



**Welcome to the MGA FOCUS!**  
These are bi-monthly publications focusing on what matters to you.

Each FOCUS will contain a featured article that has valuable information for you and your business. Below you will find an ad from one of our featured partners as well as upcoming advertisers.

If you want to be featured in the MGA FOCUS respond to this email or call 417-831-6667 and ask for Cory.

## Grocer Days at the Capitol



### One to One Meetings

ONE INDUSTRY  
ONE PURPOSE  
ONE MESSAGE

# Introducing GROCER DAYS

STRENGTHENING THE GROCERY  
INDUSTRY ONE MEETING AT A TIME

One of our most important events for The MGA each and every year is our Grocers Day at the Capitol. This event brings together members from every stop along our grocery industry food chain and from just about every corner of Missouri, with one common goal; meeting with the Missouri State Legislature to continue to strengthen our relationships and ensure that our legislative priorities remain to be a top interest to our Senators and Representatives.

Given the ongoing pandemic, we are having to make some changes to our Grocers Day to adhere to social distancing and avoid large crowds. However, with 49 new state representatives and 11 new State Senators, our presence in the Capitol is important now more than ever to ensure our industry continues to be a top priority in our state government.

**Grocer Days at the Capitol will be held each week on your desired date. This will allow for different retailers or store groups to visit with their Senators and Representatives directly. These direct meetings will allow for more personal and greater discussions regarding the impact your stores have in the community, After you select your date MGA will work with you to determine the best times for the meetings.**

The Missouri Grocers Association and the Grocery Industry as a whole continues to be a well-respected group in Missouri, especially within the halls of the Missouri State Capitol. Our members have remained to be an active part of The Missouri Grocers Association allowing us to accomplish many great opportunities for the grocery industry. Throughout the last year, we as an industry experienced some great achievements, but not without our fair share of challenges. We, as industry, experienced many regulations and ordinances that posed a threat to our businesses and operations. Thanks to the relationships The MGA and our members have developed through the years, we were able to overcome many of these challenges, lessening the burden and potential impact to our industry.

MGA remains committed to following legislation at the state level of interest to the grocery industry. One issue that remains a top priority for grocers and businesses in general is wayfair, which would establish the collection of internet sales tax, leveling the playing field for brick and mortar businesses. With the potential of state budget issues over the next couple year, this creates the opportunity for the need of this legislation. With the current makeup of the conservative caucus in the upper chamber wayfair continues to be an uphill battle.

Continuing on the potential budget issues, gaming legislation may have found a path forward, creating the opportunity to lessen the budget shortfall. Representative Phil Christofanelli and House budget chair, Representative Cody Smith have each filed sports betting bills. Senator Hoskins, Representative Dan Houx, and Representative Dan Shaul have legislation to legalize sports betting, but also creates the Video Lottery Terminal act, allowing for the legalization of VLT machines. Representative Shaul's language allows for more VLT's to operate in more locations, with the current language allowing operation grocery stores. Don't carve out space in your stores just yet.

Some other items of interest include several different bills related to alcohol and tobacco. Several bills are aimed at the continuation of allowing restaurants to sell alcoholic beverages for off premise consumption. This was originally allowed through an executive order by Governor Parson at the onset of the pandemic. Representative Anne Kelley has again filed the raw milk bill, which would allow raw milk to be sold at retail. Representative Kelley has also filed a country of origin meat bill. The MGA has consistently opposed this legislation as it is better suited to be done at the federal level vs. individual states. Missouri is already on an island when it comes to plant based meat products, and we wouldn't want to further ourselves on the island.

As regulations from the state and federal level become increasingly burdensome, it can be complicated to keep up to date on every potential regulation while also tending to the daily duties and operations of your businesses. That is where having a strong, trusted partner can come in handy. The Missouri Grocers Association has been proud to be that partner for the grocery industry since our beginning in 1907 and remains committed to our members today.

## Sign Up for your Day at the Capitol

# GROCER DAYS AT THE CAPITOL

**REGISTER NOW**

Grocers Days at the Capitol offers you the opportunity to meet with your Representatives and Senators to let them know how their actions and votes affect you and your business. This is your chance to talk directly with the lawmakers about Missouri's food industry, regulatory issues, tax issues and other legislative decisions that impact your everyday life.

This year's Grocer Days you will pick the date to visit Missouri's Capitol (below are the dates to choose from). You will then meet up with the State Director, Dan Shaul, and the communications director, EJ Fleischmann. They will attend and facilitate different meetings with the State legislators that matter to you. The ones in your home district, your stores, or business districts.

This small one on one format will allow you to have more in-depth discussions and meaningful interactions.

### Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 State Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
 State Representative \_\_\_\_\_

### List of Other Guests

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Dates to visit the Capitol				
Tue. Feb. 9	Wed. Feb. 10	Tue. Feb. 16	Wed. Feb. 17	Tue. Feb. 23
Wed. Feb. 24	Tue. Mar. 2	Wed. Mar. 3	Tue. Mar. 9	Wed. Mar. 10
Tue. Mar. 23	Wed. Mar. 24	Tue. Mar. 30	Wed. Mar 31	Tue. April 6

### Date Selection

1st Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

\*We will notify as soon as possible regarding your visit date and meeting details

### Sponsorship

Yes, I will donate \$150 for the event       Yes, I will donate \$250 for the event

Send the completed form to [ccampbell@missourigrocers.com](mailto:ccampbell@missourigrocers.com), fax to 417-831-3907.  
 The Missouri Grocers Association, 315 N Ken Ave., Springfield, MO 65802  
 If you have any questions, call Cory Campbell at 417-831-6667.

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