

[View this email in your browser](#)

DISTRICT
14

ASHLEY AUNE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL REPORT

June 23, 2023



This week, I celebrated Juneteenth in Waynesville, MO with MDP Vice Chair Yvonne Reeves-Chong.

Hello K.D.,

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying a 4-day week after all the Juneteenth festivities! **I had the privilege of joining the good folks of Pulaski county earlier this week to celebrate on the final day of their 4-day event.** Big shoutout to Yvonne Reeves-Chong, and Representative Bill Hardwick for their hospitality!

While I was down there, **I attended the second quarterly meeting of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission and took a tour of Fort Leonard Wood**, where I had a chance to learn more about the installation's capabilities and all the ways in which we can support our service men and women through good, bipartisan policy.

As always, thanks for checking in. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do for you.

Take Care,



Representative Ashley Aune
District 14 | (573) 751-3618

Legislative Update

AG DEFIES ORDER TO STOP BLOCKING ABORTION RIGHTS PETITION

Republican Attorney General Andrew Bailey is defying a [court order](#) requiring him to certify the fiscal estimates for initiative petitions seeking to put a proposed constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights on the statewide ballot in 2024. Although Bailey has appealed, no court has issued a stay suspending the June 21 deadline he was given to complete certification.

A day before the deadline, Cole County Judge Jon Beetem ruled **Bailey acted without legal authority** when he demanded that State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick rewrite his fiscal estimates to falsely claim the proposals would cost the state \$12.5 billion in lost revenue. Fitzpatrick concluded the measures would result in no costs or savings to state government, with one local county predicting a \$51,000 negative fiscal impact.

Beetem's decision marked the third time in less than two months that a Missouri judge has ruled against Bailey or his predecessor for asserting power the attorney general doesn't possess.

PROCESS BEGINS TO FILL PENDING SUPREME COURT VACANCIES

The process of filling the first of two pending vacancies on the Missouri

SPLIT HIGH COURT BACKS CONSERVATION AGENCY IN SPENDING CASE

In a tight 4-3 decision, the Missouri Supreme Court on June 13 ruled the [Missouri Conservation Commission](#) can spend revenue appropriated to it by the General Assembly from a dedicated conservation sales tax for any constitutionally authorized purpose, regardless of whether lawmakers made a specific appropriation for that purpose.

After hearing arguments in the case October 2020, the court took an unusually long 20 months to issue its ruling. The case pitted the constitutional authority of the commission to spend revenue from the 1/8-cent statewide sales tax approved by Missouri voters in 1976 to fund the state Department of Conservation against the legislature's power to appropriate taxpayer dollars.

The majority said lawmakers cannot restrict the commission from using appropriated funds for any purpose the constitution allows for those funds. The case is *Conservation Commission Missouri and Department of Conservation v. Andrew Bailey*.

JUDGE REJECTS HAWLEY'S ATTEMPT TO RETALIATE AGAINST AUDITOR

The Missouri State Board of Accountancy had no authority to discipline former State Auditor Nicole

Supreme Court is underway as the Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission on June 20 announced it is accepting applications to fill the seat currently held by Judge George Draper III, who is stepping down on Aug. 4, one day before he reaches the mandatory judicial retirement age of 70.

The seven-member commission will winnow the pool of applicants to three finalists. Gov. Mike Parson must appoint one of those finalists or forfeit the selection to the commission, which consists of the Supreme Court chief justice, three lawyers elected by the Missouri Bar and three non-lawyers appointed by the governor.

The Missouri Constitution requires Supreme Court judges to be at least 30 years of age, U.S. citizens for at least 15 years and qualified Missouri voters for at least nine years. All Missouri judges must be licensed to practice law.

SUPER BOWL TROPHY TO BE ON DISPLAY IN CAPITOL JUNE 27-28

The Lombardi Trophy, won by the Kansas City Chiefs this year in Super Bowl LVII, will be on public display in the Missouri Capitol on June 27 and June 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, the Governor's office has announced.

The trophy will be displayed in first floor of the Capitol Rotunda in front of a backdrop of Arrowhead Stadium. **The event is free and visitors will have the opportunity to take photos with the trophy.**

STATE GENERAL REVENUE UP 5.3 PERCENT AS FY 2023 NEARS END

Through the first 11 months of the 2023 fiscal year, year-to-date net general revenue collections had increased 5.3 percent compared to the same period in FY 2022, going from \$11.41 billion last year to \$12.01 billion this year, according to data from the Missouri Division of Budget and Planning. Year-to-date net collections had been up 8.2 percent through the first 10 months of

Galloway for issuing an audit report that found former Attorney General Josh Hawley had misused public resources for his 2018 U.S. Senate Campaign, a Cole County judge ruled on June 8. Hawley had filed a retaliatory complaint with the board in 2020 after Galloway publicly released her findings, as she was required by law to do.

