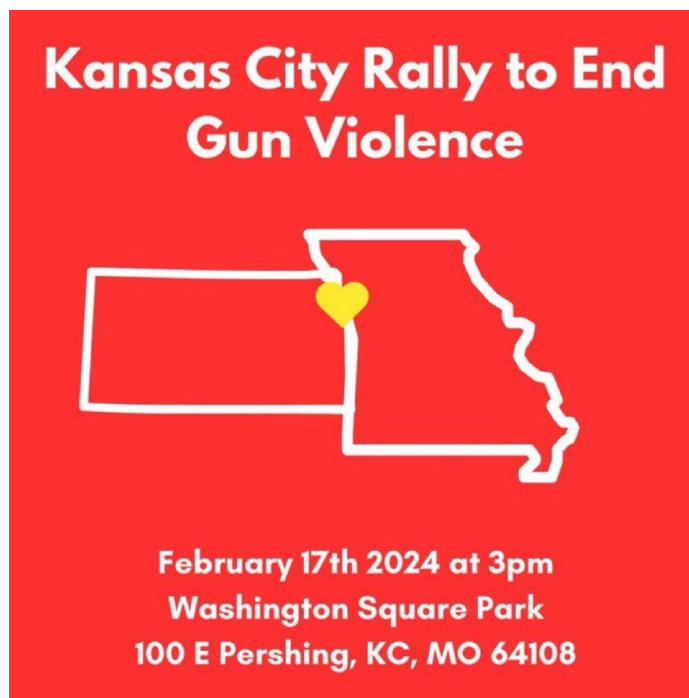



CAPITOL REPORT

February 16



All,

On Wednesday afternoon, as Chiefs fans wrapped up an hours-long, community-wide celebration of our back-to-back Super Bowl Champions, devastation struck our city in the form of senseless gun violence. Some of you may have been there. I was—with my husband and my colleagues.

[I shared my experience on KCUR's Up to Date](#) Thursday morning, if you care to listen. The segment begins around 23:00.

I'm still processing what I experienced—as are countless Kansas Citians. A mother lost her life, and at least 39 others landed in the hospital with injuries, including 22 gunshot victims—many of whom were children. [Everytown for Gun Safety has put together a comprehensive list of resources for anyone needing help during this difficult time.](#) I encourage each of you to take care of yourselves and one another as we all seek clarity and healing in the coming weeks and months.

Saturday, February 17 at 3pm I'll be speaking at a Moms Demand Action Rally. For those of you who are sick and tired of being told by our Republican Supermajority that nothing can be done about the gun violence plaguing every corner of our state—from Kansas City to the Bootheel—I [hope to see you there.](#)

I didn't run for office to sit on the sidelines while my community fights for the basic freedom to live our lives without the threat of gun violence. I will not be silenced on this issue, and I'll continue fighting right alongside you until we make change together.

I love my city, and I'm eternally grateful to you—my incredible Northland community—for putting your faith in me to represent you in Jefferson City. It's the honor of a lifetime, and I don't take a moment of it for granted.

Take Care,



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

Legislative Update

SENATE DEMOCRATS BLOCK EFFORT TO UNDERMINE MAJORITY VOTES

Senate Democrats spent two days blocking **Republican legislation to eliminate the doctrine of “one-person, one-vote”** when ratifying amendments to the Missouri Constitution and essentially create a minority veto of many proposals receiving majority statewide support. Senate GOP leaders set the measure aside Feb. 13 without reaching a vote, but the chamber is expected to resume debate at some point since it is a priority of the Senate's extreme-right faction.

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.

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.

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

Republicans want to put the issue before voters in August in hopes of **thwarting a proposal to provide state constitutional protections for abortion and other reproductive rights**. An initiative petition is currently being circulated to put the abortion issue on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot.

HIGH COURT AGAIN SIDES WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD ON FUNDING

The Missouri Supreme Court on Feb. 14 unanimously ruled the Republican-controlled General Assembly can't use the budget process to block [Planned Parenthood](#) from receiving Medicaid reimbursements for providing women's health care services unrelated to abortion. Given that the **court had sided with Planned Parenthood in a similar case in 2020**, the outcome of the latest litigation was expected.

At issue is a provision Republican lawmakers routinely insert into appropriations bills purporting to prohibit organizations affiliated with abortion providers from receiving Medicaid reimbursement for non-abortion services. Because Missouri outlaws abortion in nearly all circumstances, no Planned Parenthood clinics in the state offer the procedure. However, affiliated clinics in other states continue to provide abortions.

Medicaid funding for abortion is prohibited by federal law. The case is *Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, et al., v. Robert Knodell, et al.*

judicial commission's Senate map violates constitutional standards. The case is *Clara Faatz, et al., v. John Ashcroft*.

BILLS SEEK TO PUNISH PRESENCE OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

The House Homeland Security Committee on Feb. 12 considered legislation that would make an undocumented immigrant's mere presence in Missouri a crime and allow those accused of other offenses – including municipal ordinance violations – to be charged with felony trespassing.

[House Bill 2470](#) would create the crime of "illegal entry" for an undocumented immigrant to enter the state. A first violation would be a misdemeanor, with subsequent violations elevated to felonies. The bill also establishes the felony trespassing charge for immigrants who commit other offenses, no matter how minor. In addition, the bill creates a felony crime carrying a minimum penalty of 10 years in prison for knowingly harboring an undocumented immigrant.

The committee also heard two other similar bills – [House Bill 2523](#) and [House Bill 2367](#) – that are limited to imposing felony trespassing charges on undocumented immigrants accused of other offenses. The panel took no immediate action on any of the bills.

Resources

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

- [Apply for Medicaid](#)
- [Unclaimed Property](#)
- [IRS Free File: Do your Taxes for Free](#)
- [Missouri Housing Resources](#)
- [Report a Road Concern](#)

HEALTH SERVICES

- [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [The Eldercare Locator](#)
- [Opioid Treatment Program Directory](#)
- [Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests](#)

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- [Northland Assistance Center](#)
- [St. James Lutheran Church](#)
- [Platte County Health Department](#)

WEATHER SHELTERS

- [Cooling Centers](#)
- [Crisis Cold Weather Shelters](#)

PLATTE COUNTY LIBRARIES

- [Green Hills Library Center](#)
- [Parkville](#)
- [Riverside](#)

