
DISTRICT
14 **ASHLEY AUNE**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL REPORT



Hello All,

I hope this email finds you well. **With just five weeks left in this legislative session, the Missouri Legislature has not sent a single bill to the Governor's desk, which is unprecedented.** A few of the reasons for this include:

- The Senate Freedom Caucus causing issues beginning in the first few weeks of session
- It's an election year and many legislators are running for higher office (some are even running against one another) and trying to get headlines and media attention
- Speaker Plocher's ethics investigation
- Missouri Republicans being too divided to find consensus (it's the RINOs vs the Conservatives)
- House leadership fighting amongst itself

- House and Senate leadership being forever at odds with each other

I've said it before and I'll say it again: generally speaking, fewer bills passed by the Republican super majority is good news for Democrats. That said, it's beyond disappointing that your state government is such a mess that we are unable to make the policy changes that would make life a little easier for Missourians.

I hope you're able to stop by the FREE TO ATTEND [Northland Ethnic Festival](#) at Staley High School on Saturday 4/13 from 10AM - 4PM! See below for details.

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

SENATE LIKELY TO OVERHAUL HOUSE'S \$50 BILLION BUDGET PLAN

The Missouri House of Representatives on April 4 advanced a \$50.07 billion state operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year to the Senate, which is expected to completely rewrite the spending plan to restore much of the nearly \$2 billion in additional spending authority recommended by the governor but stripped out by House Republicans. The House also approved another \$717.19 million in spending authority for various capital improvement projects.

While the House plan largely avoids major spending cuts to existing programs, Democratic lawmakers were critical of the majority for failing to use the state's large revenue surplus to invest in public education, health care and other areas where spending has failed to keep up with inflation.

Republicans rejected Democratic efforts to improve minimum teacher pay, increase state childcare subsidies and bolster funding for in-home care providers,

HOUSE ADVANCES 'MINORITY VETO' OVER CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The Missouri House of Representatives on April 3 voted 106-49 to approve its version of legislation to undermine majority rule in the state by enabling a minority of voters to block ratification of future constitutional amendments supported by the majority. A day earlier, a House committee voted to advance a similar measure that already has passed the Senate.

The legislation is part of a last-ditch Republican effort to thwart a proposed amendment to restore abortion rights in the state that is expected to be placed on the November ballot by initiative petition.

[House Joint Resolution 86](#) also includes several pieces of so-called "ballot candy" – unrelated provisions intended to deceive voters into supporting legislation they likely otherwise would oppose. Although the Senate stripped the ballot candy from its version – [Senate Joint Resolution 74](#) -- prior to passage, the House Elections Committee restored it before voting along party

among other items.

Although Republicans also control the Senate, the upper chamber in recent years has ignored the House's more austere budget plans in favor of putting available revenues to use providing services or funding capital projects. During final budget negotiations with the House, the Senate's more generous position typically prevails in most instances.

With the process now moved to the Senate, just five weeks remain for lawmakers to grant final passage to the various appropriations bills that make up the FY 2025 operating budget by the May 10 constitutional deadline. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

BILL TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD MOVES CLOSER TO PASSAGE

Legislation seeking to block women's health care provider Planned Parenthood from receiving reimbursements from the state's Medicaid program could soon be headed to the governor after the Republican-controlled Missouri Senate overcame an 11-hour Democratic filibuster to bring the measure to a vote on April 10. It passed 23-10 along straight party lines.

The House of Representatives previously approved [House Bill 2634](#) by a vote of 104-49 on March 4. However, because of Senate changes, the bill returns to House, which is expected to grant final passage to measure in its current form rather than seek to negotiate a compromise version that would require another Senate vote and potentially spark another filibuster.

Because abortion is illegal in Missouri in nearly all circumstances, none of Planned Parenthood's Missouri clinics perform

lines to send the measure to the full House for debate. However, changing SJR 74 in the House would require the measure to return to the Senate. Since the ballot candy was removed to overcome a Democratic filibuster, its chances of winning another Senate vote are uncertain.

If either SJR 74 or HJR 86 clears the legislature, it automatically would go on the Nov. 5 general election ballot. However, it is expected Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, would exercise his authority to move the measure to the Aug. 6 primary election in order for the concurrent majority requirement to have a chance of being approved before the November abortion rights vote.

SENATE PASSES BILL TO ELIMINATE CHILD MARRIAGE IN MISSOURI

Child marriage in Missouri would be completely outlawed under legislation that won first-round Senate approval on April 10. A second vote is required to advance the measure to the House of Representatives.

Until six years ago, Missouri allowed children as young as 15 to marry with parental permission, with even younger kids able to marry with judicial approval. As a result, the state had an unwelcome reputation as a haven for child marriage, often involving girls being wed to much older men.

Although lawmakers enacted legislation in 2018 raising the minimum marriage age to 16 and prohibiting adults age 21 or older from marrying children, some hardline conservatives have resisted banning child marriage entirely. Those hardliners, however, did not block the latest effort to eliminate child marriage, [Senate Bill 767](#), from coming to a preliminary vote.

HOUSE APPROVES CHANGE THAT

them and instead focus on other women's health care services, including general care, cancer screenings and contraception.

The Missouri Supreme Court twice in recent years has struck down efforts to defund Planned Parenthood through the state budget process. In both cases, the court cited longstanding precedent that budget bills must be limited to appropriating funding and cannot also set policy without violating a state constitutional prohibition against bills containing multiple subjects. House Bill 2634 attempts to get around the constitutional impediment by creating a general statute purporting to prohibit Medicaid reimbursements to health care facilities affiliated with out-of-state abortion providers.

