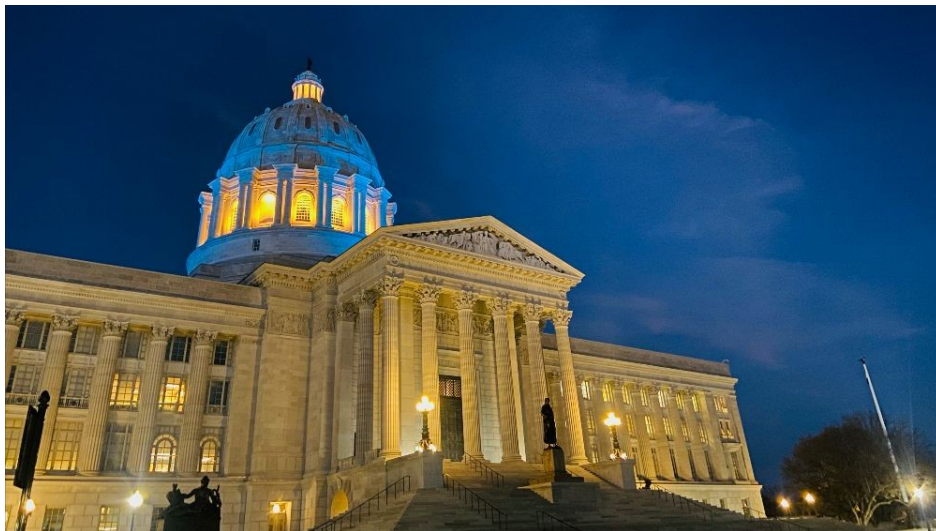




CAPITOL REPORT

August 26, 2024



Hello All,

I hope this email finds you well! Kids are back in school and fall is around the corner—it's a busy time of year so I'm keeping this update short.

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

ABORTION RIGHTS, SPORTS BETTING, MINIMUM WAGE MAKE BALLOT

Missouri voters this fall will decide whether to provide constitutional protection to reproductive rights, legalize sports gambling and increase the state minimum wage under separate initiative petitions the [Secretary of State's Office](#) has cleared for the Nov. 5 statewide ballot. However, a fourth initiative that sought to authorize a casino near the Lake of the Ozarks failed to qualify.

Supporters of all four measures submitted their petitions to the state in May. Election officials spent the next three months verifying each had the required number of signatures from registered Missouri voters in at least six of the state's eight congressional districts. State officials announced the results on Aug. 13, the deadline for finishing the verification process.

The highest profile measure, Amendment 3, seeks to restore reproductive rights in Missouri after the U.S. Supreme Court's right-wing majority eliminated abortion rights under the federal constitution in 2022. The amendment would guarantee the right to an abortion prior to the point of fetal viability, and later only if necessary to protect the life or health of the mother. It also would constitutionally protect access to birth control and other forms of reproductive care.

Amendment 2 asks voters to legalize and tax sports gambling in Missouri, which is one of the last remaining states where it remains illegal after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law outlawing it several years ago. The measure would authorize sports betting online or at licensed Missouri casinos and sports stadiums housing professional teams. It also would impose a 10-percent tax on wagers.

Proposition A, a proposed statutory change, would increase Missouri's minimum wage from

VOTERS NARROWLY APPROVE UNFUNDED STATE MANDATE FOR KC

By a much tighter margin than the first time around, Missouri voters on Aug. 6 again ratified a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to impose police-related unfunded mandates on taxpayers in Kansas City – and potentially St. Louis. Amendment 4 passed with just 51.2 percent of Missouri voters in support – far less than the 63.2 percent support the measure received when it previously was on the statewide ballot in November 2022.

