



Capitol Report

April 20, 2023

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Dear Neighbor,

It has been a difficult week in Jefferson City in light of the Ralph Yarl incident in Kansas City.

I was appalled the Republican members of the House passed a bill to allow guns on buses and in churches with the eyes of the nation watching what happened in Kansas City as well as other incidents around the country involving "castle doctrine" or "stand your ground" laws.

I continue to oppose the "guns everywhere" mentality because I do not believe guns make people safer. US gun owners possess **393.3 million weapons**, according to a 2018 report by the Small Arms Survey, a Geneva-based organization, **which is higher than the country's population now of about 330 million**. India, which has almost 1.4 billion people, had the second most civilian-owned firearms with 71.1 million. Based on this fact, we should be the safest nation on earth. NOT!

I will continue to work in the best interest of our community to make it safer.

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard



I continue to stand up against the proliferation of guns everywhere. [You can watch my inquiry](#) as I stood against guns on public transit and in churches.



Bill allowing guns on buses, in churches advances to Senate

Concealed weapons permit holders would be allowed to carry firearms on public transit and in churches under legislation the House of Representatives approved April 17 on a vote of 102-45, with four members voting “present.” The bill now advances to the Senate.

Under existing law, concealed weapons are prohibited in certain places. House Bill 282 would remove public transit and churches from the prohibited list. Weapons can currently be brought into churches with the pastor’s permission without running afoul of the law, but HB 282 would remove that discretion.

It currently is against the law to carry concealed guns on buses or other public transit, or in churches without the pastor’s permission. House Bill 282 would legalize both practices. In regard to churches, the bill even would prevent those that object to weapons on religious grounds from prohibiting firearms on their premises. By a vote of 48-102,

majority Republicans defeated a proposed amendment to restrict minors, excluding members of the military or those working in law enforcement, from carrying weapons.

The bill is the latest move in the years-long effort by Republicans to eliminate firearm restrictions in Missouri in the name of expanding the rights of gun owners. Democrats noted that violent crime and firearm fatalities have steadily risen in Missouri as a result and that firearms are now the state's leading cause of child mortality.

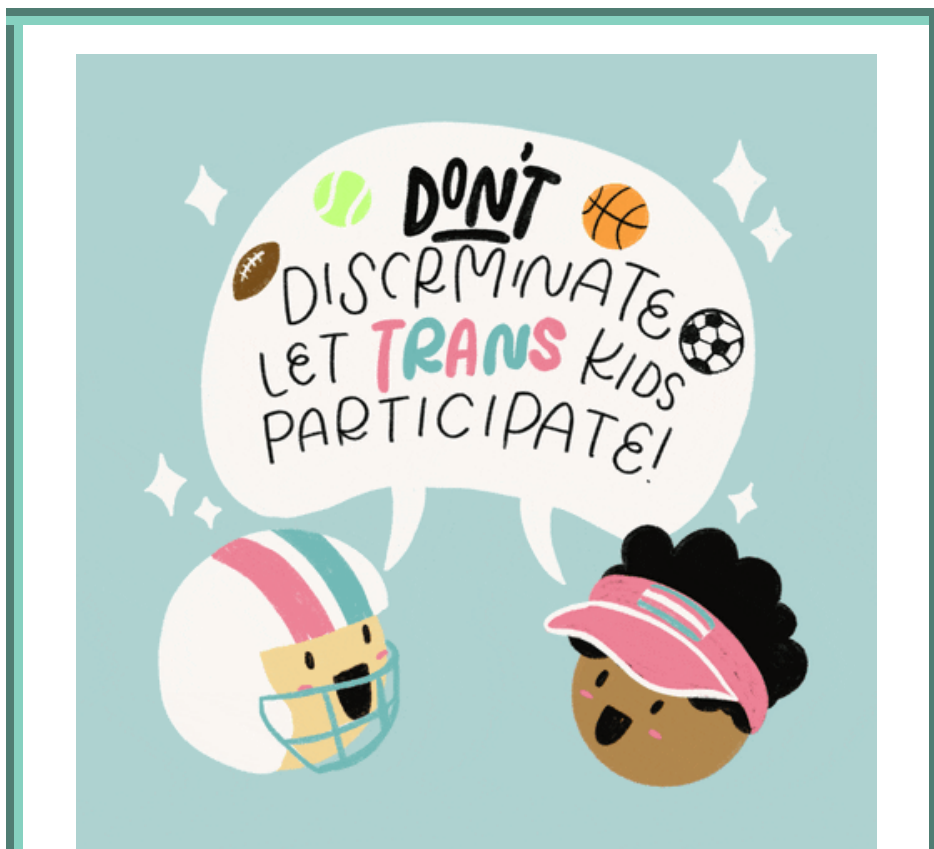


Senate moves to give voters a say on four-day school weeks

The Senate on April 13 passed legislation that would prohibit many public school districts from switching to four-day school weeks unless local voters approve the move. Senators added the provision to a larger bill that now advances to the House of Representatives.

