



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Yolanda Young | District 22

January 2026



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201 W Capitol Ave
Room 105-A
Jefferson City, MO

COMMITTEES

- Agriculture
- Budget
- Ethics
- Subcommittee on Appropriations-
General Administration
- Joint Committee on Rural
Economic Development
- Conference Committee on Budget

Dear Neighbors,

Our Second Regular Session of the 103rd General Assembly officially started on January 7th. I have one change in committee assignments; otherwise, all of the previous committees I served on in the previous year remains the same: Agriculture, Budget, Subcommittee on Appropriations – General Administration, Ethics, Joint Committee on Rural Economic Development, and Special Committee on Redistricting.

In Agriculture Committee, we have had hearings for three bills. In Budget Committee, we have gone over the supplemental budget and have heard from various state offices and departments who made requests that were accompanied by the Governor's recommendations. Next week, presentations from the Office of the Attorney general, and the Department of Public Safety will be heard. Public testimony will be on HB 2008 will be taken upon conclusion of the department's FY 27 presentations.

Governor Kehoe gave his State of the State address on January 13th. His theme was "Build a Foundation for Growth. He outlined his priorities for the legislative session which included a proposal to eliminate the state income tax. The governor's FY 2027 state budget proposes more than \$600 million in general revenue cuts. In essence, his plan would drastically increase sales taxes to replace the billions in general revenue that would be lost by eliminating the individual income tax, which provides about two-thirds of the state General Revenue Fund. I along with House Democrats oppose increasing taxes on working Missouri families.

Some of you have expressed your fear and anger, of the presence of federal agents in Missouri. Please know that policymakers across the country are working together to coordinate policy development, research, and cross-state collaboration. Yesterday, I stood in solidarity (via Zoom), with more than 100 lawmakers from 27 states across the country to reject the authoritarian tactics and escalating force that had been used against Minnesota residents. In closing, I'm asking you to join with me in sending your prayers and thoughts to the loved ones of Renee Good and Alex Pretti who was killed in Minnesota this month by federal agents. [PressRelease.aspx](#)

I know that navigating state government can often be overwhelming, but we are here to help. If you need assistance or have concerns, please call or email me at Yolanda.young@house.mo.gov, or my legislative assistant, Rita Simpson at rita.simpson@house.mo.gov, (573) 751-3129. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours in service,
Yolanda Young

CAPITAL NEWS

House Committee Considers GOP Plan to Hike Sales Taxes

The House Commerce Committee heard a pair of constitutional amendments on Jan. 28 that would nullify existing restrictions on taxation and empower state lawmakers to impose a massive sales tax hike on all goods and services. The committee took no immediate vote, but swift action to advance the measures is anticipated since the issue is a priority for Gov. Mike Kehoe.

The identical proposals would nullify existing state constitutional prohibitions against taxing services or real estate transactions and broadly authorize the Missouri General Assembly “to impose taxes on transactions involving any goods and services.” The legislation also would exempt sales tax expansions from being subject to provisions of the Hancock Amendment that limit growth in state revenue and prohibit lawmakers from imposing major tax hikes without voter approval.

In addition, the measures would override existing constitutional restrictions that require fuel taxes to be earmarked for road and bridge projects and grant the director of the Missouri Department of Revenue unprecedented and sweeping constitutional authority to unilaterally define the meaning of state sales tax laws – a power typically reserved for lawmakers and the courts, not executive branch officials.

House Speaker Jon Patterson, R-Lee’s Summit, is sponsoring what is expected to be the lead measure, House Joint Resolution 174. The other proposal is House Joint Resolution 173 sponsored by state Rep. Bishop Davidson, R-Republic.

The revenue generated by the massive expansion of sales taxes would be used to eliminate the state’s individual income tax, which currently provides about two-thirds of the state’s General Revenue Fund. The move would drastically shift the tax burden from affluent Missourians to lower- and middle-income taxpayers, who would experience an overall tax increase. During the hearing, support for the measures was largely limited to conservative groups opposed to income taxes, while the response from the business community was tepid at best. Although groups such as Associated Industries of Missouri and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry were generally supportive of lowering income taxes, they expressed significant concerns about the sweeping scope of the proposed sales tax hike.

