

Journal of the Senate

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ELEVENTH DAY - TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

President Wasinger in the Chair.

The Reverend Stephen George offered the following prayer:

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV)

Gracious God, we come before You today mindful of the work entrusted to us and the responsibility we bear. We ask for Your abundant grace to fill our hearts and guide our deliberations and actions. May the good work we do here today be done with grace and integrity, and may Your grace continue to abound in our lives so that we will abound in every good work. We ask this in Your Holy Name, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

A quorum being established, the Senate proceeded with its business.

The Journal of the previous day was read and approved.

Photographer from St. Louis Public Radio was given permission to take pictures in the Senate Chamber.

The following Senators were present during the day's proceedings:

Present—Senators

Bean	Beck	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (16)	Brown (26)
Burger	Carter	Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)
Gregory (21)	Henderson	Hough	Hudson	Lewis	Luetkemeyer	May
McCreery	Moon	Mosley	Nicola	Nurrenbern	Roberts	Schnelting
Schroer	Trent	Washington	Webber	Williams—33		

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator O'Laughlin—1

Vacancies—None

The Lieutenant Governor was present.

RESOLUTIONS

Senator Brattin offered Senate Resolution No. 84, regarding Zach Zebrowski, which was adopted.

Senator Moon offered the following resolution:

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 85

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, that Senate Rule 50 be amended to read as follows:

"Rule 50. Referrals of bills and appointments to committee shall be made by the president pro tem. **The referral of a bill to a committee by the president pro tem shall be made to a committee designated by the sponsor of the bill;** and no bill shall be considered for final passage unless it has been reported on by a committee and printed for the use of the senators. A report of all bills recommended "do pass" by a committee shall be submitted to the senate by the chairman and all committee amendments accompanying the report shall be printed in the Journal.

After a bill has been referred to a committee, one-third of the senators elected has the power to relieve a committee of further consideration of a bill and place it on the calendar for consideration. In any case where a committee has been relieved of further consideration of a bill as herein provided, a majority of the senators present but not less than one-third of the senators elected, may, at any time before final passage thereof, again refer the bill to the same or some other committee for consideration. No bill or resolution shall be reported adversely by any committee until the author of the bill or resolution has been given an opportunity to appear and be heard before the committee to which it is referred.

One-third of the senators elected may relieve a committee of an appointment and a motion to grant advice and consent of the Senate to that appointment is then in order upon a vote of the majority of the Senate."

Senator Moon offered the following resolution:

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 86

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, that Senate Rule 12 be amended to read as follows:

"Rule 12. All committees listed in Rule 25 shall be appointed by the president pro tem of the senate, except as otherwise provided. **Upon the appointment of members to a committee by the president pro tem of the senate, the committee members shall proceed to elect, by a majority vote of the committee members appointed to the committee, the chairman of the committee. The chairman shall serve at the pleasure of the committee members.** The minority party members shall be chosen by the minority party in the manner determined by the minority party caucus.

At the beginning of each session the caucus chairman of the minority party may file with the secretary of the senate a statement setting forth the method by which minority party members are to be appointed as determined by the minority party caucus, but if no such statement is filed, the minority party members shall be appointed to committees by the minority floor leader."

Senator Moon offered the following resolution:

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 87

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, that Senate Rule 50 be amended to read as follows:

"Rule 50. Referrals of bills and appointments to committee shall be made by the president pro tem; and no bill shall be considered for final passage unless it has been reported on by a committee and printed for the use of the senators. **The chair of each committee shall be authorized to report, and the president pro tem shall receive, no more than three bills deemed reportable by the chair of the committee when the senate is on the order of business of reports of standing committees. The president pro tem may receive additional bills beyond the three that the chair is authorized to report at his or her discretion.** A report of all bills recommended "do pass" by a committee shall be submitted to the senate by the chairman and all committee amendments accompanying the report shall be printed in the Journal.

After a bill has been referred to a committee, one-third of the senators elected has the power to relieve a committee of further consideration of a bill and place it on the calendar for consideration. In any case where a committee has been relieved of further consideration of a bill as herein provided, a majority of the senators present but not less than one-third of the senators elected, may, at any time before final passage thereof, again refer the bill to the same or some other committee for consideration. No bill or resolution shall be reported adversely by any committee until the author of the bill or resolution has been given an opportunity to appear and be heard before the committee to which it is referred.