Lawmakers first authorized local school boards to switch to a four-day schedule a little more than a decade ago. Initially there were few takers, but in recent years the idea has gained in popularity as a way for cash-strapped districts to save money on student transportation and building operations, even though the impact on student academic performance has been a concern. More than a quarter of the state's 518 school districts have since made the switch. Although small rural districts make up the bulk of those with four-day schedules, some larger suburban ones are now considering the change.

Under current law, any local school board can vote to adopt a four-day school week. Senate Bill 411 would require school districts located in whole or in part in a charter county or in cities with populations greater than 30,000 residents to get voter approval to make the switch. Missouri currently has five charter counties – Clay, Jackson, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis. Districts in less populous areas could still opt for a four-day week without going to voters.

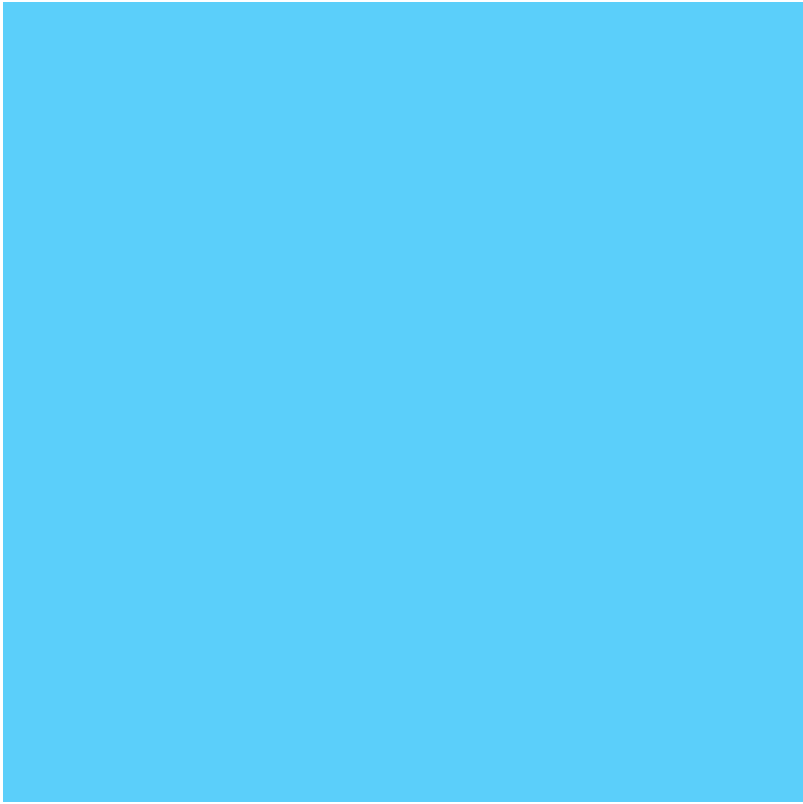


House approves limiting transgender youths in school sports

Transgender athletes would be prohibited from competing on school-sponsored sports teams that don't reflect their birth gender under legislation the House of Representatives advanced to the Senate on April 17. The bill passed on a near-party line vote of 106-46, with one lawmaker voting "present." Just one Republican joined Democrats in opposing the bill.

House Bill 183 targets sports teams from grades six through 12, as well as college athletics. Public school districts and universities would lose a portion of their state funding for allowing transgender kids to participate on a team that corresponds with their gender identity, while private universities would be subject to fines of up to \$1 million.

A similar Senate bill has already cleared that chamber, as well as a House committee, and awaits action by the full House. In the 11 years since the Missouri High School Activities Association first adopted a policy governing participation by transgender athletes, only a dozen have been cleared to play.



House approves banning gender-affirming care for minors

The House of Representatives on April 13 voted 103-52-1 for legislation to prohibit gender affirming care for minors. However, the Senate's Republican leader cast doubt on whether the measure can clear the upper chamber and urged the House to grant final passage to the slightly less onerous version senators approved last month. Only two House Republicans joined unanimous Democrats in opposing the bill, with another Republican voting "present."

