authority to move the election to August. Ratification would require approval from just a simple majority of voters statewide.

Although new constitutional amendments take effect 30 days after ratification, whether a concurrent majority requirement approved in August would apply to the abortion measure and any other proposed amendments on the November ballot likely would be subject to litigation. Since initiative petitions must be turned in months before the August vote, adding a concurrent majority requirement at that late point would amount to changing the rules as the game is underway, and it is questionable whether the Missouri Supreme Court would approve.

REAL ID

Are you ready?



Beginning **May 7, 2025**, residents of every U.S. state and territory will be required to present a REAL ID-compliant driver license or ID card, or another form of ID accepted by the Transportation Security Administration, to board federally regulated domestic flights.

Individuals must also present a REAL ID-compliant driver license or ID card to access federal facilities, including military bases and federal courthouses, and to enter nuclear power plants.



Missouri's REAL ID-compliant driver licenses and nondriver ID cards will have a **star** in the upper right-hand corner. A license or ID card that is not compliant with REAL ID will have "Not for REAL ID Purposes" in the upper right-hand corner.

For more information, including where to obtain your REAL ID, visit dor.mo.gov

Save a life. Register to be a donor. 
Visit missouriorgandonor.com for more information.



SEN. JEAN CARNAHAN

1933 - 2024



Missouri mourns the passing of former U.S. Senator and Missouri First Lady, Jean Carnahan.

Former U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan dies at age 90

Former U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan, the first woman to represent Missouri in that position, died Jan. 30 at a St. Louis-area hospice center, her family announced. She was 90 years old.

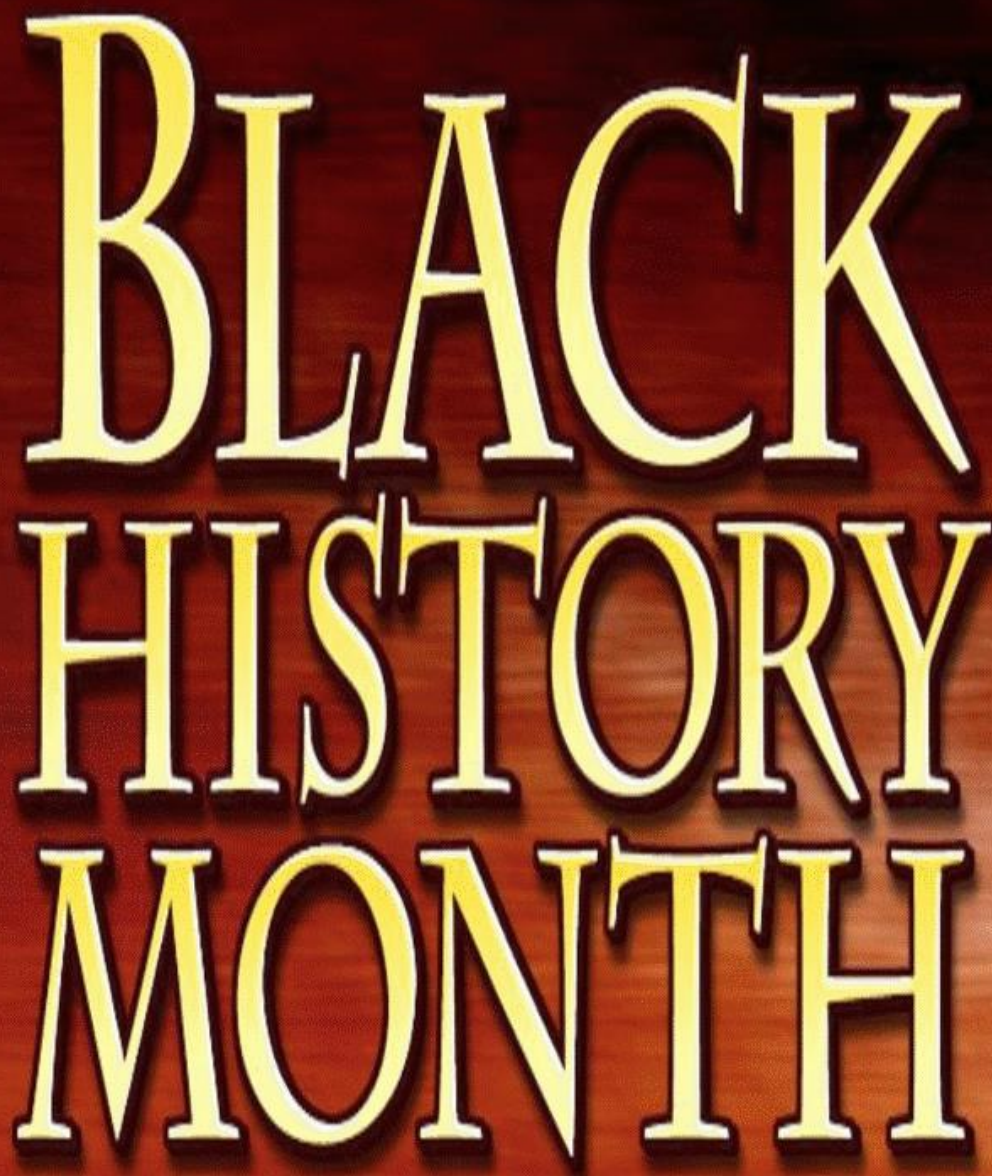
Carnahan was married to former Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, a Democrat, and served as Missouri's first lady from 1993 to 2000. She and her future husband met while attending the same high school in her native hometown of Washington, D.C. Mel Carnahan temporarily lived in the nation's capital while his father, A.S.J. Carnahan, represented Missouri in Congress. The couple married in 1954 and moved to Rolla, Mo.

