



March 22

Hi All,

The legislature is currently on a break, but I'm sure I will have plenty of updates for you next week. In the coming months we'll consider the state budget, initiative petition legislation, and legislation related to education policy.

In other news, I am excited to inform you that the Kansas City Current opened the world's first professional women's sports stadium at Berkley Riverfront Park on Saturday. I had the privilege of attending the stadium opening event and it is truly an amazing facility.

If you plan on voting in the upcoming Democratic Presidential Primary, please take a moment to click on this [link](#) to find more information about the polling place closest to you.

Thank you for following my work during the first half of session and I look forward to finishing out these next eight weeks strong for the 12th district. Have a great weekend!

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

This Week In Jefferson City



No news from the legislature but I'm proud that Kansas City is home to this historic stadium. On Saturday I got to see the Current get their first win of the season. They won 5-4 against the Portland Thorns. I'm looking forward to seeing many more victories in CPKC Stadium!

Capitol News

House GOP plan seeks to slash spending by \$1.9 billion

The House Budget Committee on March 25 is slated to consider a \$49.93 billion state operating budget for the upcoming 2025 fiscal year that would slash about \$1.9 billion in spending authority from the plan Republican Gov. Mike Parson presented lawmakers in January.

While the state expects to have more than sufficient revenue to fund the governor's \$51.82 billion spending plan in its entirety, House Budget Committee Chairman Cody Smith, R-Carthage, said his more austere proposal will position the state for lean times to come as revenue collections continue to decline due to a string of significant state tax cuts and a multi-billion surplus the state built up in recent years with federal pandemic relief funds gets spent down.

Smith's plan includes cutting appropriations for the state's Medicaid program by about \$575 million, including \$175 million in state general revenue and another \$400 million in federal funds. He also is balking at the 3 percent increase in core spending Parson requested for public colleges and universities and instead is opting for just a 2 percent increase, a move that would mean about \$11.21 million less than the governor suggested. Smith's also proposes funding basic state aid for local public school districts, as well as a separate funding line for student transportation costs, at the minimum levels called for by state law.

Despite significant cuts from the governor's recommendations, Smith seeks to add a major new spending item in setting aside \$727.5 million to rebuild Interstate 44 across the state. Parson had requested just \$20 million to begin laying the groundwork for the project.

Because of the way the budget process is structured in the House, once the chairman reduces the total spending authority contained in the various appropriations bills, other House members are unable to restore that funding without cutting from elsewhere, which is basically impossible when large amounts are involved.

The Senate, however, is bound by no such restrictions. In previous years when Smith sought to substantially reduce spending, the Senate instead restored most of the cuts he proposed and used any other available revenue for additional spending. And each year, the Senate's position largely prevails in the final budget negotiations.

Although it was once standard for the House to pass its version of the budget before the legislature's annual spring recess, that tradition has fallen by the wayside and, as has been the case in recent years, this year's budget process is weeks behind schedule. This is despite the fact that in an attempt to get the process back on track, House Speaker Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres, ordered the budget committee to begin its work in December, about a month before the start of the 2024 legislative session.

Lawmakers face a May 10 constitutional deadline for finishing the FY 2005 budget. Since the House is still at least two weeks away from passing its version, that would leave just five

weeks for lawmakers to complete the remaining steps in the process. Those include the Senate crafting its spending plan, House and Senate negotiators hammering out a compromise budget and both chambers taking the final votes necessary to send the completed bills to the governor.

Lawmakers set to return to Capitol for final weeks of session

Attempts to create a higher threshold to amending the Missouri Constitution is expected to be a top issue when lawmakers return to the state Capitol on March 25 following their annual spring recess. Democrats, meanwhile, are expected to continue pushing majority Republicans for action on public safety in the wake of February's mass shooting at the Super Bowl victory parade in Kansas City.

Because of conflict amongst factions of the majority party in the Senate kept the chamber at a standstill for weeks. But one major measure the Senate did manage to pass, Senate Joint Resolution 74, seeks to create a concurrent majority requirement for ratifying future constitutional amendments. A House committee heard the bill on March 12, with the full chamber expected to debate it in the coming weeks.

Ratification of constitutional amendments traditionally has required just a simple majority of the statewide vote. SJR 74 would mandate both a simple statewide majority and passage in at least five of Missouri's eight congressional districts for ratification. This essentially would allow a small minority of voters to block amendments that enjoy widespread support, with an analysis conducted by the Missouri Independent, an online news organization, showing that as few as 23 percent of voters could defeat an amendment supported by the other 77 percent.

The majority party in the legislature has largely focused on issues including attempting to outlaw workplace diversity efforts and pushing to completely eliminate corporate income taxes, even as previous tax cuts enacted in recent years are holding state revenue collections flat.

Priorities the Democratic caucus have advocated for this session include increasing minimum public school teacher pay, providing targeted tax relief for working families and bolstering access to healthcare. Only eight weeks remain in the 2024 legislation session, which ends May 17.

Local Events



EXPERIENCE THE WORLD

NORTHLAND ETHNIC FESTIVAL

STALEY HIGH SCHOOL
2800 NE Shoal Creek Pkwy
Kansas City, MO

SATURDAY, APRIL 13th
10:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Free Admission & Parking

FOOD PERFORMANCES EXHIBITS

www.eeckc.org/northland-ethnic-festival

SAVE THE DATE!

Displays, stage performances, and food from dozens of countries and cultures from the KC Ethnic Enrichment Commission.

Free admission and parking; food and crafts will be available for purchase.

Food: Kenya, Bolivia, Malaysia, Laos, Germany, Mexico, Ireland

Performances: Kenya, Czech Slovak, Malaysia

Displays/arts/crafts: Japan, Ukraine, Malaysia, Germany, Ireland, Laos, Israel

Community Groups: Oak Park High School DEI, Banneker School, Black Ancestors Awareness Campaign, International Student Exchange, Puppetry Institute, Citizens Climate Lobby, Mid Continent Library & Genealogical Center, and many more to come

[INFO](#)

JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

WHEN

July 12th - 19th 2024

WHERE

**Riverside Police
Department**

FOR DETAILS CONTACT THE

RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

(816) 372-9119 or pal@riversidemo.gov



Applicants for the Junior Police Academy must reside within the Park Hill School District and/or attend the Northland Career Center (NCC).

AGES 14-18

Experience of a lifetime

ACTIVITIES

SWAT/GSI/K9
Traffic Stops
Processing Evidence
Team Building
PT
And more...

INCLUDES

Uniforms
Water bottle
Give Aways
Lunch daily.

DEADLINE TO JOIN

July 1st, 2024
Space is limited.

Scholarship Opportunity

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

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

573-751-9760



Copyright © Jamie Johnson for Missouri, All rights reserved.