

[View this email in your browser](#)

**DISTRICT 14** **ASHLEY AUNE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**CAPITOL REPORT**

July 11, 2023



Hello K.D.,

I hope this email finds you well! I'm keeping this week's update short, but I do want to remind you that **Rep. Jamie Johnson and I are hosting a Town Hall this Thursday at 6pm at the Green Hills Library**. Scroll down to learn more and RSVP!

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

### PARSON STRIKES \$555 MILLION FROM RECORD-HIGH STATE BUDGET

Gov. Mike Parson on June 30 issued 179 line-item vetoes to [strike \\$555.3 million](#) in spending authority from the state budget for the 2024 fiscal year, which started July 1. However, the remaining \$51 billion budget still includes record state spending and is roughly \$3 billion more than the \$48 billion budget originally authorized for FY 2023.

Key spending authority that remains in the **budget includes an ambitious \$2.8 billion plan to widen the entire length of Interstate 70 from Kansas City to St. Louis**, plus another \$379 million for various road and bridge projects around the state. However, Parson rejected \$28 million for improvements to part of Interstate 44, as well as several other regional road projects.

The FY 2024 budget also provides substantial increases for Missouri's public colleges and universities, allocates the minimum level of basic funding for local public school districts called for by state law and, for the second year in a row, fully funds the state's share of districts' student

### JUDGE DECLINES TO ENFORCE ORDER AS HIGH COURT TAKES UP CASE

With the Missouri Supreme Court expediting Attorney General Andrew Bailey's appeal of a case seeking to end his [procedural obstruction of proposed initiative petitions to protect abortion rights](#), Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem on June 26 declined to compel Bailey to immediately obey a court order requiring him allow the effort to proceed.

On June 20, Beetem ruled **Bailey acted without legal authority** when he rejected the fiscal estimates State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick, a fellow Republican, prepared for 11 similar initiative petitions asking voters to enshrine abortion rights in the Missouri Constitution. Bailey subsequently missed the 24-hour deadline Beetem gave him to comply. The case is *State ex rel. Dr. Anna Fitz-James v. Andrew Bailey, et al.*

---

### AG TAKES SIDE OF EX-KC OFFICER CONVICTED OF KILLING BLACK MAN

In his latest controversial move since

transportation costs. In addition, the new budget increases funding for expanded public pre-K offerings and **bumps state reimbursements for home care workers who assist elderly or disabled Missourians to boost their average pay from about \$12 an hour to \$14 an hour.**

---

### UM SYSTEM ENDS RACE-CONSCIOUS POLICIES AFTER FEDERAL RULING

[The University of Missouri System](#) is immediately ending consideration of race in admissions after the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority on June 29 ruled race-conscious college admission policies aimed at addressing past discriminatory practices are unconstitutional. Other Missouri colleges and universities, both public and private, are expected to take similar actions.

In a pair of separate rulings respectively involving admissions policies at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina, the court effectively reversed decades of precedent holding that such policies were justified to expand opportunities for racial minorities who historically had been denied equal access to a college education. The judges split along ideological lines, with the conservative majority declaring policies that favor racial minorities violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, which was ratified shortly after the Civil War to **protect the rights of racial minorities.**

---

### HAWLEY'S SUNSHINE LAW VIOLATIONS COST TAXPAYERS \$254,000

**Missouri taxpayers are on the hook for more than a quarter-million dollars as a result of [Republican Josh Hawley](#)** violating the state Sunshine Law while serving as state attorney general.

Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem on June 28 ordered the Attorney General's Office to pay \$242,000 in attorney fees in relation to litigation

being appointed in January, Republican Attorney General [Andrew Bailey](#) **is seeking to reverse the felony convictions** of the only Kansas City police officer ever found guilty of killing a Black person. Since the attorney general is responsible for defending convictions on appeal, legal observers consider the decision unprecedented. Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney Jean Peters-Baker, whose office secured the conviction, has denounced the move.

Two weeks earlier amid reports that Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican and former sheriff, planned to pardon Eric DeValkenaere before the appeals process had run its course, Peter-Baker publicly urged him not to do so. Parson later denied a pardon was in the works but didn't rule out issuing one in the future. Numerous community advocates and elected officials in the Kansas City area have denounced the apparent political interference and double-standard that treats police officers convicted of serious crimes more leniently than regular citizens.

---

### FEDERAL COURT SAYS MISSOURI JUDGE NOT IMMUNE FOR JAILING KIDS

In a rare piercing of absolute judicial immunity, the 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on June 22 ruled a civil lawsuit can continue against **a Missouri judge who personally jailed two children for telling their mother they didn't wish to temporarily live with her.**

During a 2019 child custody hearing, [Taney County Associate Circuit Judge Eric Eighmy](#) signed off on a custody agreement the parties had reached in which the children, then aged 12 and 14, would stay with their mother for about a month before going to permanently live with their father. The children were not present in the courtroom.

After the hearing concluded, the judge overheard the children in the courthouse lobby telling their mother they didn't wish to live with her. Eighmy intervened and when the

over Sunshine Law violations Hawley, now a U.S. Senator, committed during his two-year stint as attorney general from 2017-2018. Making Hawley's violations particularly egregious is the fact that the attorney general is the state official primarily responsible for enforcing the Sunshine Law.

---

children continued to protest, he personally escorted them to a jail cell, where he left them locked up for about an hour, only releasing them when they agreed to go with their mother after he threatened to send them to foster care if they didn't. The case is *D. Bart Rockett, as next friend of his minor children, K.R. and B.R. v. The Honorable Eric Eighmy*.