Gov. Carnahan, along with their eldest son Randy Carnahan and close aide Chris Sifford, died on Oct. 16, 2000, in plane crash while campaigning to unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. John Ashcroft, a Republican. After Mel Carnahan won the election three weeks later, Jean Carnahan was appointed to fill the vacant seat. She served nearly two years in the Senate, but narrowly lost a November 2002 special election to fill out the remaining four years on the term.

Carnahan was born Jean Anne Carpenter on Dec. 20, 1933. She is survived by three children –Tom Carnahan, former Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and former U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan – and five grandchildren. A public memorial service is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Feb. 10 at the Sheldon Concert Hall on 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis.



Representatives from Starling visited with me this week. Starling is made up of more than 100 local organizations working together to ensure every Missourian with a disability has access to the support they need to live their best life in the community of their choice.



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MONTH

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Patricia Bowers, 1st Vice President of the Silver Haired Legislature, made her annual trek to the Capitol for our yearly meeting.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Are you eligible to utilize
DOR's **FREE** online filing
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Missouri Individual
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PEACE FOR  UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





PROUD MEMBER
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247SPORTS



Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw &
Councilman Darrell Curlls presents:

5th District Problem Solvers Community Meeting

**Monday, February 5, 2024
6:00pm-7:30pm**

Southeast Community Center
4201 E. 63rd St.,
Kansas City, MO 64127

Vendors:

KCPD
Everygy
Spire Gas Company
Essential Families
KC Common Good
Center for Neighborhoods
American Family Insurance
Oak St. Health

City Departments:

Public Works Department
Water Department
KCPD
Neighborhood Services
Department
Parks & Recreation Department
City Planning Department
Housing Department
Minor Home Repair Depart
Health Homes Department





DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS



*FREE College Workshop for
High School Seniors featuring:*

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- Scholarship Application Assistance**



SATURDAY
FEB 10 2024

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



**UNITED BELIEVERS
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KANSAS CITY, MO 64137

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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?



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



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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@klinc.org

Apply: klinc.org/jobs

The reward has been raised to
\$30,000 for Dominic



**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator

SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide

KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, former City Councilmen Kevin McManus, Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at www.KCcrimestoppers.com, or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards

Tips Hotline

816-474-8477

Web Tips

www.KCcrimestoppers.com

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com

*** A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission**

My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.



Rep. Richard Brown

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

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Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

richard.brown@house.mo.gov

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questions or ideas!

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