

[View this email in your browser](#)



**September 1, 2023**



**Hello K.D.,**

I hope this email finds you well! I'm keeping this week's update short, but I wanted to inform you about the new laws that went into effect this past week, including restrictions on gender-affirming care for transgender youth, ban on cell phone use while driving and expansion of Medicaid coverage for post-partum care. You can read more about how these laws will affect Missourians below.

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

### JUDGE ALLOWS LAW TARGETING TRANSGENDER YOUTH TO TAKE EFFECT

A controversial new Missouri law that prohibits providing [gender-affirming care](#) to most transgender youth took effect Aug. 28 after a St. Louis judge declined to issue a preliminary injunction blocking the measure while its constitutionality is litigated.

In an Aug. 25 order denying the preliminary injunction, Judge Steven Ohmer said the plaintiffs “have not clearly shown a sufficient probability of success on the merits” of the case and haven’t demonstrated a “sufficient threat of irreparable injury” from the law taking effect.

Although the law allows youth who were already taking puberty blockers or undergoing hormone therapy prior to Aug. 28 to continue those treatments, the University of Missouri Health Care system informed patients just days before the law took effect that it would immediately cease providing such care to minors due to fears of future legal liability.

---

### APPELLATE PANEL REJECTS EARLY STARTS FOR BALLOT INITIATIVE EFFORTS

When it comes to ballot initiatives, one election cycle must end before the next can begin, the Missouri Court of Appeal Western District ruled on Aug. 29. The decision, should it stand on appeal to the state Supreme Court, means

### NEW LAWS ENACTED IN 2023 SESSION SET TO TAKE EFFECT AUG. 28

Most of the new laws the Missouri General Assembly passed during its spring legislative session will take effect Aug. 28, including a prohibition on texting or cell phone use while driving and an expansion of post-partum medical coverage for mothers of newborns.

Missouri is **one of the last states to impose a comprehensive [ban on texting or using a cell phone while driving](#)**, but penalties for violations are still 18 months away as police can only issue warnings until Jan. 1, 2025. Even after the grace period ends and police can start writing tickets, the law will prohibit officers from stopping drivers solely because of alleged device use.

[Medicaid coverage for post-partum care](#), previously capped at 60 days, will now last for a **full year under an expansion of the program aimed at providing more support to new mothers**. Another important change to the state’s social safety net programs lawmakers approved this year ends the so-called “cliff effect” that resulted in participants losing all benefits due to a small increase in income. The state will now offer transitional benefits to make it easier for recipients to financially establish themselves through a gradual reduction of subsidies.

---

### JUDICIAL COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SUPREME COURT FINALISTS

---

proponents of future initiative petitions can't seek to get an early start on the long and costly signature-gathering process.

The case involves a proposed petition to protect abortion rights but **isn't related to a separate abortion rights initiative** seeking to put the issue before voters in 2024 being advanced by the ACLU of Missouri and supported by leading reproductive freedom advocates. The petition at issue in this case is sponsored by a Columbia attorney with no ties to any organization and has not been cleared for circulation.

The attorney's petition sought to put a measure on the November 2024 general election ballot but was filed with Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office three months prior to the November 2022 general election. Because the state constitution says initiatives automatically go on the next general election, but the deadline for the 2022 election cycle had already passed, Ashcroft declined to process the petition until the day after the 2022 general election.

After its sponsor sued, a Cole County judge ruled Ashcroft had no legal duty to process a proposed petition for the 2024 election cycle until the 2022 cycle was over. In an opinion written by Judge W. Douglass Thompson, the three-judge appellate panel unanimously agreed. The case is *Jeffrey K. Bassinger v. John R. Ashcroft*.

The Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission on Aug. 22 chose three members of the state Court of Appeals as finalists for an open seat on the Missouri Supreme Court. Gov. Mike Parson appointed all three to their current judicial posts by and will decide which of them replaces Judge George Draper III, who recently retired after nearly 13 years on the high court.

