



Capitol Report

February 23, 2023

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Dear Neighbor,

This was a short week in Jefferson City as our offices were closed in observance of President's Day. Legislation is being heard in committees but moving slowly on the House Floor.

This week, the Senate gave passage to HB 14, an appropriations bill that will give pay raises to our state workers. The Bill was sent to the governor early this afternoon, and awaits his signature to become law.

We will adjourn for Spring Break in two weeks and I do not expect to see any controversial bills until after we return. This includes the Parents Bill of Rights, Teaching about Race or Racism in public schools and more anti-trans language bills.

As always, I will work to protect our children from what I believe to be government overreach. As a retired educator, if some of these bills were passed into law, it would be impossible to even teach about the inception of our own state of Missouri. Some legislators who support such laws have forgotten how Missouri came into our nation along with Maine.

It is imperative to know your history. All of it.

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard



POLICE THE POLICE

House panel votes to re-impose state control of STL police

The House Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee voted 20-4 on Feb. 23 to advance a bill putting the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department back under state control. The measure, House Bill 702, is part of an ongoing effort by Republican lawmakers to exert more control over St. Louis and its Democratic-dominated municipal government. It passed on a straight party-line vote.

A state-run Board of Police Commissioners had governed the St. Louis department for more than 150 years, but the state's authority ended when 63.9 percent of Missouri voters approved a statewide ballot measure in 2012 restoring local control.

Proposition A, as it was known, passed in every Missouri county but one.

The original state takeover of the St. Louis police department resulted from Gov.

Claiborne Fox Jackson's efforts to take Missouri out of the Union and join its fellow slave states in the Confederacy after the outbreak of the Civil War. At Jackson's behest, the legislature enacted legislation in late March 1861 stripping the pro-Union St. Louis city government of authority over its police force and giving it to a state-run police board to prevent officers from being used against Confederate sympathizers.

Jackson quickly appointed secessionists to the new board and, on April 12, 1861, board President J.A. Brownlee issued a series of orders restricting the activities of St. Louis' Black population, both slave and free. Those orders included a ban on all "assemblages of negroes," the suppression of saloons or public houses "kept or owned by negroes," a requirement that no church attended or officiated by "negroes or mulattoes" could open without permission of the police chief and a notice that all "free negroes" without a license to remain must leave the city within five days or "be dealt with according to the law."

Although Missouri's pro-Confederate state government – including members of the St. Louis police board – were soon driven from office and the Civil War subsequently ended, state control of the city's police department remained until voters intervened in 2012.

With nearly half of its population consisting of Black residents and a Black mayor currently in office, proponents of St. Louis maintaining control of its police have noted some similarities between the current effort to restore state control and Gov. Jackson's suppression of the city's Black population following the original state takeover. The full House of Representatives is expected to debate the state control bill in the coming weeks.



**Senate endorses expanding post-partum
Medicaid coverage**

The Senate on Feb. 21 granted first-round approval to legislation providing one-year of post-partum care for women and infants under Medicaid. However, the bill passed only after conservative lawmakers added language prohibiting women who receive abortions from receiving coverage and also delaying the expanded benefits from taking effect until the number of existing Medicaid recipients is reduced.

At present, Medicaid provides just two months of post-partum care, which health care advocates have long contended is woefully insufficient to serve the needs of low-income mothers and babies. The bipartisan push to expand post-partum care under Medicaid received a boost following the U.S. Supreme Court's elimination of the constitutional right to an abortion last summer. With abortion now outlawed in Missouri in nearly all circumstances, the demand for post-partum care is expected to significantly increase.

Although conservative senators who traditionally have opposed expanding Medicaid for any reason are now more amenable to extending post-partum care, they demanded restrictions be added in order for the bill to advance. However, critics contend those restrictions likely don't comply with federal Medicaid requirements. A second vote is required to advance the measure, Senate Bill 45, to the House of Representatives.



Bill seeks to allow utilities to pass on nuclear plant costs

The House Utilities Committee on Feb. 22 heard legislation that would allow investor-owned electric companies to charge existing customers for the planning and construction of future nuclear power plants. The bill would circumvent an existing voter-approved law prohibiting companies from passing on costs until after a new facility is on line and generating power.

For more than a decade, Ameren Missouri has been seeking to repeal or amend

the state's "construction work in progress" law as a precursor to possibly building another nuclear power plant in the state. Ameren operates Missouri's only existing nuclear facility, in Callaway County. Voters enacted the CWIP law in 1976 with 63.1 percent support as construction on the Callaway plant was underway.

House Bill 225 would carve out an exemption to the CWIP law for proposed new nuclear plants. Supporters say charging customers upfront for a project's cost is the only way to make it financially feasible.

Opponents said shareholders – not consumers – should bear the costs and associated risks of building a new nuclear facility, especially since the legislation would not require a plant to actually be built for a company to recoup its planning expenses from customers. The committee took no immediate action on the bill.



Senate grants final passage to \$627.15 million spending bill

The Senate voted 29-4 on Feb. 22 to grant final passage to a \$627.15 million supplemental appropriations bill for the final months of the 2023 fiscal year, which ends June 30. The bill now goes to the governor, who is expected to quickly sign it into law so an 8.7 percent pay hike for state workers included in the measure can take effect March 1.

