



Dear Neighbors,

On March 11, Jackson County Judge Adam Caine upheld the mid-decade congressional maps that were redrawn during a special legislative session called by Governor Kehoe. That session was convened to push through maps that carve Kansas City into three separate congressional districts, significantly diminishing the city's voting power and its ability to hold members of Congress accountable if they fail to represent the values of the community.

This decision will be appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court. Meanwhile, filing for this office opened last month, with the primary election scheduled for August 2026. The situation is an absolute disaster and represents terrible governance of our state, all to appease President Trump, who has made it clear that he is pressuring red states to redraw congressional maps in order to maintain a Republican majority in the U.S. Congress.

I served as the ranking minority member on the Special Committee on Congressional Redistricting where this outrageous bill – sponsored by a legislator from southwest Missouri – was heard that carves up Kansas City into three Congressional Districts. There was neither voting data nor voting demographics provided during the bill’s hearing or at any point during the Special Session.

Additionally, People Not Politicians Missouri has reported that data from local election authorities confirms they gathered enough signatures to place the referendum challenging the new congressional map on a statewide ballot. That means there is still a very strong chance that even if the Missouri Supreme Court upholds the map, voters across the state could still overturn it through a ballot referendum.

This week in the Missouri House of Representatives, we took a final vote on House Joint Resolutions 173 and 174—measures that come close to legislative malpractice. These resolutions seek to phase out and ultimately eliminate Missouri’s state income tax, similar to policies in Texas and Tennessee.

State income tax currently accounts for roughly two-thirds of Missouri’s state budget. Eliminating it would create a massive hole in our state finances. The resolutions also include language that would allow for a regressive tax shift onto low- and moderate-income households. Specifically, they would give future members of the Missouri General Assembly the authority to expand the state sales tax to more goods and services.

In reality, that means future legislators would likely feel pressure to significantly increase sales taxes in an attempt to fill the enormous gap left by eliminating the income tax. This is a terrible idea. Governor Kehoe campaigned on eliminating the state income tax, but the consequences of doing so would fall hardest on working families.

Because these are constitutional amendments, they must be approved by voters statewide. I will do everything in my power to encourage voters to reject these measures. **If passed, four out of five Missouri residents would end up paying, on average, more than \$500 in additional taxes each year.**

Governor Kehoe should recognize that families in both rural and urban communities are already struggling to keep up with rising costs at the gas pump and the grocery store. Yet he continues to push policies that will primarily benefit the wealthiest Missourians while placing a heavier burden on everyone else.

Committee Assignments

For the 2026 legislative session, I am honored to serve in the following roles:

- Chairman, Special House Committee on Urban Issues
- Ranking Democrat, House Committee on Crime and Public Safety
- Ranking Democrat, Special House Committee on Redistricting
- Member, Joint Committee on Capitol Security
- Member, Joint Committee on Legislative Research

As always, I will continue to keep you informed as this session progresses. Thank you for the trust you place in me to represent our community at the Missouri Capitol.

If you would like to be added to this email or have any questions regarding state legislation or state issues please feel free to reach out to my legislative assistant Nate Taylor.

Nate.Taylor@house.mo.gov



On the Missouri House floor I recently took a point of personal privilege to thank the Columbia Police Department and the Boone County Prosecutor's office, along with Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway's cold case section, for reopening the 26-year-old case of my sister Candice Richie's murder her senior year at MU which resulted in the indictment for first degree murder of her alleged killer and his arrest. Giving the speech was very difficult. Luckily some of my colleagues were behind me to show their support! From left to right are Representatives Yolanda Young, Michael Johnson and Marlon Anderson.



TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026
5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

St. James United Methodist Church
 5540 Wayne Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110

Share your voice!

Join us to discuss the draft recommendations for US-71.

Contact Us!

-  (816) 710-6385
-  Contact@ReconnectEastSide.com
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Visit the project website to learn more and submit feedback
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Anyone who requires language translation, special assistance or accommodation to attend the meeting should contact the Reconnecting the East Side project team by emailing Contact@ReconnectEastSide.com or calling 816-710-6385.



South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

Serve and Lift Center – South KC, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>

Red Bridge Area Food Pantry, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Center District Warehouse, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



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**Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or
ideas!**