Galloway, a certified public accountant, sued the board in October 2021 after it threatened to censure her license over the audit of the Attorney General's Office, which Galloway was **statutorily required** to perform after Hawley resigned the post in January 2019 following his election to the Senate.

Cole County Judge Beetem ruled that public agencies and officials are not "clients" within the meaning of the laws governing professional standards for certified public accountants. To the contrary, Beetem said the **state auditor's constitutional duty is to inform the public about whether government agencies and officials are spending taxpayer money appropriately**, which necessarily requires the disclosure of findings that might embarrass those officials or expose corruption.

RON RICHARD, FORMER LEADER OF HOUSE AND SENATE, DIES AT 75

Ron Richard, the only person in Missouri history to hold the top leadership posts in both the state House of Representatives and Senate, died on June 9 at age 75. His obituary with Parker Mortuary in Joplin did not state a cause of death.

Richard, who owned a bowling alley in Joplin, first won election to the House in 2002 when he and his fellow Republicans ended 48 years of Democratic control of the chamber. He served as House speaker from 2009-2010.

FY 2023, which ends June 30.

Net general revenue collections for May 2023 declined 10.5 percent compared to May 2022, going from \$1.78 billion last year to \$1.59 billion this year. The drop was due in large part to a 19.2 percent decrease for the month in individual income tax collections. Lawmakers last fall approved a substantial cut in the primary individual income tax rate that took effect in January and is having an effect on revenue collections.

