



**Capitol Report**

**May 5, 2023**

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*Dear Neighbor,*

Facing a 6 p.m. Friday deadline to get a spending plan in place for the year beginning July 1, the House and Senate settled on a nearly \$50 billion blueprint that includes a long-sought widening of Interstate 70, more money to help care for disabled Missourians and a boost for child care needs.

Under the proposal, [the \\$2.8 billion I-70 project](#) is split between a one-time cash infusion and a plan to sell bonds and pay them back over 15 years. It will add a lane in each direction between Wentzville and Blue Springs, creating thousands of construction jobs.

Public schools and universities will see increases in the coming year. The \$9.7 billion K-12 budget will fully fund the school foundation formula and fully fund transportation costs for school districts, while colleges and universities will see a 7% increase to account for inflation. It also includes \$29.4 million to provide a baseline teacher salary of \$38,000. While that program existed in the last budget, the state only provided 70% of that funding and required a local match. This year, the legislature adopted an additional \$7.6 million to eliminate the need for a local match.

The Senate inserted \$50 million into the budget for stadium improvements related to World Cup soccer games coming to Kansas City in 2026. The bill now heads to the governor's desk and awaits his signature.

There is one week left in this year's legislative session and much work still needs to be done.

***Yours in Service,***

***Rich***

#### House Legislative Dashboard





## **Lawmakers race to pass \$51 billion state budget by deadline**

Lawmakers raced to grant final passage to a \$51.51 billion state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year on May 5 ahead of a hard constitutional deadline to avoid starting the process over in a special legislative session. This year marks the fifth consecutive time the Republican-controlled General Assembly has teetered on the brink of busting the budget deadline – something that has only happened once, in 1997.

The final budget largely reflects the Senate's more generous spending plan, which taps Missouri's unprecedented multi-billion revenue surplus to address a host of long-neglected needs throughout the state. The original House version included about \$3.2 billion less in

spending authority.

A \$2.8 billion plan to widen the entire length of Interstate 70 across Missouri is arguably the budget's most ambitious feature. While Gov. Mike Parson had proposed a more limited \$859 million plan to improve portions of the highway in the Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis areas – a position backed by the House – the Senate insisted on the more expansive undertaking, as well as including funding to begin planning a similar expansion of Interstate 44.

The final budget also provides a substantial increase for Missouri's public colleges and universities, achieves the funding minimum called for by the statutory formula for distributing state funding to local public school districts and, for the second year in a row, fully funds the state's share of districts' student transportation costs. The budget also increased funding to expand pre-K offerings at public schools.

Lawmakers also bumped state reimbursements for home care workers who assist elderly or disabled Missourians in an effort to boost their average pay from about \$12 an hour to \$14 an hour. However, the compromise funding level is substantially less than the amount sought by the Senate, which had hoped to pay the high-demand workers a more competitive \$17 an hour.

Controversial language inserted by the House, but deleted in the Senate, to prohibit all state agencies and any individual or company that contracts with the state from promoting "diversity, equity and inclusion" remained excluded from the final appropriations bills.

Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, has until July 1 to act on the various bills that make up the state budget. Unlike with

standard legislation, which the governor must either sign into law, veto or let become law without his signature, the governor has line-item veto power over appropriations bills that allows him to strike spending items he doesn't like while signing the remainder of a bill into law. Parson issued 32 line-item vetoes last year and exactly 300 since taking office in 2018.



## **Judge signals rule targeting transgender care likely invalid**

A St. Louis County judge on May 1 issued a temporary restraining order blocking Attorney General Andrew Bailey from enforcing an emergency rule seeking to prohibit nearly all gender-affirming medical care for transgender Missourians, indicating Bailey's action amounts to unconstitutional legislating by an executive branch official.

"This Court finds that the Plaintiffs have met their burden regarding their likelihood of success on the merits, as this is (a) novel use of the Attorney General's power to promulgate emergency rules under the

Missouri Merchandising Practices Act that has never previously been subjected to judicial scrutiny and may impermissibly invade a function reserved for the legislature,” Circuit Judge Ellen Ribaudó wrote in her order.

Bailey, a Republican, promulgated the administrative rule seeking to tightly restrict transgender medical care in early April, citing authority granted to his office under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, a consumer protection law traditionally used to crack down on deceptive business practices or the sale of defective products. A group of plaintiffs that includes transgender Missourians and medical providers sued to challenge the validity of the rule, arguing Bailey grossly overstepped his authority and is attempting to enact substantive law under the guise of an administrative rule.

Bailey’s rule was slated to take effect April 27, but Ribaudó placed it on pause a day earlier while she considered the temporary restraining order. The rule will remain on hold until at least July 24. Ribaudó has scheduled a hearing for July 20 on whether to issue a temporary injunction that would continue to block the rule’s enforcement while the lawsuit remains pending. The case is *Southampton Community Healthcare, et al., v. Andrew Bailey*.

