

MO Democratic Insider – April 24, 2020
Lauren Gepford
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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Deadline to become a Delegate to State & National Conventions is April 30th

The path to nominating the next President of the United States starts with you! 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. If you have questions about the delegate selection process and how you fit into it, join us for a virtual info session over Zoom on April 27th at 6PM. **[RSVP right away!](#)**

For those who are all ready to make it official, the **[Delegate Candidate Qualifying Form](#)** is now open and will be available until April 30, 2020. We're getting close to the deadline, so **[please sign up ASAP and share this link with friends!](#)**

Gov. Parson Appoints Friends to Secretive Economic Stimulus Relief Working Group

This week, the MDP called out Gov. Parson for excluding those on the frontline of this crisis — communities of color, women, and health care workers — from having any say in how we rebuild our state. An all-white panel of male political staffers from Jefferson City is simply unacceptable — and the governor must immediately fix this by appointing a panel that reflects the rich diversity of our state. It's outrageous that women, people of color, medical professionals, Democrats, local elected officials, and even members of the business community are being excluded from helping determine how our state recovers from this crisis.

***Update: Due to public pressure, the Governor had the State Treasurer's office announce the addition of Sen. Karla May of St. Louis and Rep. Kip Kendrick of Columbia, ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee to the working group.

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!](#)

Parson to Prematurely Allow Non-essential Businesses to Reopen

After a half-hearted statewide lockdown order, Gov. Parson announced he will lift that order on Monday, May 4th despite not yet meeting his own testing threshold he previously said would be needed in order to be able to reopen. Though public health officials, doctors, and city leaders in the Kansas City and St. Louis regions have stated it is too soon to lift stay-at-home orders, Parson continues to gloss over the fact that Missouri has over 6,300 cases and climbing everyday.

Further, he continues to defy CDC recommendations and will not require the general public to wear protective masks in grocery stores and has said he will not wear one himself. You can join in with other members of the public, employees, and labor unions such as UFCW Local 655, and call his office today at (573) 751-3222 and ask him to protect our workers.

Gov. Parson and SOS Ashcroft Refuse to Expand Absentee Voting

Both have gone out of their way to make the simple question of safe voting complicated. Calling it on different occasions, ‘political, partisan, or a Democrat-Republican issue,’ they are ignoring the will of 67% of all Americans who want mail-in voting for the November election, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Even our conservative neighbors such as the Commonwealth of Kentucky have announced it will allow all registered voters to cast an absentee ballot this year. If Kentucky can do it, so can the Show-Me State.

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.

Missouri Democratic Party is taking applications for our Building Blue Fellowship

We are currently seeking highly motivated Fellows to fill positions in Finance, Communications, Organizing, Data, Political, and Digital departments. Fellows will be trained by recognized leaders in the Missouri Democratic Party and will have several opportunities to meet elected officials across the state.

Fellows can receive college credit if their university allows and are expected to work a minimum of 20 hours/week and will receive a \$1,000/month stipend.

Those interested are encouraged to submit an application, résumé, and cover letter specifying which field is most desirable to resumes@missouridems.org with the subject line "Fellowship Application" and the season/semester you are interested in working.

Missouri Democrats making progress with Voter Registration Efforts

We've identified 154,000 likely Democrats in every part of this state. [Visit our interactive map and click on your county](#). Zoom in and find your neighborhood or precinct. There may be 18 folks unregistered, there may be 1,800. Every \$2 raised means we can mail a pre-filled, postage-paid registration form to your likely Democrat neighbor and all they have to do is sign and drop it in the mailbox. Since the forms are tracked, we have the unique ability to follow up with each individual and ensure it makes it to their election authority and they are added to the rolls.

There is strength in numbers. Why else would the Missouri GOP be so hellbent on not expanding voting access even during a pandemic? [If you've got two bucks to spare, get your neighbor registered to vote today](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

- [Check out our calendar of virtual events](#) going on all across the state!
- 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
- 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

For folks whose families are safe and healthy, there are plenty of worthy causes that could use your spare change and support.

- [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.
- 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.

Be kind, stay safe, wear masks, and check in on friends, family, and neighbors!

Onward,

Lauren Gepford

Executive Director, Missouri Democratic Party

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Paid for by the Missouri Democratic State Committee, Cydney Mayfield, Treasurer.
Missouri Democratic Party
4218 Roanoke Rd.
Suite 304
Kansas City, MO 64111
United States

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