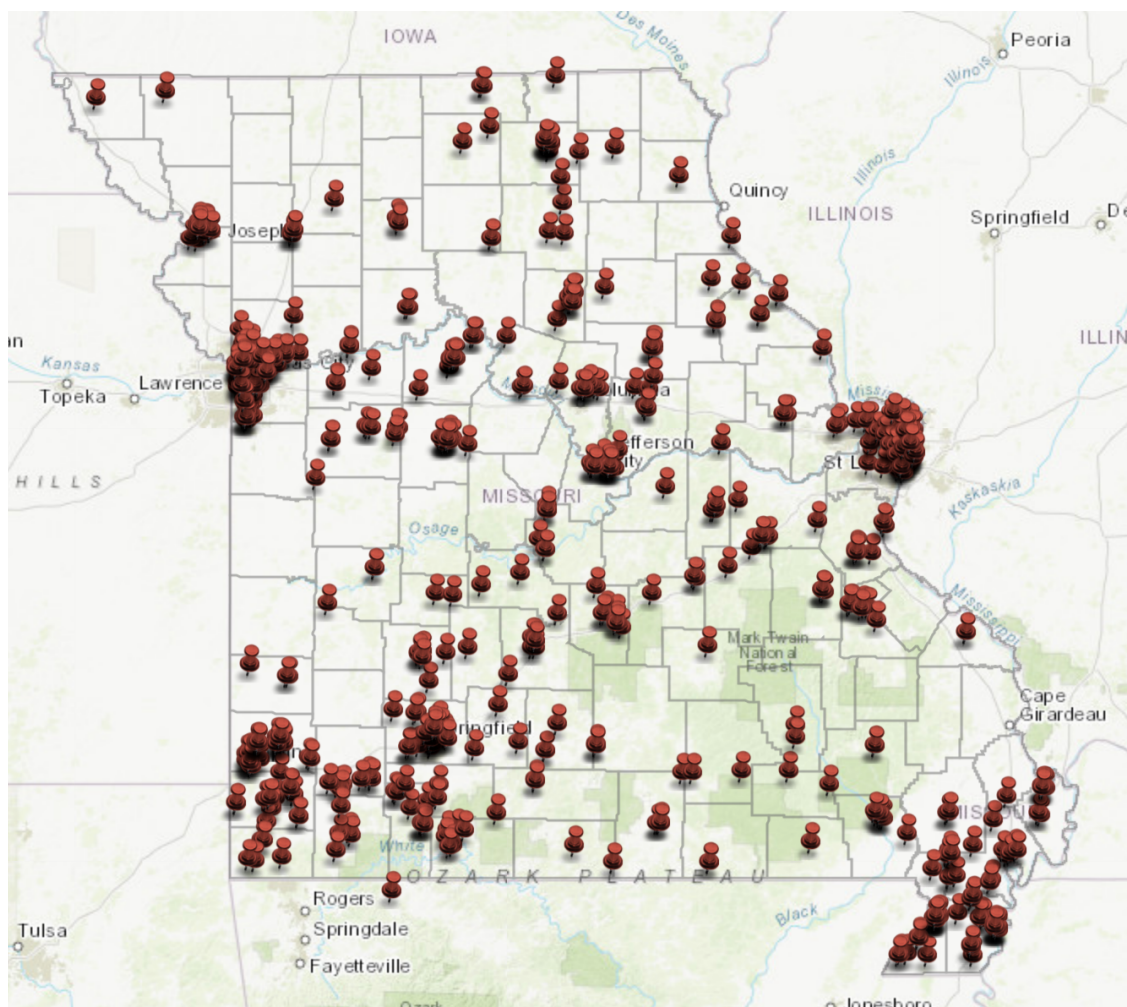
Northland Town Hall

A promotional graphic for a Town Hall Meeting. The background is a dark blue image of the Missouri State Capitol building. In the top left, there are two logos: one for Ashley Aune, District 14 State Representative, and one for Jamie Johnson, State Representative. Below these logos are two portrait photos: Ashley Aune on the left and Jamie Johnson on the right. To the right of the photos, the text 'TOWN HALL MEETING' is written in large, white, bold letters. Below that, in smaller yellow text, it says 'GREEN HILLS LIBRARY' and 'JULY 13 | 6-8 PM'. The bottom of the graphic has a solid yellow horizontal bar.

Wonder what passed and what didn't this session? Join your Northland representatives for a session recap and get an update on what unfolded during the 2023 legislative session!

Green Hills Library
8581 N. Green Hills Rd
Kansas City, MO 64154

Health and Wellness



HELP FAMILIES LOCATE LOCAL SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Summer Food Service Program is designed to provide breakfast, lunch, suppers and/or snacks to children living in eligible areas during the summer months and during times of public emergencies, when children do not have access to free or reduced-price meals at school. An [online interactive map](#) is provided to help families in Missouri find out where their children can receive free meals this summer.

Community organizations serve the meals at schools, churches, parks, swimming pools, YMCA facilities, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other spots where children gather when school is not in session. The meals are provided to all children that attend the meal service location. Children do not have to register and there is no fee to participate in the program.

The map and more information about the Summer Food Service Program can be found at health.mo.gov/sfsp. For families without access to the internet, summer meal sites in the area can also be found by texting the phrase “Summer Meals” to the text number 914-342-7744.

Attention Missourians



A voluntary **RECALL** on frozen strawberries has been announced

Items containing frozen strawberries that have been recalled:

- Great Value Sliced Strawberries (64oz.)
- Great Value Mixed Fruit (64oz.)
- Great Value Antioxidant Fruit Blend (40oz.)
- Simply Nature Organic Strawberries (24oz.)
- Trader Joe's Organic Tropical Fruit Blend: Pineapple, Bananas, Strawberries & Mango (16oz.)

These items were distributed to select Walmart, Trader Joe's and Aldi stores **JANUARY 24, 2023 - JUNE 8, 2023**



Why is there a recall?



There have been reports from other states of contaminants leading to Hepatitis A infections.

THERE IS NO NEED TO PANIC.

Public health officials are trained for this type of scenario.

If you have these items in your freezer, and they are part of the batches with potential contamination, dispose of them immediately.

If you notice any symptoms related to Hepatitis A after consuming frozen strawberries, contact your doctor immediately, as well as your local health department to report the case.



Recalled products include this identifying information:



Great Value Sliced Strawberries are packaged in a 64oz (4lb) 1.81kg plastic bag with the following codes

Lot	Best By
4018305	7/19/2024
4019305	7/20/2024

Great Value Mixed Fruit, packaged in a 64oz (4lb) 1.81kg plastic bag, with the following codes

Lot	Best By
4024205	7/25/2024
4025305	7/26/2024
4032305	8/2/2024
4033305	8/3/2024
4034305	8/4/2024
4035305	8/5/2024

Great Value Antioxidant Fruit Blend, is packaged in a 40oz (2lb 8oz) 1.13kg plastic bag, with the following code

Lot	Best By
4032305	8/2/2024



Recalled products include this identifying information:



Simply Nature Organic Strawberries are packaged in a 24oz. (1.5lb) plastic bag with the following code

UPC	Best By
4099100256222	6/14/2024

Trader Joe's Organic Tropical Fruit Blend: Pineapple, Bananas, Strawberries & Mango is packaged in a 16oz. (1lb) plastic bag with the following code

UPC	Best By
00511919	4/25/2024
	5/12/2024
	5/23/2024
	5/30/2024
	6/7/2024

We will continue to provide updates as more information is released



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

There has been a recall on frozen strawberries from the Walmart Great Value brand, the Aldi Simply Nature brand and the Trader Joe's brand. Some other stores who receive frozen produce from the same distributors in other states have also been recalled. In Missouri, the recall is currently concerning specific Great Value frozen strawberries, Great Value frozen mixed fruit, Great Value frozen antioxidant blends, Simply Nature frozen organic strawberries and Trader Joe's organic tropical fruit blend. This list is updated as of June 15, 2023 at 4:15pm, meaning it is not exhaustive. Updates to this list may follow. We will update you as we have information available.

This recall has been announced due to Hepatitis A infections following consumption of contaminated frozen strawberries. There have not been any cases of Hepatitis A confirmed in Missouri as a result of recalled strawberries at this time, so there is no need to panic. However, if you do have any of the contaminated batches in your home, you need to dispose of them immediately. Check your freezers.



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).