



June 10, 2024

It's fundraising season. Event invites are rivaling the cicadas and the ads are starting to flood our televisions and screens. No rest for the wicked.

Governor Mike Parson (R - Missouri) has until June 30 to line-item veto or sign FY2025 budget bills. He has until July 14 to take the same actions on policy bills. Below is a brief rundown of bills filed and passed during the 2024 regular legislative session.

- Total number of bills filed : 2,502
 - 843 Senate bills and Senate joint resolutions;
 - 1,659 House bills and House joint resolutions;
- Total number of constitutional amendments filed: 161
 - 47 by members of the Senate;
 - 121 by members of the House;
- Total number of bills passed: 50
 - 17 Senate bills and Senate joint resolutions;
 - 14 House bills;
 - 19 House budget bills.

We promise to keep you updated on additional action taken on legislation. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. As always, it's a pleasure to work on your behalf across the state! Have a great week!

Ballot Initiatives

Governor Parson recently announced two amendments will be placed on the August 2024 primary election ballot for voter consideration. SJR 26 (passed in 2023) will appear on the ballot as Amendment 1. If approved by the voters, it allows the General Assembly to exempt from property tax all real and personal property used primarily for the care of a child outside of his or her home. SJR 38 (passed in 2022) will appear on the ballot as Amendment 4. If approved by the voters, it would provide an exception to allow for a law that increases minimum funding, if increased before December 31, 2026, for the Kansas City police department. The ballot measures be found [here](#).

Additionally, there are two Senate Joint Resolutions, **SJR 71** and **SJR 78**, that passed during the 2024 legislative session that are predicted to be placed on the November ballot. SJR 71, authorizes the levying of costs and fees in court cases to help fund the

salaries and retirement benefits of current and former sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and circuit attorneys. SJR 78, would make changes to the election process ensuring that only U.S. citizens can vote, all elections must be held with paper ballots or any mechanical voting device authorized by law, and prohibits ranked choice voting (except for any nonpartisan municipal election held in a city that has an ordinance in effect as of November 5, 2024, that requires a preliminary election at which more than one candidate advances to a subsequent election).

We also anticipate seeing a few additional issues on the November ballot that were brought forward through the initiative petition process. Voters may also see ballot language related to abortion, sports betting and minimum wage.

MO Highway and Transportation Commission

The MO Highway and Transportation Commission convened in a public hearing last week to receive a briefing from Director Patrick McKenna, discuss budgetary needs and supplemental funding, update the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and receive any public comments. The Commission began the meeting by discussing the lack of success of the MoDOT agenda during the 2024 legislative session which included safe standards for booster seats, leaving children in vehicles, establishing an all-offender interlock statute, establishing an open container law and increasing the penalties for striking highway workers and attached trailers. Additionally, the Commission discussed the numerous bills and amendments which were filed that would have altered the makeup of the Commission, the powers of the Commission and alters the powers of the Commission to spend the appropriations received from the General Assembly. None of these initiatives passed although many received public hearings.

Director Patrick McKenna announced to the committee that Division of State Highway Safety and Traffic Engineer Nicole Hood will be retiring in July. Director McKenna informed the Commission the new initiative to identify unfunded needs across the state has been reflected in the increase of the FY2025 budget of \$8.5 billion (state and federal funds), which includes finishing improvements on I-70 in additional communities and the beginning of studies to improve I-44. Additionally, Director McKenna noted the increase in railroad and airport funding will allow for additional safety improvements. Director McKenna also discussed enhanced enforcement of current statute regarding waste haulers properly securing loads as MoDOT is expected to spend \$13.6 million in FY2024 for highway trash clean up. This initiative has been specifically targeted to the Kansas City region and the various transfer stations and the waste haulers. Finally, Director McKenna addressed the high turnover staffing rate and initiatives in place to attempt to address this problem.

The Commission received an update on the upcoming FY2025 budget. The STIP program has awarded \$1.7 billion in upcoming and ongoing projects, which is a record amount of funding. The FY25 budget includes \$62 million for multimodal projects, \$100 million for safety and operations and \$376 million for program delivery. The Commission was asked to approve the budget as presented and authorize the spending of any additional grant or funding received by MoDOT. The FY2025 budget was approved

unanimously by the Commission and now awaits approval or veto from Governor Mike Parson.

The public comment period consisted of concerns regarding the Highway U closure in Warren County and the impacts on the local communities. State public advocate Arnie Dienhoff also made a presentation before the committee regarding limiting the public comment periods during commission meetings, the safety of areas along Highway 79 and lack of communication between MoDOT and local communities, particularly in O'Fallon. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10 in Camdenton.

Key Upcoming Dates

- June 30, 2024 – Final day for Governor to sign or line-item veto budget
- July 1, 2023 – First day of new fiscal year
- July 14, 2024 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto policy legislation
- August 6, 2024 – Missouri Primary Elections
- August 28, 2024 – Effective date for policy bills without an emergency clause
- September 11, 2024 – Veto Session
- November 5, 2024 – Missouri General Elections
- December 1, 2024 – First day of bill filing
- January 8, 2025 – First day of Legislative session

Brittany Robbins | 18500 Edison Avenue, Ste. 200, Chesterfield, MO 63005

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