

Lauren Gepford
Sat 4/18/2020 1:07 PM



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Volume 2, Issue 6 - April 18, 2020

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

From the Joe Biden campaign:

Biden for Missouri cordially invites you to a virtual event on Monday, April 20th at 5:30 p.m. CST to engage and unify Democrats across Missouri as we join together to elect Democrats up and down the ballot in November. During this virtual event we will discuss our campaign's strategy in Missouri, provide you with an update on Vice President Biden's response to the coronavirus pandemic, and discuss ways you can help during this virtual stage of the campaign. We will be joined by Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway, as well as additional special guests who will be announced in the coming days.

What: Biden for President "Missouri Path to Victory" Virtual Event

Where: [Zoom \(Dial-in instructions provided upon RSVP\)](#)

When: Monday, April 20th at 5:30PM CST

We look forward to talking to you on Monday! [Please RSVP here!](#)

MDP Officers' Statement on Racial Inequalities in the Wake of Coronavirus

This week, the officers of the Missouri Democratic Party published a joint statement on the effects of structural racism on the health of Missouri's Black communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Read an excerpt of this statement below:

While the coronavirus may not discriminate who it infects based on the color of their skin, the sad reality is that legislation, prioritization, and racism have left African Americans more vulnerable to succumb to COVID-19. [At this time, in the City of St. Louis, 19 people have passed due to the coronavirus; 16 of them were Black.](#) Issues that plague underserved communities like food deserts, pollution, poor air quality, and a lack of affordable and accessible healthcare will remain long past this disease unless we make righting these wrongs a top priority.

Read our [full statement here](#).

Missouri Democratic Party Partners with “It Starts Today”

Your support can go twice as far and reach all corners of the state with the Blue Missouri project, a partnership between the Missouri Democratic Party and It Starts Today. **You can fund every Democratic nominee running for the Legislature and support a strong party infrastructure at the same time with a single monthly contribution.** Half of your donation will be split evenly among all the candidates running for House and Senate after they win their primaries and the other half will go toward the Field, Outreach, and GOTV programs housed by the state party. **Our philosophy is to leave no Democrat behind - join us today!**

Filing to become a Delegate Open Until April 30

The **Delegate Candidate Qualifying Form** is now open and will be available until 5 PM CST on April 30, 2020. Start your journey to the Democratic National Convention by running in your ward or township. Any Democrat who voted in this year’s Democratic Presidential Preference Primary is eligible to run, so **please sign up ASAP and share this link with your friends and contacts.**

Parson continues mismanagement of Coronavirus response

Contradicting CDC recommendations and his own statements on the gravity of the situation, Gov. Parson still refuses to re-classify grocery, pharmacy, and other food workers so that they are guaranteed hazard protections and benefits like childcare while providing essential services during this health crisis. Despite sustained calls from the public, employees, Democrats, and labor unions such as UFCW Local 655, Parson will not require the general public to wear protective masks in grocery stores and has said he will not wear one himself. Call his office today at (573) 751-3222 and ask him to protect our workers.

Gov. Parson and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft have also resisted the push for expanded absentee voting to ensure safe elections, calling it a “political issue.”

The ACLU is currently suing for the right to have no-excuse absentee voting for our upcoming elections under the reasonable belief that a global pandemic should allow Missourians to vote by mail with as few obstacles as possible.

Cook Political Report downgrades Republicans’ chances in Missouri

The nonpartisan election forecaster Cook Political Report shows top Missouri Democrats are breaking away from their Republican opponents. Nicole Galloway’s race for Governor was upgraded from Solid R to Likely R and Jill Schupp’s race for Congresswoman in MO-02 was upgraded from Likely R to Lean R. Both are steadily working their way toward “toss-up” status in a tough state. Republican insiders have privately recognized that they are on shaky ground in suburban Missouri. Fueled by gross mismanagement of the coronavirus response and changing attitudes on gun safety and school funding that have been brewing for a long

time, both Gov. Parson and Congresswoman Wagner are pleading to national Republicans for help to save their seats.

Missouri Democrats making progress with Voter Registration Efforts

Thus far, we've had tremendous response to our voter registration efforts through [ShowMeVotes.com](https://www.showmevotes.com). We're thrilled by the success this campaign has had, but our work isn't done yet; we still need to fund our registration goals in 113 counties. You can explore our map, pick a county or precinct to see how many unregistered, likely Democratic voters reside there and choose how many folks you want to sponsor - every \$2 donation gets one new voter registered! Potential voters will receive a postage-paid, pre-filled registration form in the mail which automatically tracks its return so that we have a unique ability to follow up until that form arrives at their Board of Elections office. You can get Democrats registered and ready to go to the polls, so please check out & share our map and Adopt-A-Voter! [ShowMeVotes.com](https://www.showmevotes.com) also features updated information on how and where to vote.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 4/2 - 5/2 [Online or mail-in delegate selection ballot requests open](#)
- 4/30 [Deadline to file to be a delegate](#)
- 6/12 State Convention - Welcome Night
- 6/13 State Convention - Columbia Convention Center
- 8/4 Primary Election
- 8/17 National Convention - Milwaukee, WI (Postponed from July date)
- 9/12 Quarter 3 State Committee Meeting & Truman Dinner - St. Louis
- 11/3 General Election

RESOURCES

If You Need Help

- If you've lost your job due to the virus, get all the info to apply for unemployment insurance [here](#).
- United Way serves all corners of Missouri. [Contact them](#) to explore benefits and services you may be eligible to receive.
- There are over 350 food pantries serving citizens in need all over the state. Find a listing of pantries as well as hospital contact info [here](#).
- If you're eligible for SNAP benefits, you will now receive the maximum allowable amount for your family size. Get the info [here](#).
- The deadline to file your federal taxes has been extended to July 15th. See the IRS directive [here](#).
- Our friends at UNITE HERE Local 74 have put together a very comprehensive and in-depth [guide to resources](#) - including some rent, mortgage, and utility relief options - aimed at folks in the St. Louis region.

How You Can Help Others

- [**American Red Cross, United Way, Community Services League, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul**](#) are just a few organizations providing emergency relief to our friends and neighbors and could use support from those of us whose families are safe and healthy.
- When grabbing takeout for dinner, try to buy local as often as you can. [**Curbside KC**](#) and [**Curbside STL**](#) have created a handy database focused on local restaurants (and bars, breweries, and distilleries too!) providing takeout service.

Just like you, we're trying to be as kind and responsible as we can by checking on neighbors, supporting local businesses, and flattening the curve as much as possible. Stay safe!

Onward,
Lauren Gepford
Executive Director, Missouri Democratic Party

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