House Bill 419 would ban gender-affirming surgery for minors, which currently only happens in rare situations, and also outlaw the use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors. Senate Bill 49 is similar but would allow those who have already starting transitioning to continue treatments. In addition, the Senate version's ban on puberty-blockers and hormone therapy would expire in 2027 unless later renewed by lawmakers.

During a news conference shortly after the House vote, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, noted

the Senate was able to pass its bill only after reaching a compromise with Democrats following a days-long filibuster. Rowden said he was unsure the House version could win final Senate passage.

“We don’t get second chances on huge, huge issues like that very often,” Rowden said, according to the Missouri Independent.

Also on April 13, the House General Laws Committee voted to advance SB 49, as well as Senate Bill 39, which would prohibit transgender athletes from competing on sports teams that correspond with their gender identity. The sports participation ban would apply not only to K-12 athletics but also college sports, likely putting Missouri colleges out of compliance with NCAA rules relating to transgender athletes. During their own news conference, House Republican leaders were noncommittal on when or if the full House would take up the Senate bills for debate.

The House on April 11 voted 107-41 to grant preliminary approval to its version of the sports ban but hasn’t yet taken the second vote that’s required to advance it to the Senate.



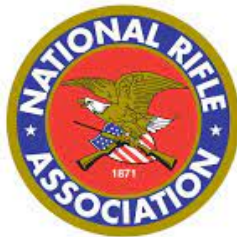
House votes for another hike in driver, vehicle license fees

The House of Representatives on April 12 gave preliminary approval to legislation imposing a 50 percent increase on the fees the private contractors that run the state's license offices can charge Missourians for obtaining or renewing their driver's licenses or vehicle plates. The proposed hike comes just four

years after lawmakers approved legislation doubling the fees.

The office operators charge the fees to pay for their operating expenses and earn a profit. House Bill 424 would increase the fees for two-year license plates or a six-year driver's license from \$12 to \$18. These fees are in addition to the actual cost of the plates or license, the revenue from which goes to the state and would not increase under HB 424.

In 2019, lawmakers doubled the fees from \$6 to \$12, providing what had been the first increase in more than two decades. Supporters of the latest bump say it's necessary due to the inflationary pressures that recently have increased the contractors' operational expenses. Opponents say it's too soon to impose another large fee hike on Missouri motorists. A second vote is needed to advance the bill to the Senate.



The NRA once supported gun control

It may seem hard to believe, but for decades the organization helped write federal laws restricting gun use

By [STEVEN ROSENFELD](#)

For nearly a century after, its founding in 1871, the National Rifle Association was among America's foremost pro-gun control organizations. It was not until 1977 when the NRA that

Americans know today emerged, after libertarians who equated owning a gun with the epitome of freedom and fomented widespread distrust against government—if not armed insurrection—emerged after staging a hostile leadership coup.

In the years since, an NRA that once encouraged better marksmanship and reasonable gun control laws gave way to an advocacy organization and political force that saw more guns as the answer to society's worst violence, whether arming commercial airline pilots after 9/11 or teachers after the Newtown, while opposing new restrictions on gun usage.

It is hard to believe that the NRA was committed to gun-control laws for most of the 20th century—helping to write most of the federal laws restricting gun use until the 1980s.

[Continue Reading](#)



There are three weeks left in this legislative session.



Showing love and support for Ralph Yarl.



House, Senate differ on plan for expanding Interstate 70

The House of Representatives has endorsed a \$859 million plan to expand portions of Interstate 70, while a Senate committee instead approved spending \$2.8 billion to widen the entire length of Missouri's central east-west highway from the

outskirts of the Kansas City area to the edge of the St. Louis region.

Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, proposed the less-ambitious version in January when he first presented his state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year to the legislature. Parson's plan calls for adding an extra lane to I-70 in both directions through Columbia, as well extending its multi-lane stretches from the two main metropolitan areas.

House Budget Committee Chairman Cody Smith, R-Carthage, stripped the governor's plan from the budget bill for the Missouri Department of Transportation, but promised to include it in a separate legislation providing spending authority for a variety capital improvements projects, House Bill 19. The House on April 20 voted to advance that measure, as well as three other capital improvements spending bills, to the Senate. The four bills collectively authorize \$5.45 billion in capital improvements spending.

A day earlier, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to restore the I-70 project to the regular MoDOT funding measure, House Bill 4, along with expanding its cost and scope.

That bill and the other 12 appropriations measures that make up the FY 2024 operating budget now head to the full Senate for debate. Once the Senate approves the bills, negotiations can begin with the House on a compromise FY 24 budget plan.

Because the process fell weeks behind the normal schedule in the House, lawmakers have little time to spare to grant final passage to all of the appropriations bills by a hard constitutional deadline of 6 p.m. on May 5. The new fiscal year starts July 1.



