

January 7, 2023

We're back! The 102nd General Assembly convened for the first time on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. When it was all said and done, 48 new House members and 8 new senators were sworn into office. The first two days of the 2023 regular session were ceremonial and business. You can expect the next few weeks to be mostly that. Both chambers have new leadership and new rules, committee assignments and procedures need to be established before bills can be referred.

Below is a new leadership list, the high notes from the week and other tidbits. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for your time and we hope you had a great weekend!

Leadership

Senate Republicans

President Pro Tem – Senator Caleb Rowden (R - Columbia)
Majority Floor Leader – Senator Cindy O’Laughlin (R - Shelbina)
Assistant Majority Floor Leader – Senator Jason Bean (R - Pemiscot)
Majority Caucus Whip – Senator Karla Eslinger (R - Wasola)
Majority Caucus Chairman – Senator Tony Luetkemeyer (R - Parkville)
Majority Caucus Secretary – Senator Sandy Crawford (R - Buffalo)

Senate Democrats:

Minority Floor Leader – Senator John Rizzo (D - Kansas City)
Assistant Minority Floor Leader – Senator Doug Beck (D - St. Louis)
Minority Caucus Chairwoman – Senator Angela Mosley (D - Florissant)
Minority Caucus Whip – Senator Steven Roberts (D - St. Louis)

House Republicans

Speaker of the House – Representative Dean Plocher (R - St. Louis)
Speaker Pro Tem – Representative Mike Henderson (R - Bonne Terre)
Floor Leader – Representative Jon Patterson (R - Lee’s Summit)
Assistant Floor Leader – Representative Jamie Burger (R - Scott)
Caucus Chair – Representative Chris Dinkins (R - Lesterville)
Majority Whip – Representative Hardy Billington (R - Poplar Bluff)
Majority Secretary – Representative Ann Kelley (R - Lamar)

House Democrats

Minority Floor Leader - Rep. Crystal Quade (D - Springfield)
Assistant Minority Floor Leader - Rep Richard Brown (D - Kansas City)
Minority Caucus Whip – Representative Ashley Aune (D - Kansas City)
Minority Caucus Chair - Ingrid Burnett (D - Kansas City)
Minority Caucus Vice-Chair – Representative Emily Weber (D - Kansas City)
Minority Caucus Secretary – Representative Gretchen Bangert (D - Florissant)
Minority Caucus Policy Chair – Representative Jamie Johnson (D - Kansas City)

The House and Senate rosters can be found online.

- [House Member Roster](#)
- [Senate Member Roster](#)

Speaker of the House Opening Remarks

Newly elected Speaker of the House, Dean Plocher (R – Town and Country) addressed the chamber for the first time on Wednesday. He called on his colleagues to find ways to address the following issues:

- identifying violent crime as a priority;
- increasing teacher pay and changing the formula as to how they are paid;
- continuing to cut taxes;
- increasing investment in infrastructure and biosciences; and
- increasing threshold of signatures required for initiative petitions.

Senate President Pro Tem Opening Remarks

Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden (R – Columbia) kept his opening comments brief. He highlighted his top priorities: an education overhaul package, initiative petition reform, streamlining the adoption process, extending healthcare coverage for new moms, public safety, teacher pay and providing tools to grow the economy.

Transportation Cost-Share Program

On Wednesday, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission announced the approval of the funding of 28 local transportation projects using \$75 million budget stabilization funds under Governor Mike Parson's Transportation Cost-Share Program. MoDOT and the Department of Economic Development (DED) selected the projects by following the goal of building partnerships with local entities to deliver road and bridge projects that have the greatest economic impact to the state. Projects awarded include road and bridge projects across the state including urban areas and small towns, all of which support economic development. MoDOT's Cost-Share Committee, made up of MoDOT's Chief Engineer, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant Chief Engineer, and two Director-appointed employees along with DED staff, reviewed 41 applications requesting more than \$150.4 million. Five applications did not meet program guidelines. The committee selected 28 applications to receive the \$75 million, which will deliver \$176 million in projects. The full list of approved projects may be found [here](#).

Tidbits

- The Missouri Department of Social Services will resume conducting Medicaid eligibility renewals on April 1st, which could result in people being removed from its rolls after a three-year pause during the COVID-19 state of emergency. Since March 2020, states have been barred from removing enrollees from Medicaid during the federally-declared public health emergency in exchange for enhanced federal funds. A provision in the federal spending package passed last month set the April 1, 2023, date for states to begin conducting redeterminations, regardless of when the public health emergency ends. Missouri will conduct renewals over the course of a year. The enhanced federal funds will also be gradually phased down.
- A Pittsburgh nonprofit says 20 of Missouri's 57 rural hospitals are at risk of closing. The Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform says two others are at immediate

risk of closing. It says the hospitals are running low on money and have losses in patient services. The organization did not say which hospitals are at risk of closing. According to the nonprofit, 10 hospitals have closed in Missouri since 2005.

Mark Your Calendars

- January 16, 2023 – Martin Luther King, Jr Day Observed – No Session
- January 18, 2023 – State of the State Address
- February 8, 2023 – State of the Judiciary
- February 20 – Presidents Day, no session
- May 5 – Constitutional deadline to pass the FY 2024 State Budget
- March 9 – 20, 2023 – Legislative Spring Break
- May 12, 2023 – Last day of Legislative Session
- July 1 – First day of the new fiscal year
- July 14 – Last day for Governor Parson to veto or approve legislation
- September 13, 2023 – Veto Session

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