Amendment 4 carves out a temporary exception to a provision of the state constitution's Hancock Amendment prohibiting the state from imposing unfunded on local governments. Under the exception, state lawmakers have through Dec. 31, 2026, to force any city whose police department is controlled by the state to allocate more local funding for policing. At present, only Kansas City's police department is state controlled, but Amendment 4 also would apply to St. Louis if Republican lawmakers are successful over the next two years in their efforts to impose a state takeover of that city's police force.

Amendment 4 was on the ballot for a second time after the Missouri Supreme Court in April nullified the original ratification, ruling the measure's fiscal summary materially misled voters by falsely claiming it would have no financial impact on local governments. In fact, Kansas City estimated it would cost local taxpayers at least an additional \$38.7 million each year in mandatory new spending that would force the city to either increase local taxes or cut other city services. The court wrote a new fiscal summary for the revote.

When it passed the legislation placing Amendment 4 on the ballot in 2022, lawmakers also approved a companion statutory measure boosting the amount Kansas City must allocate to the police

the current rate of \$12.30 an hour to \$15 an hour by 2026 and guarantee paid sick leave for many workers. Missouri voters approved previous ballot measures hiking the minimum wage by wide margins in 2006 and 2018.

The failed initiative was for a proposed constitutional amendment to authorize a new casino along the Osage River near the Bagnell Dam at the Lake of the Ozarks. The state constitution currently limits casinos to facilities on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. According to the Secretary of State's Office, the petition fell 2,031 signatures short of hitting the minimum required in the 2nd Congressional District, which includes parts of St. Louis and St. Charles counties and some surrounding areas. More than one-fourth of the signatures submitted in the district were deemed invalid, with 11,732 signatures being rejected.

The General Assembly voted in May to place two additional constitutional amendments on the fall ballot. Amendment 6 seeks to constitutionally override Missouri Supreme Court precedent to allow revenue from court fees to subsidize salaries and benefits for sheriffs and prosecutors, while Amendment 7 seeks to ban the future use of "ranked-choice" voting systems.

department from 20 percent of its general revenue budget to 25 percent. Litigation remains pending over whether that legislation is enforceable since it violated the Hancock Amendment at the time of its passage or if the subsequent ratification of Amendment 4 retroactively cures the constitutional infirmity.

STATE QUIETLY MAKES IT HARDER TO CHANGE GENDER DESIGNATION

The Missouri Department of Revenue has quietly altered its policies to make it significantly harder for people to change the gender listed on their driver's license, the Missouri Independent reported on Aug. 19.

Until Aug. 6, there was a form available on the department's website that allowed a change in gender designation with the signature of a doctor, therapist or social worker. That form is no longer available, and the department now requires documentation of gender reassignment surgery or a court order.

According to the Independent, there has been no change in state law or departmental regulation requiring a change in the policy. Missouri becomes one of just 10 states to demand documentation of gender reassignment surgery or a court order to change one's gender designation, according to information cited by the Independent from the Movement Advancement Project. Three states prohibit changing one's gender on state records.

Community Events



Each fall, Edgerton residents are joined by those from surrounding areas to celebrate the community's history. All ages gather in downtown Edgerton the second weekend in September each year for the free three-day event.

Organized by members of the volunteer [Pioneer Days](#) committee, with sponsorships and assistance from area businesses and organizations, the festival features arts, crafts and food vendors, one of the largest parades in Platte County, live entertainment, artisans and demonstrations, shootouts by re-enactors, pony rides, a variety of contests, and good old-fashioned fun for the entire family.

Area youngsters compete for the title of Little Mr./Miss Pioneer Days. Other events have included a co-ed softball tournament, chain saw carving demonstrations, fund raisers sponsored by local organizations, cake walks, a fish fry and more fun than you can shake a Grove Creek stick at.

Health and Wellness



Do you know about the Missouri Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (MoSFMNP)? This program provides benefits to low-income seniors (60 years of age or older) residing in one of 47 Missouri counties.

Benefits are issued until September 30th and are redeemable until October 31st. Learn more: <https://buff.ly/3Y5rCIS>

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](#)