The Missouri Association of Realtors opposed the measures and promised to fund an opposition campaign if one makes it on the statewide ballot. The group spearheaded both the 2010 initiative petition that amended the constitution to ban taxes on real estate transactions and a follow-up measure in 2016 that prohibited taxing services.

The Missouri AARP also testified against the measure, saying it would prove especially harmful to senior citizens. Since Social Security checks aren't currently subject to state income taxes, senior citizens would receive no benefit from the tax's elimination while being smacked with significantly higher sales taxes on their purchases.

If it clears both legislative chambers, HJR 174 would automatically go on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot for voters consideration. However, Kehoe could exercise his constitutional authority to set the vote for the Aug. 4 primary.

Court Strikes Down Law on Ballot Wording, Injunction Appeals

A unanimous Missouri Supreme Court on Jan. 23 struck down a 2025 state law that sought to restrict judicial tinkering with deceptive ballot language and authorize the attorney general to skip normal procedures to immediately appeal judicial injunctions blocking state laws. The court ruled lawmakers violated constitutional prohibitions against bills being changed from their original purpose or containing multiple subjects.

A Cole County judge previously ruled the injunction provision unconstitutional on equal protection grounds since it granted the special appeal power only to the attorney general and no other litigants. However, it upheld the remainder of the legislation, Senate Bill 22.

But the Supreme Court said that because the injunction provision had nothing to do with the bill's original purpose of "relating to ballot summaries," the whole bill had to be struck down since the state was unable to demonstrate that lawmakers would have passed the overall bill without the unconstitutional provision.

The Republican-controlled legislature enacted the ballot language provisions of SB 22 in response to several court ruling in recent years striking down deceptive questions written by lawmakers or the Secretary of State's Office. The bill granted the secretary of state three chances to revise language deemed unfair by a trial court before the court could write its own question.

The only time this process was used was on a proposed constitutional amendment lawmakers passed last year to repeal protections for reproductive rights that voters ratified in 2024. After a trial judge ruled the language lawmakers prepared for the measure was unfair, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, a Republican, wrote two more versions before the judge finally signed off. The Missouri Court of Appeals Western District later ruled Hoskins' last version was unfair and

completely rewrote it. The Western District's version will be used when the measure goes on the ballot Nov. 3 as Amendment 3.

The injunction provisions, which were added to SB 22 later in the legislative process, were intended to empower Attorney General Catherine Hanaway, also a Republican, to challenge a trial judge's order blocking various state anti-abortion laws that were rendered unconstitutional by voters in 2024. Her appeal attempts failed as appellate courts allowed the injunctions to remain in effect.

The case challenging SB 22 is Sean Soendker Nicholson v. State of Missouri.

Chief Justice's Speech Canceled After GOP Senators Protest

In retaliation for ruling Republican legislation unconstitutional just days earlier, the annual State of the Judiciary address by Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice W. Brent Powell was cancelled minutes before it was scheduled to begin on Jan. 28 amid a boycott by GOP senators.

Powell, one of five Republican appointees on the seven-member court, authored the unanimous Jan. 23 ruling striking down a state law enacted last year that sought to limit the authority of courts to rewrite deceptive language prepared for statewide ballot measures and grant the state attorney general unique powers to challenge preliminary injunctions blocking state laws.

State Sen. Rick Brattin of Harrisonville sponsored that legislation and was one of several Republicans to take to the Senate floor on the day of Powell's scheduled speech to rail against the court for this and several other rulings in recent years declaring laws passed by the GOP-dominated legislature to be unconstitutional

Brattin and others called for changes in the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan, which significantly limits the role of partisan politics in judicial selection. Republicans last attempted to amend the Missouri Constitution to weaken the nonpartisan plan in 2012, but Missouri voters destroyed their proposal with an astounding 76 percent voting against it in what was possibly the most lopsided defeat of a statewide ballot measure in state history.

During the annual speech before a joint session of the General Assembly, the chief justice typically outlines general issues facing the judiciary and its goals for the coming year. While it isn't uncommon for lawmakers to take issue with the court's decisions, until now such disagreements had typically remained respectful.