For many years, Missouri has ranked dead last in the nation in average state government employee pay. Although the largest percentage bump in state worker salaries in at least several decades, the pay raise authorized in House Bill 14 just barely keeps up with inflation and doesn't charge Missouri's worst-in-the-nation status.

Other spending authority in the bill includes \$275 million for disaster aid grants,

\$148.71 million for matching grants to federally qualified health centers, \$20 million to bolster security at local schools and \$3 million for the Wood Energy Tax Credit Program, among other items.



Recognizing our hard-working grocery store employees for Supermarket Employee Appreciation Day! I presented resolutions to the good folks at Cosentino's Price Chopper in Raytown and Blue Parkway Sun Fresh in Kansas City.



Former State Representative Bonnaye Mims came by to see me in Jefferson City.

PEACE FOR  UKRAINE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Congratulations!
to our next KCPS
Superintendent!

The KCPS Board
has selected
Dr. Jennifer Collier
to be the next
SUPERINTENDENT
of the Kansas City Public Schools



RIGHT TO COUNSEL
FREE Legal Services for Tenants Facing Eviction



KC is the **13th city** to offer this service free | **Helped 100s of families** Since launching June 1

JACKSON COUNTY HOUSING COURT EVICTION RATE

	>	without RtC		>	with RtC
	>	99%	VS	>	<20%

816-474-5112 | gkcassistanceprogram.org/EvictionDefense/

Individual Income Tax Electronic Filing

The IRS and Missouri Department of Revenue are now accepting e-filed returns for the 2022 tax year

[Click here for more information](#)

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.

Sign up
to receive
automatic updates!

Receive text or email notifications each time the status of your return changes.

Access the
Missouri Return Inquiry System
to find out how.



What tax years and returns can I check on?

- 2018 and forward Missouri Individual Income Tax returns
- 2018 and forward Missouri Property Tax Credit (PTC) claims

What information do I need to get started?

- Social security number
- Filing status
- Anticipated refund or balance due

When will my return information be available?

- Up to 5 business days after filing electronically
- Up to 3 - 4 weeks after mailing your paper return

What information will I receive?

- Easy-to-read graphics indicating the status of your return
- Refund issue date, if applicable



Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

Special Encore Screening of
“A Conversation in Dance”
A film by Rodney M. Thompson and W. Stinson McClendon

and

“2-Step” Dance Showcase
hosted by De Barker
“KC’s 2-Step Dance Queen”
with special guest DJ and KC Dance Couples

The documentary focuses on the Kansas City “2-Step”, a variation of the jitterbug ballroom dance of the 1940’s that is unique to Kansas City. The film chronicles the spirited quest of 25 couples vying to win the \$10,000 BIG STEP-OFF dance contest.

Friday, February 24, 2023
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
3700 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Happy Hour Dance Showcase
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Film Screening and Q&A
6:45 - 8:30 p.m.

Free Admittance.
For more information, call 816.513.0700
www.brucewatkinscenter.com

kcparks.org



MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES
Timeline of Missouri's African American History

[Click here to read about Missouri Black History.](#)



FOOD PANTRY KANSAS CITY

SERVICES PROVIDED

Food, SNAP application, education and enrollment, hygiene item assistance, internal program referrals, external program referrals, financial assistance.

ORDER ONLINE

www.ServeAndLiftCenter.org

HOURS

Monday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

8001 LONGVIEW ROAD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64134
816-929-1498

THANK YOU

PETER & VERONICA MALLOUK



SERVEANDLIFTCENTER.ORG



MEDICAID UPDATE

Medicaid Annual Renewals to Restart April 1, 2023

Since COVID hit, we have been in a Public Health Emergency (PHE). As part of the PHE, Missouri has not been able to disenroll anyone from Medicaid except in very limited circumstances.

The federal government is ending the PHE for Medicaid on April 1, and **Missouri will start the process of reviewing eligibility for all Medicaid participants.** Participants will be processed by their renewal month (generally the month the family initially signed up for

Medicaid).

Get ready for renewals by keeping your contact information up to date so you can get important updates in the mail. **If your address has changed in the last 3 years, you will need to notify the Family Support Division.** You can update your address [online](#), at a [Family Services Division office](#), or by calling 855-373-4636.

You will receive a letter in the mail sometime between April 2023 and April 2024. You can check the [annual renewal timeline](#) to find out when you should expect to get your letter. This letter will tell you what, if anything, you need to do next. If a response is required, make sure to submit it by the deadline so you do not risk losing your healthcare coverage.

Important Medicaid Alert

Missouri will be restarting Medicaid eligibility renewals on April 1, 2023.



PREPARE TO RENEW

Beginning April 1, the Family Support Division will again be required to check the eligibility of all MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) participants each year. This is called a Medicaid eligibility renewal, or annual renewal. Follow these steps to make sure you complete your renewal on time:



Report changes, like a new address, to the Family Support Division



Watch for an annual renewal form or letter in the mail



Complete renewal form (if you get one) by the deadline in letter

Learn more about renewals and update your address at mydss.mo.gov/renew.



home state health



Healthy Blue



UnitedHealthcare

Missouri Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES

Learn more
mydss.mo.gov/renew



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

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