---

### **JUDGE RUSSELL BEGINS RARE SECOND TERM AS CHIEF JUSTICE**

Missouri Supreme Court Judge Mary Rhodes Russell took over as the court's chief justice on July 1, becoming the first woman in the court's history to get a rare second term in the post. Russell, who previously served as chief justice from 2013-2015, replaces Judge Paul Wilson, whose term in the administrative role ended.

---

## **Northland Town Hall**

A promotional poster for a Town Hall Meeting. The background is a dark blue image of the Missouri State Capitol building. In the top left, there is a logo for Ashley Aune, District 14 State Representative, with a red outline of Missouri. In the top center, there is a logo for Jamie Johnson, State Representative, with a red outline of Missouri. Below the 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, sans-serif capital letters. Below that, in smaller yellow text, it says 'GREEN HILLS LIBRARY JULY 13 | 6-8 PM'. The bottom of the poster has a solid yellow horizontal bar.

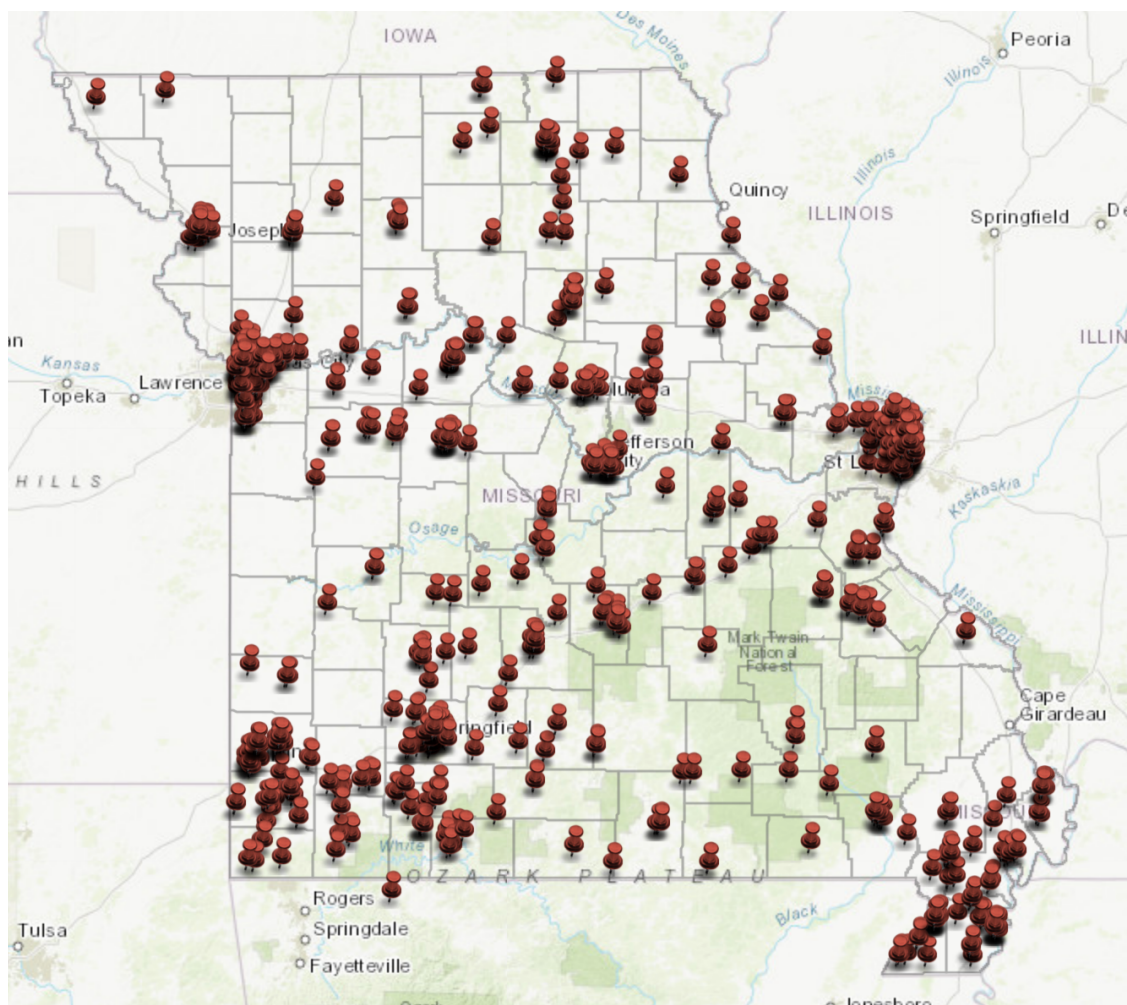
Wonder what passed and what didn't this session? Join your Northland representatives for a session recap and get an update on what unfolded during the 2023 legislative session! [Learn more & RSVP.](#)

**Thursday, July 13  
6-8 PM**

---

**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](https://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.

---



**PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Coming to get back-to-school shots? Guess what?! You can receive a coupon for a free vanilla cone from Sonic. Beat the rush and call 816.762.4171 to make an appointment today.

---

**Breaktime Club provides respite for caregivers, empowering them to respond to their own needs and enhancing their ability as caregivers, and providing a safe, comfortable, and engaging environment for the caregiver's loved one.**



*Second location*  
**BREAKTIME CLUB**

A caregivers day out!

- planned social, educational and recreational activities
- morning refreshments and lunch served
- a balance of opportunity for the head, heart, hands & health of your loved ones

9:30-2:00  
Every other  
Thursday  
starting  
July 13

Gloria Dei  
Lutheran Church  
5409 NW 72nd St  
KCMO 64151

 **816-452-4536** **PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER**

**BREAKTIME CLUB**  
Breaktime Club provides respite for caregivers, empowering them to respond to their own needs and enhancing their ability as caregivers, and providing a safe, comfortable, and engaging environment for the caregiver's loved one.



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