Kehoe Pulls Ethics Panel Picks Over Redistricting Dispute

Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe was forced to withdraw two of his appointees to the Missouri Ethics Commission on Jan. 27 following a dustup in the state Senate over which boundaries for Missouri's congressional districts are currently in effect. Under state law, no two members six-member commission, which handles complaints involving state conflict of interest and campaign finance laws, can reside in the same congressional district.

After majority Republicans in the legislature redrew the state's eight congressional districts earlier in September to try to gain a partisan advantage in the upcoming elections, opponents of the newly gerrymandered congressional map gathered enough signatures to force the issue onto to the Nov. 3 statewide ballot. Under the Missouri Constitution and a century of state Supreme Court precedent, the new districts are suspended until and unless approved by voters.

However, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins and Attorney General Catherine Hanaway falsely have claimed the new congressional districts are nonetheless in effect, and therein lies the problem for Kehoe's ethics nominees. While Kehoe's four nominees live in different districts under the 2022 congressional map that remains in effect due to the referendum petition, they are doubled up in two districts under the 2025 version.

After Senate Democrats pointed out that Kehoe must agree that the 2025 map is suspended since he appointed his nominees based on the 2022 map, Kehoe moved to pull two of the doubled-up appointees.

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The only time this process was used was on a proposed constitutional amendment lawmakers passed last year to repeal protections for reproductive rights that voters ratified in 2024. After a trial judge ruled the language lawmakers prepared for the measure was unfair, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, a Republican, wrote two more versions before the judge finally signed off. The Missouri Court of Appeals Western District later ruled Hoskins' last version was unfair and completely rewrote it. The Western District's version will be used when the measure goes on the ballot Nov. 3 as Amendment 3.

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The case challenging SB 22 is *Sean Soendker Nicholson v. State of Missouri*.

State Supreme Court Hears Voter ID, Registration Cases

The Missouri Supreme Court heard arguments Nov. 19 in two cases challenging portions of a 2022 state law championed by Republicans to restrict voting access. The court will rule in the cases, both brought by the Missouri chapters of the NAACP and League of Women Voters, later.

The first case challenges a provision of House Bill 1878 requiring a government-issued photo ID to vote. HB 1878 marked the third time the Republican-controlled Missouri General Assembly enacted a photo voter ID mandate. After the Supreme Court struck down the first two attempts for violating the voting-rights provision of the state constitution, GOP lawmakers put a constitutional amendment on the 2016 statewide ballot to specifically grant the legislature the authority to enact a voter ID requirement. Voters ratified it with 63 percent support.

Despite that amendment, the plaintiffs contend that since voting is a fundamental right under both the state and federal constitutions, any photo voter ID requirement must still clear the high constitutional bar of addressing a compelling governmental interest, being narrowly tailored to achieve that interest and doing so by the least restrictive means. A blanket photo ID mandate for all voters, they argue, doesn't pass that constitutional standard, known as "strict scrutiny," especially since cases of voter impersonation are extremely rare.

However, a circuit court judge dismissed the case, ruling the individual plaintiffs lacked the legal standing to challenge the photo ID requirement since none of them were at risk of being denied their right to vote because of the law since they all had a valid photo ID. As a result, the photo ID requirement was in effect for both the 2022 and 2024 state elections.

The second case challenges other provisions of HB 1878 that basically sought to outlaw voter registration drives by establishing strict requirements – subject to criminal penalties for violations – for those seeking to register more than 10 people to vote. A circuit court judge declared those provisions unconstitutional and issued an injunction blocking their enforcement.

The cases are Missouri State Conference of the NAACP, et al. v. State of Missouri, et al., and League of Women Voters of Missouri, et al v. State of Missouri, et al.

House Minority Press Conference



COMMUNITY RESOURCES



COMMUNITY DEFENSE TRAINING

LEARN HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ICE WITNESS. YOU'LL LEAVE UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS DURING A RAID, AND HOW TO BE HELPFUL TO THE VICTIMS.