Two of the finalists – Judges Michael Gardner and Kelly Broniec – are part of the appellate court's St. Louis-based Eastern District, while Judge Ginger Gooch sits on its Southern District, located in Springfield. All three are University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law graduates.

Parson must appoint one of the three finalists by no later than Oct. 21 or he will forfeit the selection to the commission. The two judges not picked this time likely will soon have a second chance as another vacancy will open in October when Judge Patricia Breckenridge retires. When presented with multiple vacancies on the same court in a short time span, the commission typically resubmits the names of the previous finalists while adding a third to replace the person appointed the last time around.

---

### **GOP OPERATIVE FILES INITIATIVE PETITIONS TO LIMIT ABORTION RIGHTS**

In an apparent attempt to sow confusion over an effort to put a measure on the 2024 statewide ballot to constitutionally protect abortion rights in Missouri, a longtime Republican operative on Aug. 30 filed six versions of a rival initiative petition that instead of protecting abortion rights would establish "the fundamental right to refuse to have an abortion."

Although the petitions sponsored by the GOP operative would slightly soften some aspects of Missouri's existing anti-abortion law, they also would constitutionally secure the legislature's authority to regulate abortion in most circumstances. Three of the measures would to allow abortions to be legally performed up until the 12<sup>th</sup> week of gestation, while the others would continue to permit complete bans, except in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life or health is at risk.

However, **the rape exemption is largely illusory** since it could only be invoked if the victim had reported the attack prior to seeking an abortion. If she had not, then she would be prohibited from obtaining an abortion in Missouri. Since the proposed constitutional text says the report would have to be made to "a rape or sexual assault crises hotline" in order to trigger the exemption, **rapes reported directly to law enforcement apparently would not qualify.**

---

## Kansas City Residents

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC  
HEARINGS

FIRST DISTRICT

Thursday, Aug. 24  
6 - 8 p.m.  
KCPD North Patrol  
11000 NW Prairie View Rd

Monday, Sept. 11  
6 - 8 p.m.  
Shoal Creek Golf Course  
8905 Shoal Creek Pkwy

KCMO.GOV/PIAC

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS  
KANSAS CITY  
PIAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC  
HEARINGS

SECOND DISTRICT

Thursday, Aug. 31  
6 - 8 p.m.  
Northland Neighborhoods  
5340 Chouteau Trafficway

Tuesday, Sept. 12  
6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Hopewell Elementary School  
6801 N Line Creek Pkwy

KCMO.GOV/PIAC

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS  
KANSAS CITY  
PIAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PIAC) MEETINGS

Join newly-elected Kansas City Council Members for public hearings to share community improvement suggestions.

---

4 of 6

9/1/2023, 3:55 PM



### Eligible Requests:

- stormwater drainage/flooding
- bridges
- public property improvements
- street/roadway improvements
- municipal building improvements
- community centers
- street lighting and traffic lights
- sidewalks, curbs, and gutters
- park facility improvements
- monuments and fountains
- ball fields and swimming pools

If you are unsure about the eligibility of your request, feel free to reach out to the PIAC Office to inquire:

**piac@kcmo.org**  
**(816) 513-1062**

### [LEARN MORE](#)

\*To find out which council district you're in, [click here](#) and tap the "What District am I in?" tab where you can type your address into the search box\*

## Health and Wellness



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SEPTEMBER 14**  
Platte County Community Center North  
3101 Running Horse Rd.  
Platte City, MO 64079

**SEPTEMBER 21**  
Riverside Community Center  
4498 NW High Drive  
Riverside, MO 64150

**8:30AM - 11:30 AM**

Services include: Caregiver Support Information, Flu Shots, Blood Pressure Check, Bone Density, Veteran Information, Prescription Drug Takeback Program (Unused Medication Dropoff)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/PLATTECOUNTYSENIORFAIR](https://facebook.com/plattecountryseniorfair)

Platte County Senior Services logo and Facebook icon are also present.

### **PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Platte County Senior Fairs! Lots of great resources will be available.



---

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