

## **Missouri Political and Legislative Forecast By Heath Clarkston**

### **MISSOURI HOUSING COMMISSION FUNDS JEFFERSON CITY APPLICATION**

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Missouri Housing Development Commission awarded state and federal tax credits for the construction of a 40-unit multi-family low-income housing development in Jefferson City that has been referred to as “Stronghold Landing”. This development will be located at 5011 Old Lohman Road in Jefferson City and had the support of the community leaders, city council and the HBA of Central Missouri. This project is being constructed with the local not-for-profit Central Missouri Community Action as a partner. The project won approval in a highly competitive process and is projected to begin construction next summer once financing is completed. The City of Jefferson has been seeking additional affordable housing construction for many years and this issue has really become the focus of community leaders since the horrible tornado that hit our area on May 22<sup>nd</sup> of 2019.

### **JEFFERSON CITY COUNCIL ELECTION SET FOR NEXT APRIL**

On April 2, 2024, the city voters will head to the polls to fill the 2-year terms for five city wards. The candidate filing period started on December 5<sup>th</sup> and closes on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

As of December 23, the following candidates have filed for office with the City clerk:

Ward 1: Jack Deeken (incumbent) and Randy Hoselton

Ward 2: Darrel Bryan and Mike Lester (incumbent)

Ward 3: Treaka Young and Amy Brix

Ward 4: Randall Wright (incumbent) and Chris Leuckel

Ward 5: Mackenzie Job

### **2024 MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS ON JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>.**

The Missouri General Assembly will return to Jefferson City on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> to start the legislative session that will continue until Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>. The upcoming session should be remarkably interesting due to the election year politics and the number of existing legislators seeking to file for higher office. At present, the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate are both seeking statewide office in November.

Many capitol observers expect the upcoming session to be challenging as major issues from the 2023 session are likely to receive the most attention in 2024. Some of the contentious issues that are expected to return are social issues such as abortion rights, environmental and social governance policies, and sexual orientation/racial education in school curriculum. Other key issues such as reforms to public education, the ballot initiative petition process and elimination of the personal property tax are sure to draw plenty of floor debate and public attention.

The HBA of Missouri will once again be on the defensive at the capitol against numerous issues that we have seen filed for many years that add burdensome regulation or unnecessary costs to the construction of residential housing. The HBA is planning a day at the capitol again this session and we hope to have a date finalized soon. Please stay tuned.