I had the unique opportunity to participate in the "Final Spike" ceremony for the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Southern Railroad..



House votes to create constitutional right to hunt and fish

The House of Representatives on April 17 advanced to the Senate a proposed constitutional amendment that would enshrine the right to hunt and fish in the Missouri Constitution. The measure passed on a vote of 108-28, with 13 lawmakers voting “present.”

Supporters of House Joint Resolution 20 said it’s necessary to protect the rights of Missourians from future encroachment. Opponents said the measure appears aimed at undermining the authority of the Missouri Conservation Commission, the constitutionally independent panel charged with oversee the state’s wildlife resources and establishing rules for hunting and fishing.

The House has passed similar measures many times over the last two decades, but the Senate to date has never follow suit. If HJR 20 were to clear both legislative chambers this year, it automatically would go on the November 2024 ballot for voter ratification.



House narrowly agrees to big increase in license fees

With just three more votes than the constitutionally required minimum, the House of Representatives sent legislation to the Senate on April 17 that would impose another 50 percent fee increase for driver’s licenses and vehicle license plates – just four years after lawmakers doubled the fees. The bill passed on a vote 85-50, with 13 lawmakers voting “present.”

The private companies the state contracts with to operate the license offices charge the fees to pay for their operating expenses and earn a profit. House Bill 424 would increase the fees for a set of two-year license plates or a six-year driver's license from \$12 to \$18. The fees are in addition to what the state charges for plates or a license, revenue that goes to the state and would remain unchanged by the bill.



It's a good day when you come to work and you're surrounded by four queens!



Missouri House Democrats will continue to stand up for all children in our state.



Students from Penn Valley College came to the Capitol this week to share their concerns about higher education in our state and the A+ Program.

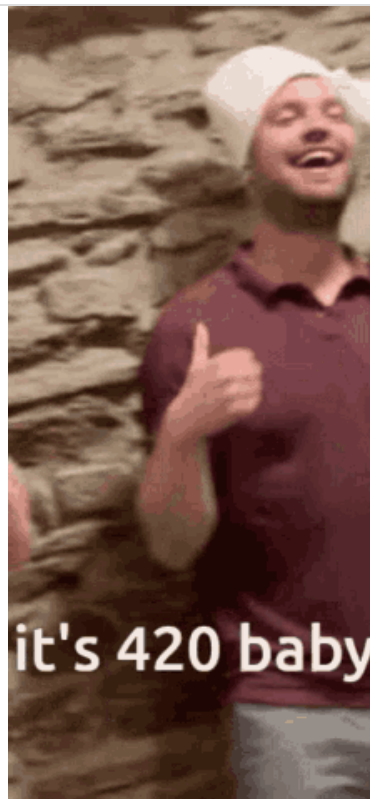


IF YOU SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING
CALL THE MISSOURI CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT HOTLINE
1-800-392-3738



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.

DE-CLUTTER AND DO GOOD AT THE NEXT

UN-DUMPSTER DAY

DONATION DRIVE & EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

SOUTH-BROADLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
7850 HOLMES RD, KANSAS CITY MO 64131

DONATION
DROP OFF
8AM-12PM



EARTH
DAY
FESTIVAL
10AM-4PM

FAMILY FRIENDLY EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

PAPER SHREDDING & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF 8AM-12PM

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

ee.

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



Cradle **kc** Community Health Council of Wyandotte County



FALL OUT BOY
THURSDAY 4/27

MÖTLEY CRÜE
FRIDAY 4/28

THUNDERCAT
SATURDAY 4/29

DRAFT
2023

CONCERT SERIES
PRESENTED BY
BUD LIGHT

KANSAS CITY

FREE ENTRY AT
NFL.COM/DRAFTACCESS
*FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED

CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOUTH VIOLENCE?





Friday, April 21, 2023
6pm-7:30pm

📍 **UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH**
5600 East 112th Terrace
KCMO 64137

- Focus On What Is Happening
- Build & Bridge To Deter It From Continuously Happening

#KCUNITED

Voice Your Concerns With The Community Engagement Division of The Kansas City Police Department & South Patrol Division



**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

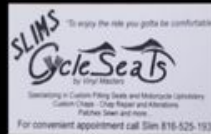
**RIDER \$25
PASS \$10
RAFFLE, FOOD &
DRINKS PROVIDED**



For More Information Contact

**Chad McGregor
816.699.9437**

**Bruce VanCompennolle
816.289.3356**



**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 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

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

201 West Capitol Avenue

Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

richard.brown@house.mo.gov

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

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