



Capitol Report

April 29, 2023

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Dear Neighbor,

Despite slow movement on bills in the House and Senate, I was very pleased that Governor Parson signed Senate Bill 51 into law Thursday giving Missouri patients direct access to physical therapists.

I have worked with this legislation since I was first elected. It allows patients to schedule appointment visits with physical therapists without the need for a referral from your primary physician. This cuts through a lot of red tape for patients and makes it easier to access needed healthcare.

This is an example of legislators working together to support good, common sense legislation in the best interests of Missourians. If only we could come together to do good work to help people and not hurt people. There are only two weeks left in session. I would like to see a repeal of the state sales tax on food, diapers and feminine hygiene products. This simple act would help every household in our state as

everyone buys groceries. This is an example of good government.

I appreciate your calls and visits. I will continue to work for your best interests and the best interest of our state.

Yours in Service,

Rich





Vice Chairman of National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
Bruce Landsberg visited with me this week.



Playing Politics with the Courts

Two courts hand AG losses as transgender rule blocked

A St. Louis County circuit judge on April 26 issued a preliminary stay blocking Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey from restricting access to gender-affirming care in Missouri following a day of legal maneuvering that resulted in Bailey suffering setbacks in both state and federal court. The judge plans to issue a more definitive ruling on May 1.

Bailey, a Republican, filed an emergency regulation earlier this month seeking to unilaterally impose tight restrictions

on the medical services available to transgender Missourians. Although the attorney general has no authority under state law to regulate medical care, Bailey is attempting to do so anyway under the auspices of Missouri's consumer protection laws.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal, an organization that defends LGBTQ rights, filed a lawsuit in state court on behalf of transgender patients and medical providers arguing Bailey's action is an unconstitutional attempt by an executive branch official to usurp legislative authority and enact law under the guise of administrative regulation. The plaintiffs requested a temporary restraining order blocking the regulation, which had been scheduled to take effect April 27, until the case can be fully adjudicated.

In an apparent attempt to forestall a state court ruling, Bailey unexpectedly attempted to have the case moved to federal court shortly before a hearing on the temporary restraining order was scheduled to begin. However, during a brief hearing, U.S. District Court Judge Henry Autrey said federal courts have no jurisdiction over legal claims exclusively involving state law and denied Bailey's request for transfer.

"You can't just file something in federal court just because you want to be in federal court," Autrey said, according to the Missouri Independent. "There is something that sometimes bites people in the behind called jurisdiction."

Bailey then attempted further delay by filing a motion for a

change of judge in the state case. The motion was granted, but the scheduled hearing was pushed back by only a couple hours. Shortly after the hearing, St. Louis Circuit Court Judge Ellen Ribaud, the replacement judge, stayed enforcement of Bailey's regulation until she rules on the restraining order. Ribaud also chided Bailey for failing to submit a brief outlining his position prior to the hearing.



I spoke passionately about children and guns during House debate this week. [You can watch the video here.](#)



Senate approves \$49.92 billion state operating budget

The Senate on April 26 voted for a \$49.92 billion state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year that includes \$4.4 billion more in spending authority than previously approved by the House of Representatives. The two chambers must now hammer out a final budget by a hard constitutional deadline of 6 p.m. on May 5.

However, those negotiations had yet to begin by the time lawmakers adjourned for the week. When they return to the Capitol on May 1, just a few days will remain for negotiators to work out the substantial differences between the two versions and bring the various appropriations bills that make up the budget to final votes in both chambers. If lawmakers miss the deadline, the budget process must start over in a special legislative session. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

A \$2.8 billion plan to widen the entire length of Interstate 70 across Missouri that the Senate added to the operating budget accounts for much of the cost difference between the two plans. Although the House omitted I-70 funding from the operating budget, it did authorize a more limited \$859 million plan to improve portions on the highway in a separate appropriations bill for capital improvement projects.