REGISTER:

Saturday, Jan. 31
2:30-4 PM

Tuesday, Feb. 3
6:30-8 PM




ReeceNichols
REAL ESTATE

Central Bank | Mortgage
Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

CAIA

HOMEOWNERSHIP SUNDAYS

Home Buyer Workshop
The Mount Christian Workshop Center
Sunday, February 15th - 1:00pm

Get Pre-approved On the Spot + Up to \$17,000 in Assistance!

- Prepare for Home Ownership.
- How to Qualify for a Mortgage.
- Credit Tips to Get Mortgage Ready.
- Down Payment Assistance Programs.



Kenya Lewis
Realtor



Monica Cobbs
Realtor



LaDonna Ali, Mortgage Loan Officer, NMLS#488983
Central Bank of the Midwest

Join Us!
Free Lunch and Giveaways!

For additional information contact
816.916.3059 or 816.289.5975

Scan to Register



POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER

KC Mutual Aid Free Skool

Seed Starting Workshop

Learn how to start seeds at home and care for your seedlings while they grow.

NEW DATE: February 1st

3pm-5pm
Farewell (6515 Stadium Drive, KCMO 64129)
Masks Required and Provided

RSVP at <https://linktr.ee/kcmutualaid>



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL + COLLEGE MUSICIANS

CALL (913) 250-5141

TIME COMMITMENT (YOUTH JAZZ SEASON)

90-minute Sessions (15 sessions)

- April (3 sessions)
- May (5 sessions)
- June (4 sessions)
- July (3 sessions)



The 2026 FELLOWS album recording sessions are: JULY 26

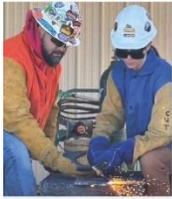
OTHER SEASON CALENDAR NOTES:

No sessions on Easter Sunday or the Fourth of July weekend.

Paid gigs, festivals gigs, and other community concerts are as scheduled during the season.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



MISSOURI WORKS INITIATIVE

APPRENTICESHIP READY PROGRAM



Learn about
the trades
from industry
experts

Get help
entering a
registered
apprenticeship

Earn a weekly
stipend,
workwear,
& tools



START YOUR CAREER, APPLY TODAY!

Visit moworksinitiative.org
or Scan the QR code for more information.

**As a skilled tradesperson, you can have a rewarding
& high-paying career- we can help you get there.**



"I feel like I finally have a clear vision of where I want to put my time, energy and passion. To have a career that I genuinely enjoy and have a passion for feels great. Most importantly, I'm confident in my ability to support my family."

- Trent

PHxKC
**SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**
COHORT 8
**APPLICATION
OPEN**
SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO:
<https://theporterhousekc.com/small-business-development-program/>

Kansas City Area Food Pantries



Food pantries and food banks play a key role in addressing food insecurity in the state of Missouri. Food insecurity is described by the United States Department of Agriculture as “access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.”

According to reports from the University of Missouri, almost 780,000 Missourians are food insecure while an additional 356,000 are experiencing hunger or very low food insecurity. Reports from Feeding Missouri states that there are 6 major food banks in our state that distributes over 120 million pounds of food every year through over 1,500 community feeding programs located across the state. As mentioned, food banks and pantries play a major role in reducing immediate hunger and food insecurity – but they alone cannot solve the ever-increasing problem of hunger. This will take a collaborative effort of individuals, private, nonprofit, and public sectors. In my view, there needs to be major policy responses that address the root causes of food insecurity.

If you know someone who needs food assistance, PLEASE CLICK THE ICON ABOVE to explore potential resources and share the information with them.

Additional Food Pantries and Food Distribution Centers

Fellowship Right Baptist Church Eunice Nevels Food Pantry

4700 Pittman Road, KCMO 64133

816-492-5958

Distribution hours 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Central Presbyterian Church Pantry & Clothes Closet

3501 Campbell Street, KCMO 64109

816-931-2515

Wednesdays 9a.m.-11a.m.