## **House approves eliminating corporate income taxes**

After majority Republicans shut down debate following just a few minutes of discussion, the House of Representatives on May 1 voted 99-41 to advance legislation that would cut state and local taxes by more than \$2.33 billion a year once fully implemented. This new round of cuts would be in addition to a massive tax cut that just took effect in January and eventually will cost the state in excess of \$2 billion annually in lost revenue.

The House version of Senate Bill 247 calls for completely eliminating the state's 4 percent corporate income tax. Missouri's individual income tax rate already is slated to be reduced to 4.5 percent under the recent tax cuts, and SB 47 would further cut it to 4.05 percent. SB 47 also calls for several other tax cuts and

exemptions that would cost the state treasury another \$1.67 billion a year, along with depriving local governments of an additional \$677 million in revenue.

The original version of SB 247 the Senate passed in March was limited to a few relatively minor provisions primarily targeted at providing tax relief for senior citizens. The two chambers must negotiate a final version of the bill in order to grant it final passage before the legislative session ends on May 12.

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## **House narrowly votes to expand PSC to eleven members**

The House of Representatives voted 82-72 on May 1 for a controversial plan to expand the five-member Missouri Public Service Commission to 11 members and earmark



three of those new positions for those with ties to agriculture. The bill passed with just two votes more than the minimum needed to advance to the Senate.

The PSC is the regulatory authority for Missouri's investor-owned power utilities. Supporters of House Bill 1044 said expanding the panel and ensuring some of its members will protect the interests of farmers is appropriate since eminent domain is often used to secure agricultural land for power transmission lines. Critics said if the state starts designating commission spots for one interest group, others – particularly large industrial power users – will soon demand special treatment as well.



## **Lawmakers grant final passage to entertainment tax breaks**

The House of Representatives voted 113-45 to grant final passage to legislation to provide tax breaks

intended to lure film and television productions to Missouri, as well as create other entertainment industry jobs. The Senate previously approved the bill on a 20-12 vote in February so it now goes to the governor for his consideration.

Supporters of Senate Bill 94 say it would bolster Missouri's economy and reputation by attracting more productions and growing the number of entertainment jobs based in the state. Opponents note that Missouri tried similar tax breaks in the 2000s and the financial costs to the state far exceeded the economic return.



**PEACE FOR  UKRAINE**

**COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS**



# Neighborhood Accountability Board Training

searching for ways to be engaged in or  
supportive of your community?

The Center for Conflict Resolution is offering our Neighborhood Accountability Training to provide community members the opportunity to learn how to be part of restorative justice processes that happen in the Kansas City community.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards allow for all parties affected by harm, such as shoplifting, underage drinking and more, to share their side of the story and work together on a solution that makes this right, brings about accountability, and prevents future harm.

**Saturday, May 6th, 2023 | 9 AM- 4 PM**  
**6285 The Paseo 64110**

To register for this training, send email to [dbayless@ccrkc.org](mailto:dbayless@ccrkc.org) or go to our website, [www.ccrkc.org](http://www.ccrkc.org) for more information. Free for Jackson County residents, \$50 for out of county.



Funding for this training provided by Jackson County COMBAT.

## Obtaining the status of your tax return

The Missouri Return Inquiry System provides information regarding the status of your Missouri tax return. After entering your information, you will also have the option of being notified by text or email when the status of your tax return changes. You may only view the status of 2018 or later year returns.

# Formula Distribution!!



Cradle **kc** CHC  
Community Health Clinical  
of Wyandotte County

CHC and Cradle KC are a formula distribution site! We have a variety of infant formula available. If we do not have the type of formula you need, we can request it.

Scan the QR code to submit your request

*ee.*

contact us at 913-371-9298 if you have questions



**POWERHOUSE**  
CYCLE & DYNO

**BASHLIN**  
INDUSTRIES INC  
MP - DOWN / ALL-AROUND COMPACT



**Local 53 Riding Group**  
Invites you to ride for



**Working  
Families'  
Friend**

**SATURDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**(RAIN DATE SATURDAY MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>)**

**REGISTRATION AT 9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM**

**KICKSTANDS UP AT 11:00 AM**

**STARTS AND STOPS AT**

**IBEW LOCAL 53 UNION HALL**

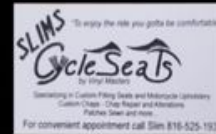
**1100 ADMIRAL BLVD**

**KANSAS CITY, MO**

**RIDER \$25**  
**PASS \$10**  
**RAFFLE, FOOD &**  
**DRINKS PROVIDED**

For More Information Contact  
Chad McGregor  
816.699.9437  
Bruce VanCompennolle  
816.289.3356

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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, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen 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](http://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](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://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 Gentzsch 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**

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



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