



Second Session of the 100th General Assembly Begins

House and Senate Leadership Preview 2020 Priorities

The second session of the 100th General Assembly convened Wednesday, January 8. The first week's proceedings were largely ceremonial. However, 838 House Bills and 337 Senate Bills have already been filed. Committees in both Chambers will begin hearing bills next week. During the first day, House and Senate Republican Leadership discussed caucus priorities for the 2020 session during press conferences. Many of the same themes were echoed across both Chambers.

In response to questions about violent crime, House Speaker Elijah Haahr (R-Springfield) voiced an interest in supporting witness protection programs as well as police and investigative forces. Speaker Haahr said his caucus would not consider any proposal they view as violating the Second Amendment. Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz (R-Sullivan) emphasized his support for removing the residency requirement to be a law enforcement officer in St. Louis City, which he believes will help fill the 125-150 vacancies.

Speaker Haahr and Senate Majority Floor Leader Caleb Rowden (R-Columbia) both expressed a desire to see a "Wayfair" fix passed this year. The US Supreme Court's Wayfair decision permitted states to collect sales tax on online purchases from companies without a physical presence in the state. A variety of Wayfair bills have been filed in the House and Senate. A significant source of controversy on this issue is whether the measure should be paired with a sales or income tax rate reduction. Senator Rowden said he expects some kind of offset to be included.

House and Senate Leadership both addressed Clean Missouri, or Amendment 1, which is a top priority for the Republican caucuses. Amendment 1, which voters passed in 2018, modified numerous provisions related to lobbying and ethics. For example, it prohibited lobbyist gifts over \$4.99 and instituted a two-year cooling off period for Legislators or staff to lobby. The most significant and controversial change, however, was how legislative district lines are redrawn after each census, a process called redistricting.

Under Clean Missouri, a non-partisan demographer chosen by the Auditor and Senate Majority and Minority Leadership draws an initial map of state legislative districts. The proposed maps are then submitted to bipartisan House and Senate redistricting commissions. Clean Missouri stipulates district boundaries must prioritize partisan fairness and competitiveness. Previously, two bipartisan commissions appointed by the Governor drew General Assembly districts. The changes made in Clean Missouri are expected to reduce the number of Republican seats in the Legislature after the 2020 census.

Supporters of Amendment 1 contend it reduces the impact of politics on redistricting and will ensure Missouri's Legislature better reflects the state's overall voting patterns. Opponents argue it gave too much power to the demographer and will result in long and narrow districts that include pieces of many communities but do not represent any of them well.

Republicans in the House and Senate have filed legislation that would place another ballot measure before voters to modify Amendment 1. Several of these bills eliminate the nonpartisan demographer and implement Bipartisan Citizens Commissions instead. The proposals also prioritize compact and contiguous districts over partisan competitiveness. One of these bills, [SJR 38](#), sponsored by Senator Dan Hegeman (R-Cosby), will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on January 14.

Dates of Interest

January

- **8** - First Day of Session
- **15** - State of the State Address
- **20** - No Session, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

March

- **20** - Legislative Spring Break Begins
- **30** - Legislature Reconvenes

April

- **13** - No Session, Easter Break

May

- **8** - Budget Bills Must be Passed
- **15** - Last Day of Session

State of the State Scheduled for Wednesday

Governor Mike Parson will deliver the 2020 State of the State Address on Wednesday, January 15 during a joint session of the General Assembly. You can stream the speech on the Governor's [Facebook page](#).

Parson will provide an overview of his administration's priorities, and the Executive Budget will be released in conjunction with the address. Each department submitted their budget requests this fall, and these will be compiled and modified to create the Governor's budget recommendations. Per tradition, the House Budget Chair, Representative Cody Smith (R-Carthage), will file budget bills that reflect the Governor's recommendations. The Legislature will make modifications throughout the process, and they are required to pass the budget by the Friday before the end of session.

According to the FY 2020 [House Budget Fast Facts](#), Missouri's operating budget (including federal, state general revenue, and other funds) totaled \$29.661 billion. The two largest departments were Social Services (32.4%) and Elementary and Secondary Education (21.15%). The state's general revenue totaled \$10.1 billion, and the departments receiving the most GR were Elementary and Secondary Education (35%) and Social Services (18%). The top three sources of general revenue are: individual income tax (\$7.6 billion in FY 2019), sales and use tax (\$2.2 billion in FY 2019), and corporate income and franchise tax (\$526 million in

FY 2019).

The next budget cycle, fiscal year 2021, will be effective from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Generally, the Legislature and Executive agree on a consensus revenue estimate (CRE), or the amount they anticipate the state will bring in during the fiscal year. This is used as a baseline for the budget process. A CRE has not yet been announced for FY 2021.

When the budget materials are published, they will be available [here](#). We will provide additional detail on the Executive Budget upon its release.

News in Brief

- Representative Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit) filed legislation to broaden the "Missouri Public-Private Partnerships Transportation Act" to include tube transport systems. This emerged from the Missouri Blue Ribbon Panel on Hyperloop's [recommendations](#) to ensure a hyperloop would qualify under this statute. [HB 1963](#) will be heard January 13 in the House General Laws Committee.
- One of the first bills heard in the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee is [HB 1568](#), sponsored by Representative Dottie Bailey (R-Eureka). This legislation prohibits the use of restraint or seclusion by schools for any purpose other than health and safety. The bill also requires districts to notify a student's parents/guardians when restraint or seclusion is used.
- On Friday, the Department of Health and Senior Services [announced](#) the issuance of 86 licenses for medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities. Licenses for cultivation, transportation, and testing facilities have been issued. More information, including approved licenses, is available [here](#).
- This week, Governor Parson made nine appointments to Boards and Commissions, including the Missouri Gaming Commission and Amber Alert Oversight Committee. The announcement is available [here](#).
- In the House, members elected in November special elections were sworn in on Wednesday. The new members of the House of Representatives are:
 - Representative [Yolanda Young](#) – District 22 (D-Kansas City)
 - Representative [Mark Sharp](#) – District 36 (D-Kansas City)
 - Representative [Michael Person](#) – District 74 (D-Ferguson)
 - Representative [Rasheen Aldridge](#) – District 78 (D-St. Louis)
 - Representative [Trish Gunby](#) – District 99 (D-Ballwin)
 - Representative [Scott Cupps](#) – District 158 (R-Shell Knob)