



January 16, 2025

On Monday, Mike Kehoe was officially sworn in as the 58th Governor of Missouri, marking a new chapter of leadership for the state. During Governor Kehoe's Inaugural Address, he focused specifically on public safety, education, economic development, and agriculture. He informed Missourians that securing Missouri's begins with public safety and vowed his administration will support men and women in uniform. Additionally, promising to strengthen public education and expand school choice so that every single student has the opportunity to get a world class education. According to the Governor, securing Missouri's future also means creating stable jobs and the Governor's administration will focus on reducing taxes and cutting regulations. Finally, securing Missouri's future means securing our agriculture economy.

Along with Governor Kehoe, Lieutenant Governor David Wasinger, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, State Treasurer Vivek Malek, and Attorney General Andrew Bailey were also sworn in during Monday's inauguration ceremony.

Immediately after the inauguration ceremony, showing that public safety is the new administration's top priority, Governor Kehoe's first act as Governor was to sign six executive orders to officially launch his comprehensive Safer Missouri public safety initiative and equip law enforcement with much-needed resources and support to effectively address crime throughout the State. The six executive orders are highlighted below or can be viewed in full [here](#).

Summary of Executive Orders

The six executive orders highlighted below were developed in close collaboration with law enforcement partners and representatives across all levels of law enforcement within the state, the Safer Missouri plan sets the stage for immediate and impactful action. Further steps to implement the Governor's plans are filed through the General Assembly and action is slated for implementation in the coming weeks, with additional details to be unveiled during Governor Kehoe's 2025 State of the State address scheduled January 28, 2025.

Executive Order 25-02 establishes "Operation Relentless Pursuit", a regional anti-crime effort that emphasizes intelligence-led policing and cross-jurisdiction collaboration in order to collectively pursue and apprehend dangerous fugitives. The strategies employed in this enforcement initiative will include:

- The designation of full time Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) Division of Drug and Crime Control (DDCC) investigators within each of the nine troop regions; and
- Allocation of budgetary funds to support one new deputy sheriff within each MSHP troop who will be dedicated to task force operations, including targeted operations against criminal activities.

Executive Order 25-03 launches the Blue Shield Program to recognize local governments for their dedication to effective law enforcement and community safety. A Blue Shield designation highlights initiatives that enhance public safety, strengthen support for law enforcement and build lasting partnerships with the community. Issuance of the Blue Shield designation enables law enforcement agencies to access specific state grant opportunities.

Executive Order 25-04 establishes a 287(g) designation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to allow state and local law enforcement to assist in enforcing immigration laws. The executive order directs the Director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS) designate specific MSHP troopers to undergo immigration enforcement training with an emphasis on preventing illegal immigration, apprehending criminal offenders, and interdicting drug trafficking activities as an integral part of their regular responsibilities within Missouri.

Executive Order 25-05 charges DPS and MSHP with the collection of immigration status within the statewide uniform crime data reporting system for those charged with crimes in Missouri.

Executive Order 25-06 tasks DPS with modifying the Patrol's salary schedule by reducing the time of service required to reach the top salary tier from 15 years of service to 12 years of service.

Executive Order 25-07 directs the Department of Corrections and Parole to assemble a working group comprised of stakeholders to assess the existing rules with regard to the eligibility of offenders for parole, conduct of parole hearings and the conditions to imposed on paroled offenders. Once the group's recommendations have been received, the Board will present amended rules to the governor's office by October 1, 2025. The current rules, as set by Section 217.690.4 RSMo., have not been amended since 2017. By enhancing guidelines and processes through formal rulemaking, Missouri can continue to refine its approach to offender management while reducing criminal relapses.

Formation of Committees and Rule Changes

After Monday's Inauguration events and ceremonies, the Senate and House dedicated the rest of their week to adopting rules each chamber will operate under, established the various committees, and appointed committee chairs to the new committees. This year, there were a couple of noticeable changes made. In the Senate, they officially adopted SR 19 by a vote of 33-0, which established the Senate committees and the makeup of Senate committees. One thing to note, in previous years Senate committees had a total of 149 slots on committees for Senate members, and that has been cut down to 140 slots. Additionally, some previous committees were modified to narrow the focus to specific issues like moving workforce development from education to the Economic Development Committee in order to focus solely on education; moving Pensions from the Veterans Committee to the Local Government Committee; Committee

on Health and Welfare will become the Committee on Families, Seniors, and Health; and Government Accountability Committee will become the Government Efficiency Committee.

The full list of Senate committee member assignments can be viewed [here](#).

Meanwhile, in the House, members adopted HR 7 officially establishing House rules by 103-51 vote. A couple of noticeable changes include removing the Committee Slot Limits, which was a rule established in the prior general assembly that allowed committees to choose only two bills to be voted out of committee before the legislative spring break. Also, in previous years, House members were only able to file 20 pieces of legislation. The House eliminated the bill cap, and now members can sponsor as many pieces of legislation they want. Another major rule change, now requires any amendments to amendments and substitute amendments to be distributed prior to speaking on a bill, whereas in previous years House members were able to offer amendments to amendments and substitute amendments without having to distribute before floor debate. The final major change is the time limit to speak on a bill during Third Read will now be five minutes rather than the previous ten minutes. With these noticeable changes, they can have some interesting effects on how the House chamber will operate this session.

House committee assignments are expected to be posted next week.

Although next week is a shorter week due to the MLK holiday, since committees were officially established and bills started being referred, committees are expected to start meeting possibly next week. We will continue to keep you abreast on any updates.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- January 8, 2025 – First Day of Legislative Session
- January 13, 2025 – Inauguration Day
- January 20, 2025 – MLK Day – NO SESSION
- January 28, 2025 – State of the State Address
- February 26, 2025 – State of the Judiciary Address
- February 28, 2025 – Last Day to File Legislation
- April 21, 2025 – Easter Holiday – NO SESSION
- May 9, 2025 – Last Day to Pass the FY26 Budget
- May 16, 2025 – Last Day of the 2025 Legislative Session
- September 10, 2025 – Veto Session

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