



**State Representative
Mark A. Sharp
District 37**

Dear Neighbors,

Opening Week of the 2026 Legislative Session

As the new legislative session begins, we are coming directly out of one of the most stressful and contentious special sessions in recent memory.

Reflections on the Special Session

During the special session, the Missouri General Assembly approved a funding package intended to keep our professional sports teams in Missouri—specifically the Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas City Royals.

Ultimately, the Chiefs chose to decline the offer and will not remain in Missouri beyond 2031. However, I, along with others, continue working to build public support for a downtown Royals stadium near Truman Road, using the same

funding mechanism approved during the special session. I believe this proposal remains viable and worthy of serious consideration.

At the same time, Democrats fought back against extreme partisan Congressional redistricting maps that would significantly weaken fair representation for the residents of Kansas City and Jackson County. These maps were not drawn with the best interest of communities in mind, but with political power as the priority.

Heightened Tensions Heading Into Session

As we transition into the regular legislative session, tensions inside the Capitol are already extremely high. In the recent special session and at the end of the 2025 regular session, the Republican supermajority employed a parliamentary maneuver known as calling the Previous Question to shut down debate on several major issues, including:

- Congressional redistricting maps
- Voter-approved paid sick leave
- A proposed constitutional amendment aimed at once again banning almost all abortions in Missouri

This tactic effectively silenced debate on issues that directly affect millions of Missourians.

What to Expect This Legislative Session

I fully expect Republican sponsored legislation to dominate the House agenda. In the coming weeks, we will likely begin sending long lists of House bills to the Missouri Senate for consideration.

In the Senate, I anticipate Democratic senators will continue to do what we witnessed in the special session—using procedural tools, including filibusters, to slow down and challenge the supermajority’s agenda where necessary.

My Legislative Priorities

As the Ranking Democrat on the House Crime and Public Safety Committee, this area will be a central focus of my work this session.

One of my top priorities is House Bill 1804, which strengthens Missouri's ignition interlock program to prevent drunk driving. Under current law, individuals in Missouri must be convicted of drunk driving two times before a court requires the installation of an ignition interlock device in their vehicle to prevent them from starting it if they are intoxicated. Nationwide, Missouri is one of only five states that don't require installation of ignition interlock devices after a driver's first drunk driving conviction.

These devices are proven to save lives. They prevent impaired drivers from starting their vehicles and many include cameras to ensure another person cannot start the vehicle on their behalf.

I have worked across the aisle with Representative Dave Griffith of Cole County, and as a result, the language of my bill has been incorporated into his bill, House Bill 1740. After discussions with the Chairman of the Crime and Public Safety Committee, I have received a verbal commitment that HB 1740 will be heard later this month.

Community Safety Notice

ICE agents have recently been reported in Kansas City and Grandview.

I want to be clear: I do not support the actions of ICE or the mission it has been tasked with carrying out. However, my foremost concern is the safety of my family, friends and neighbors.

If you encounter ICE activity:

- Please exercise extreme caution
- If you choose to observe or protest, do so peacefully
- Do not escalate already tense situations
- If instructed to do something, cooperate

How these encounters unfold often determines whether someone goes home safely at the end of the day. My message is simple: be smart, be safe and make it home to your loved ones.

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



This past week, during the annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast, our community's own Pastor Darron Edwards of United Believers Community Church in south Kansas City had the privilege of blessing the food and the Missouri General Assembly as we head into what many expect to be a tumultuous legislative session.

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!**