NET STATE REVENUE COLLECTIONS UP 0.5 PERCENT SO FAR IN FY2025

Year-to-date net state general revenue collections increased just 0.5 percent through the first three quarters of the 2024 fiscal year compared to the same period in FY 2023, going from \$9.27 billion last year to \$9.32 billion this year, according to revenue data reported March 6 by the Missouri Division of Budget and Planning. Collections had been up 1.3 percent through the first eight months of the fiscal year.

Net general revenue collections in March 2024 declined 6.4 percent compared to those for March 2023, going from \$959.7 million last year to \$898.6 million this year. Year-to-date collections are still running slightly ahead of the most recent consensus revenue estimate for FY 2024, issued halfway through the fiscal year in December, which anticipates a 0.7 percent decline in collections by the time the

COULD WEAKEN VOTING RIGHTS

The Missouri House of Representatives on April 9 granted preliminary approval on a voice vote to Republican legislation that could drastically weaken the voting rights protections in the Missouri Constitution. A second, recorded vote is required to advance the measure to the Senate.

[House Joint Resolution 104's](#) primary purpose is to constitutionally block efforts to adopt ranked-choice voting or other methods allowing voters to cast ballots for multiple candidates in a given race. However, an unrelated provision added as so-called "ballot candy" to entice voters into ratifying the underlying legislation could inadvertently lead to some U.S. citizens being legally disenfranchised in the future.

The state constitution currently guarantees voting rights to "all" U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old, Missouri residents and registered to vote. HJR 104 would alter that provision to say "only" people who meet those requirements can vote. **That seemingly minor one-word change could have far reaching consequences by eliminating the constitution's existing absolute guarantee of voting rights for citizens who meet the constitutional requirements and empower future lawmakers to enact laws excluding certain citizens from voting.**

If approved by the legislature, HJR 104 automatically would go on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot for ratification. However, the Senate in previous years has failed to take up similar legislation approved by the House.

fiscal year ends June 30. The original FY 2024 estimate, announced in December 2023, predicted 0.7 percent growth for the year.

Missourians For Constitutional Freedom



MISSOURI COALITION LAUNCHES PETITION TO RESTORE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Missourians for Constitutional Freedom is a statewide coalition working to restore the right to reproductive health care in the state. In order to do so, the coalition needs to collect 172,000 valid signatures by May 5, 2024. To help donate, volunteer and sign the petition, [click here](#).

Since the 2022 trigger ban, **Missouri does not allow for abortions, including in cases of rape and incest**. As a consequence, women with pregnancy complications are being turned away or having their care delayed because physicians fear legal prosecution. Republicans have vowed to make it harder for Missourians to amend the constitution through the initiative petition process. In recent elections, Missouri voters have used the process to pass minimum wage increase, Medicaid expansion, and marijuana legalization, which all have been opposed by the Republican Party.

Legislative Survey Results

The MISSOURI HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

2023 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY REPRESENTATIVE ASHLEY AUNE

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to fill out a legislative survey. Your responses help me represent your interests in Jefferson City.

[Click here to view survey results](#)

If you have any questions or would like to speak in-depth about the survey results, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

Phone: (573) 751-3618

E-Mail: Ashley.Aune@house.mo.gov

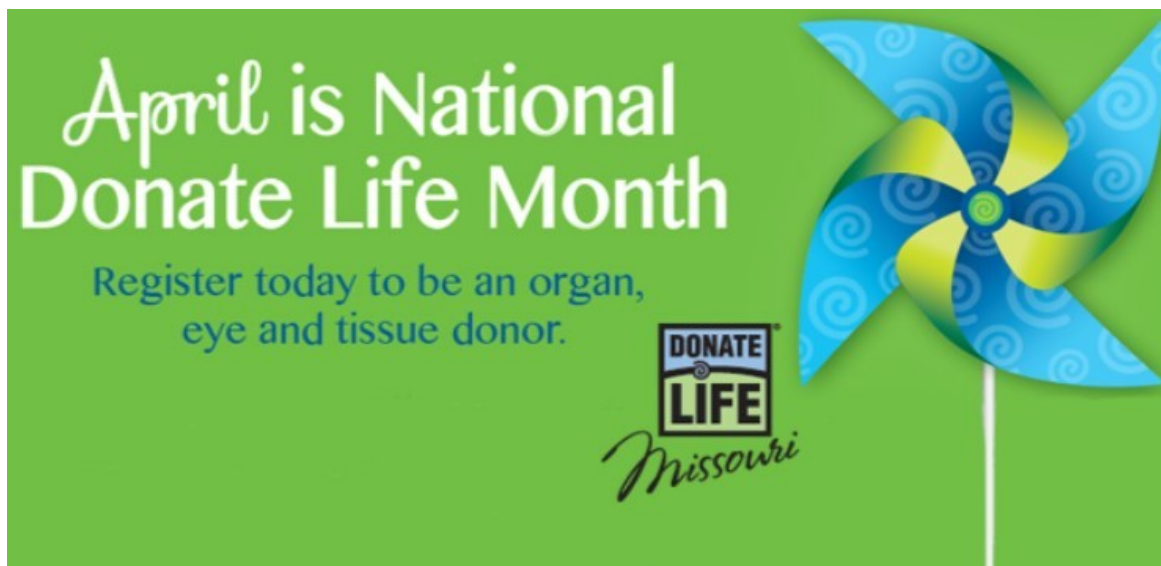
Community Events



The Library's stuffed animals invite your stuffed friends to a sleepover! Drop off your friend at the Library, then come back for a special program featuring their overnight adventures.

Dolls and other toys are welcome. One toy per child. [Registration](#) is free but required.

Health and Wellness



The Missouri Organ Donor Trust Fund was established to maintain the organ and tissue donor registry and to provide organ donation education.

The opportunity for Missourians to support the program has been in existence since 1996, [with several ways to get involved.](#)

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](#)