The Senate version also includes \$461 million to increase pay for home care workers who provide

services to elderly or disabled Missourians in an effort to reverse a worsening shortage of workers in the field. In addition, the Senate restored \$78 million to expand preschool options throughout the state, funding requested by the governor but stricken by the House. Even with the extra spending, the Senate plan still leaves \$2.5 billion from an unprecedented revenue surplus sitting untouched in the state treasury.

As happened in the House, Senate debate focused on whether to include language in the appropriations bills to prohibit “diversity, equity and inclusion” programs in Missouri. Such efforts are prominent in both government and the private sector as a means of fostering stronger ties with historically marginalized groups and attracting and retaining workers. Although the House inserted anti-DEI language in the bills, a Senate committee stripped it out. Hardline-conservatives attempted to restore the language on the Senate floor but, following hours of discussion, were unsuccessful.



I took the opportunity to talk with Gov. Parson during a recent event at the Governor's Mansion.



House rejects restoring presidential primary due to date shift

The House of Representatives on April 24 rejected legislation that sought to reinstate Missouri's presidential preference primary in time for the 2024 elections. State lawmakers eliminated the primary last year as part of an omnibus elections bill.

Although House Bill 267 would have restored the presidential primary, it also would have shifted it to the municipal Election Day in April instead of its previous date in early March. Opponents of the switch said delaying the primary a month would greatly reduce the state's influence on the presidential nominating process

and unnecessarily politicize the nonpartisan contests for school board and city government that typically are the focus of April elections.

The bill failed on vote of 65-56, with 31 lawmakers voting “present.” A minimum of 82 “yes” votes was required to advance it to the Senate. The measure’s failure means Missouri remains on track to hold presidential caucuses next year for allocating the state’s delegates to the Democratic and Republican national conventions, at which the parties’ presidential nominees will be formally selected.

Under the caucus system, party loyalists gathering at local meetings throughout the state decide which candidates to support. With a primary, all registered voters get to participate. Before switching to the primary system for the 2000 presidential election, Missouri historically had been a caucus state.



Senate votes to make it harder to amend state constitution

The Senate on April 27 voted 24-10 along straight party lines for a proposed constitutional amendment intended to make it harder to amend the Missouri Constitution.

The measure, which Republicans supported and Democrats opposed, returns to the House of Representatives, which approved a substantially different version of it in February.

As originally passed by the lower chamber, House Joint Resolution 43 sought to raise the threshold for voter ratification of constitutional amendments from the simple majority that has been required for two centuries to a 60 percent supermajority. The Senate version of HJR 43 would create a two-tiered system under which an amendment could be ratified by either a 57-percent statewide supermajority or by both a simple majority statewide and the approval of a majority of voters in at least five of Missouri's eight congressional districts.

The Senate version also would raise the bar for the General Assembly to put proposed constitutional amendments on ballot, requiring a measure to first be approved by 57 percent majorities in each chamber instead of simple majorities. It also would prohibit the legislature from altering statutory proposals placed on the ballot via imitative petition within five years of passage unless 57 percent lawmakers in each chamber support doing so. Constitutional amendments proposed by the initiative would not be subject to the waiting

period on legislative tinkering.

The House can either grant final passage to the Senate version or seek to negotiate a compromise version. If HJR 43 clears the legislature, it automatically would go on the November 2024 statewide ballot unless the governor exercises his constitutional authority to set an earlier election date. Ratification would require just a simple majority.



IF YOU SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING
CALL THE MISSOURI CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT HOTLINE
1-800-392-3738

PEACE FOR  UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



DEADLINE REMINDER

2023 Personal Property Declarations are due April 30

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 or go to our website, 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!!



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



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



POWERHOUSE
CYCLE & DYNO

BASHLIN
INDUSTRIES INC
UP / DOWN / ALL AROUND



Local 53 Riding Group
Invites you to ride for



**Working
Families'
Friend**

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

(RAIN DATE SATURDAY MAY 13TH)

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





Jean Helene Davis

1953 - 2023

For those of us who knew Jean, she was a fierce advocate for our community. "Mean Jean" was a sweetheart and she will be missed.

You can read her obituary and get her service information here.

**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, 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

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

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