



February 16

## Capitol Report

Dear Democrats,

I am deeply saddened by the tragic shooting that occurred immediately after the Super Bowl victory rally, it was a terrifying experience for me, my family members, colleagues and many others in attendance. I want to express my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. I also want to acknowledge and appreciate the brave efforts of the Kansas City Police Department and other law enforcement first responders and citizens who risked their lives to protect others. We should have the right to feel safe and secure in public spaces. I believe in supporting local municipalities in their efforts to maintain public safety. I will do everything within my capacity to ensure that we can all live in a safer environment.

In happier news from this week, the Committee on Healthcare Reform heard my legislation, HB1446. It was an incredible opportunity to work with and highlight the amazing work that doulas are doing across the state. Studies show continuous support offered to a pregnant person during the three stages of labor produce positive healthcare outcomes and no adverse effects.

I also had the distinct pleasure of telling the story of the Quindaro Parkville Ferry that operated in the 1860s. The ferry's normal operation turned into a mechanism of freedom under the cover of darkness each night, as enslaved people would come from far to the last leg of their long and tumultuous journey to get to Quindaro, Kansas a free state port just across the river from Parkville, Missouri. The resilience of not only the enslaved Americans who sought their freedom but also the allies and accomplices who broke unjust laws in doing what was right for other humans. I'm so very proud to represent a community whose historical stories of resiliency inspire me. Resiliency is a value we share.

Sincerely,



  
Jamie J. Johnson

State Representative - District 12

201 West Capitol Avenue  
Room 103-BA  
Jefferson City MO 65101  
573-751-9760  
Jamie.Johnson@house.mo.gov

# Support Lines Available

**Dial 816-799-1720**

YCHAT is a 24/7 text, call and chat  
*Youth Violence Prevention Support Line*

**Dial 988**

099 is a 24/7 Text, call and chat  
*Suicide and Crisis Lifeline*

## Moments From This Week



Me and Rep. Aaron Crossley (D-Independence) on Monday in our Kansas Chiefs gear.



The public hearing in the Healthcare Reform Committee on Tuesday with Rep. Wendy Hausman (R-St. Charles County) presenting our Doula Insurance Legislation. Thank you to the advocates who have supported this effort!



Thank you to Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe for meeting with the Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri!

I was honored to present a historical account of the Quindaro Parkville ferry for Tuesday's Black History Month moment. Click [here](#) to watch me share this remarkable story.



# REP. JAMIE JOHNSON

Kansas City

## 2023-24 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Administration and Accounts
- Consent and House Procedure, Ranking Minority Member
- Emerging Issues
- Special Committee on Government Accountability
- Special Committee on Property Tax Reform



### **This Week in Jefferson City**

### **Senate Debates Amending The Constitution**

Senate Democrats spent two days blocking Republican legislation to increase the threshold for ratifying amendments to the Missouri Constitution. Senate GOP leaders set the measure

aside Feb. 13 without reaching a vote, but the chamber is expected to resume debate at some point.

The Missouri Constitution currently sets a simple majority of the statewide vote for ratifying constitutional amendments. The latest version of Senate Joint Resolution 74 would require future amendments to win both a statewide majority and majorities in at least five of Missouri's eight congressional districts. The concurrent majority requirement would apply to both amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature and those proposed by initiative petition.

Such a requirement could lead to situations in which a proposed amendment overwhelmingly wins statewide with strong support in highly populated urban and suburban areas but still fails because of narrow losses in rural areas. A mathematical analysis of an earlier version of SJR 74 conducted by the Missouri Independent showed it would be possible for as few as 20 percent of voters statewide to defeat an amendment supported by the other 80 percent.

Similar legislation, House Joint Resolution 86, cleared the House Elections Committee on Feb. 13 by a party-line vote of 11-4, with Democrats opposed. The full House of Representatives is expected to debate the measure in the coming weeks.

If both legislative chambers approve one of the concurrent majority measures, it automatically would go before Missouri voters in November. However, the governor could exercise his authority to move the election to August. Ratification would require approval from just a simple majority of voters statewide.

## **Supreme Court upholds new Missouri Senate districts**

In a split 5-2 ruling, the Missouri Supreme Court on Feb. 14 rejected claims that the state's new state Senate district map violates the state constitution by splitting Buchanan County and the city of Hazelwood among multiple districts.

A commission of six appellate judges created the new districts in 2022 to reflect population shifts under the 2020 U.S. Census. Because only half of the Senate's 34 seats are up for election every cycle, the current map was used to elect senators from even-numbered districts in 2022. Senators representing odd-numbered districts will be elected under the plan for the first time this year, with candidate filing for the Aug. 6 party primaries opening Feb. 27.

The plaintiffs, who included residents of Buchanan County and Hazelwood, sued to block the districts from being used for this year's elections and sought to have them redrawn, arguing the current lines dilute their communities' voting clout. Although the state constitution discourages the splitting of county and municipal boundaries, it permits it when necessary to comply with other constitutional factors.

In its ruling, written by Judge Kelly Broniec, the Supreme Court majority sided with the trial judge in finding the constitution doesn't require perfectly drawn districts and that the plaintiffs

failed to offer any evidence the judicial commission's Senate map violates constitutional standards.

Writing in dissent, Judge W. Brent Powell said he would have found for the plaintiffs since they had shown it was possible to craft Senate districts that kept Buchanan County and Hazelwood intact while complying with other constitutional requirements. Judge Paul Wilson joined the dissent. The case is Clara Faatz, et al., v. John Ashcroft.

## Scholarship Opportunity



The poster is for a scholarship program. It features a purple and yellow color scheme. On the right side, there is a photograph of the Missouri State Capitol dome. The text is arranged in sections: a deadline notice, the program name, the title 'SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM', a brief description, scholarship details, requirements, a QR code, and contact information.

**Deadline:**  
March 22,  
2024

Women Legislators of  
Missouri Caucus

# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Women Legislators of Missouri Caucus is excited to be offering 16, \$1000 college scholarships to young women across the state of Missouri that are hoping to continue their academic career by attending college. Interested students can apply at <http://bit.ly/molegwomen>

### SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- \$1000 Scholarship
- Recognition Ceremony at Missouri State Capitol

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Female, Missouri resident
- 2024 graduating senior
- 500-word essay
- Excellence in leadership, academics, and community service

Scan the QR code for the application



Interested students can  
apply at  
<http://bit.ly/molegwomen>

### CONTACT US

Representative Johnson 573-751-9760  
Representative Gallick 573-751-1344

## Fentanyl and NARCAN: Prevention through Education

Drug overdoses, both fatal and nonfatal, are the No. 1 cause of death among adults ages 18-

44 in Missouri.

Learn how to identify an overdose, administer NARCAN®, the opioid overdose antidote, and save a life.

Attendees will receive a free two-dose naloxone kit.

In the first half of the presentation, we will hear from our Drug Enforcement Unit on the current trends and dangers of Fentanyl and Opioids.

In the second half, we will hear from North Kansas City Hospital on the use and effects of NARCAN and how it can save a life!

Please join us on Thursday February 22nd, 2024, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at our

Regional Police Academy 6885 NE Pleasant Valley Rd

Kansas City, MO 64119

RSVP (if possible) Officer Rick Jones, [richard.jones@kcpd.org](mailto:richard.jones@kcpd.org)

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

573-751-9760

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