Harvesters Community Food Network

3801 Topping Avenue, KCMO 64129

816-929-3000

Seton Center

2816 E. 23rd Street, KCMO 64127

816-231-3955

Social Services, Dental Services, and Older Adult Services. Social Services includes a food pantry that provides food plus essential personal hygiene items (deodorant, soap, toilet paper, etc.), a thrift store with clothing vouchers, and assistance with rent, utilities, and prescription medication and eyeglasses. Social Services and Older Adult Services are restricted to an area in

Greater Metropolitan Food Pantry/Homeless Ministry

3735 Wabash Avenue, KCMO 64109

913-278-7741

Food pantry with nonperishable food and toiletries

3rd Saturday of each month 10a.m. -12p.m.

Bishop Sullivan Center Food Pantry

3936 Troost Avenue, KCMO 64110

816-561-8515

M-Thursday 9: a.m.-12p.m.

(Pantry card needed. Bring picture ID and SS card for all members in the house and a piece of mail with your address on it if you are a first timer)

Della Lamb Community Food Pantry

500 Woodland Avenue, KCMO 64106

816-842-8040

Harvester's Mobile Food Distribution at Calvary Chapel Church of God in Christ

5101 Bristol Avenue, KCMO 64129

(816) 877-1992

Pantry hours Wed. 6p.m.-7p.m. Harvesters' big truck on first Friday of each month 9a.m.-11a.m.

St. Paul's Food Pantry

11 East 40th Main Street, KCMO 64111

Phone: (816) 931-2850

Wednesday 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m., Saturday 9a.m.-11a.m. (Not open on the 3rd Saturday)

Covenant Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

5931 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO – 64130

(816) 444-3693

Open Tuesday and Thursday 10a.m.-12p.m.

Glory Church

3124 Troost Avenue, KCMO 64109

479-252-0618

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/ receive groceries and/or household items to take home

Wednesday 12p.m.-2:30p.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church

1700 E Linwood Boulevard, KCMO 64109

816-241-1431

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home

Wednesday 2p.m.-5p.m.

Victorious Life Church

3400 Paseo Boulevard

Kansas City, MO 64109

816-561-3619

An indoor/outdoor site where you select or receive groceries and/or household items to take home. Dorothy Sorrells Food Pantry

Open Every Tuesday 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Metro Lutheran Ministry – Central
3031 Holmes Street
Kansas City, MO 64109
816-931-0027

An indoor/outdoor site where you select or receive groceries and/or household items to take home. Mon 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Calvary Community Outreach
3002 Holmes Street, KCMO 64109
816 531-4683

Drive-thru food pick up where groceries and household items are placed in your vehicle to take home.

Every Friday of each month 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Central Presbyterian Church
3501 Campbell Street, KCMO 64109
816-931-2515

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.
Wed 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Metropolitan Missionary B.C.
2310 Linwood Boulevard, KCMO 64109
816-923-3689

Drive-Thru Food Pickup

Sat 2nd of each month 10:00 AM 12:00 PM

Linwood United Church
3151 Olive Street, KCMO 64109
816-612-5728

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.
Fri 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Martin Luther King Junior Pantry
2525 Euclid Avenue, KCMO 64127
816-813-0517

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.
Tue 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM for building residents only.

LINC
2525 East 27th Street

Kansas City, MO 64127

816-805-7551

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.

Wed 11:45 AM 1:00 PM

Vernell's Pantry

3634 Brooklyn Avenue, KCMO 64109

816-781-7901

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.

Thu 2nd, 4th of each month 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Emmanuel Family & Child

4736 Prospect Avenue, KCMO 64130

816-921-3164

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.

Mon, Wed., Thur., 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Oakland Heights (Oakland Heights residents only)

2409 Michigan, KCMO 64127

816-405-8967

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.

Wed 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Pleasant Green Baptist Church

2910 E 30th Street

Kansas City, MO 64128

816-923-7814

An indoor/outdoor site where you select/receive groceries and/or household items to take home.

1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Renewed Hope Pantry East

14500 E 39th Street

Independence, MO 64055

808-779-1590

A drive-thru food pick up where groceries and household items are placed in your vehicle to take home

Wed 4th of each month 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Christ United Methodist Church

14506 E. 39th Street

Independence, MO 64055

816-461-1101

Drive-thru food pick up where groceries and household items are placed in your vehicle to take home

3rd Thursdays of each month 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM