



November 10, 2023

Capitol Report

Hi All,

Happy Veterans Day! Today I will be at the Park Hill High School where we will have a ceremony honoring our nation's heroes and hear from Lieutenant General Milford Beagle Jr. I grew up in a military family and I recognize the level the sacrifices our veterans and their loved ones make every day. We owe them a debt of gratitude and I am honored to be in a position to positively impact their lives.

Next week I look forward to joining my friend Rep. Ashley Aune at the Parkville Library to answer your questions and update the Northland on our outlook for the 2024 legislative session. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,



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This Week in Jefferson City

High court considers effort to defund Planned Parenthood

More than three years after the Missouri Supreme Court ruled the Republican-controlled General Assembly can't use the budget process to block Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursements, the issue is again before the state high court, which heard arguments on Nov. 8 regarding the latest effort to defund the women's health care provider.

At issue is a provision Republican lawmakers inserted in appropriations bills purporting to prohibit organizations affiliated with abortion providers from receiving Medicaid reimbursement for non-abortion services. No Planned Parenthood clinics in Missouri currently offer abortion, which is illegal in nearly all instances under a state law that took effect last summer after the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated the federal right to the procedure. However, Planned Parenthood continues to perform abortions at facilities in states where it remains legal.

In June 2020, the Missouri Supreme Court struck down similar budget restrictions targeting Planned Parenthood for violating a state constitutional provision prohibiting the legislature from passing bills that contain multiple subjects. Under the court's longstanding precedent that means budget bills must be limited to appropriating funds and cannot establish policy, which must be done by separate legislation.

Despite the ruling, Republican lawmakers have continued their attempts to defund Planned Parenthood, prompting another lawsuit. Citing the well-established precedent, Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem, a Republican, ruled last December that the state must reimburse Planned Parenthood for the Medicaid services it provides. No legal precedent allows for taxpayer funding of abortion, which is prohibited elsewhere in law.

In his appeal of Beetem's ruling, Attorney General Andrew Bailey is asking the high court to overrule its 2020 decision – and the decades of precedent that led to it. Failing that, Bailey wants the court to rule against Planned Parenthood on procedural grounds.

Although the Supreme Court voted 6-1 to strike down the budget restrictions in the 2020 case, Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, has since replaced three of the judges who participated in the majority opinion, while the lone dissenter remains of the court. The court will rule at a later date. The case is Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, et al., v. Robert Knodell, et al.

Panel picks finalists for Eastern District appellate vacancy

The Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission on Nov. 6 selected its three finalists to fill a vacancy on the St. Louis-based Court of Appeals Eastern District created in September by

Judge Kelly Broniec's elevation to the state Supreme Court. Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, will have through Jan. 6 to appoint one of the finalists or forfeit the choice to the commission.

The finalists are St. Louis County Circuit Judge Virginia Lay, a 1993 graduate of the Washington University School of Law and a finalist for a prior Eastern District vacancy over the summer; St. Charles County Circuit Judge Rebeca Navarro-McKelvey, a 2000 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law; and Susan Peterson, a 1998 graduate of the St. Louis University School of Law who heads her own law practice and serves as legal counsel to two St. Charles-based police unions.

The commission settled on its finalists from among the 22 applicants for the post after nine rounds of balloting. The panel consists of Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Rhodes Russell, three attorneys elected by the Missouri Bar and three non-lawyers appointed by the governor.

Net general revenue down 2.4 percent so far in FY 2024

Year-to-date net state general revenue collections through the first four months of the 2024 fiscal year decreased 2.4 percent compared to the same period in FY 2023, going from \$4.14 billion last year to \$4.04 billion this year. Collections had been down 2.9 percent through the first three months of FY 2024.

Net general revenue collections in October 2023 decreased 0.7 percent compared to September 2022, going from \$904.4 million last year to \$898.3 million this year. While sales and use tax collections were up 11.7 percent for the month, those gains were offset by a 10.5 percent decline in individual income tax collections.

See You Next Week!



Upcoming Events

November 11, 2023

Veteran's Day 5k and 10k

8701 McAfee St, Parkville, MO 64152

6am

November 11, 2023

PCCCS - Kids Night Out

Platte County Community Center South,

8875 Clark Ave, Parkville, MO 64152

4:30-8:00pm

November 15, 2023

Northland Town Hall

Parkville Library

8815 Tom Watson Pkwy, Parkville, MO 64152

6-8pm

Feel free to contact my office with your questions or requests.

573-751-9760