One-third of the senators elected may relieve a committee of an appointment and a motion to grant advice and consent of the Senate to that appointment is then in order upon a vote of the majority of the Senate."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills and Joint Resolution were read the 1st time and ordered printed:

SB 638 – By Brattin.

An Act to repeal section 452.375, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to child custody.

SB 639 – By Henderson.

An Act to repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to teacher certification.

SB 640 – By Henderson.

An Act to amend chapter 162, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to student electronic personal communications device usage.

SB 641 – By May.

An Act to amend chapter 195, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to intoxicating cannabinoids.

SB 642 – By Hudson.

An Act to repeal section 162.203, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to training requirements for school board members.

SB 643 – By Hudson.

An Act to amend chapter 171, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Ten Commandments in schools.

SB 644 – By Crawford.

An Act to repeal section 29.230, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to audits of political subdivisions.

SB 645 – By Schroer.

An Act to repeal sections 301.190, 307.380, and 643.315, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to motor vehicle inspections.

SJR 54 – By Nicola.

Joint Resolution Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri, an amendment repealing section 4(b) of article X of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting one new section in lieu thereof relating to property tax assessments.

Senator Luetkemeyer moved that the Senate recess to repair to the House of Representatives to receive the State of the State Address from His Excellency, Governor Mike Kehoe.

JOINT SESSION

The Joint Session was called to order by President Wasinger.

The Color Guard from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop F, presented the colors.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

On roll call the following Senators were present:

Present—Senators

Bean	Beck	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (16)	Brown (26)
Burger	Carter	Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Fitzwater	Gregory (15)
Gregory (21)	Henderson	Hough	Hudson	Lewis	Luetkemeyer	May
McCreery	Moon	Mosley	Nicola	Nurrenbern	Roberts	Schnelting
Schroer	Trent	Washington	Webber	Williams—33		

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senator O'Laughlin—1

Vacancies—None

On roll call the following Representatives were present:

PRESENT: 159

Allen	Amato	Anderson	Appelbaum	Aune	Baker	Banderman
Barnes	Billington	Black	Boggs	Bosley	Boykin	Boyko
Bromley	Brown (16)	Brown (149)	Burton	Bush	Busick	Butz
Byrnes	Casteel	Caton	Chappell	Christ	Christensen	Clemens
Coleman	Cook	Costlow	Crossley	Cupps	Davidson	Davis
Dean	Deaton	Diehl	Dolan	Doll	Douglas	Durnell
Ealy	Elliot	Falkner	Farnan	Fogle	Fountain Henderson	Fowler
Fuchs	Gallick	Gragg	Griffith	Haden	Hales	Haley
Harbison	Hardwick	Hausman	Hein	Hewkin	Hinman	Hovis
Hruza	Hurlbert	Ingle	Irwin	Jacobs	Jamison	Jobe
Jones (12)	Jones (88)	Jordan	Justus	Kalberloh	Keathley	Kelley (127)
Kimble	Knight	Laubinger	Lewis	Loy	Lucas	Mackey
Mansur	Martin	Matthiesen	Mayhew	McGaugh	McGill	Meirath
Miller	Murphy	Murray	Myers	Nolte	Oehlerking	Overcast
Owen	Parker	Perkins	Peters	Phelps	Plank	Pollitt
Pouche	Price	Proudie	Reed	Reedy	Reuter	Riggs
Riley	Roberts	Rush	Sassmann	Schmidt	Schulte	Seitz
Self	Sharp (37)	Sharpe (4)	Shields	Simmons	Smith (46)	Smith (68)
Smith (74)	Sparks	Steinhoff	Steinmetz	Steinmeyer	Stinnett	Strickler
Taylor (48)	Taylor (84)	Terry	Thomas	Thompson	Titus	Van Schoiack
Veit	Verneti	Violet	Voss	Waller	Walsh	Moore
Warwick	Weber	Wellenkamp	West	Whaley	Williams	Wilson
Wolfen	Woods	Wright	Young	Zimmermann	Mr. Speaker	

NOES: 1

Collins

ABSENT: 2

Johnson

Mosley

VACANCIES: 1

The Joint Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency, Governor Mike Kehoe, escorted the Governor to the dais where he delivered the State of the State Address to the Joint Assembly.

2025 State of the State Address – Securing Missouri’s Future

Governor Mike Kehoe

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Speaker, statewide officials, Judges of the Missouri Supreme Court, members of the General Assembly, esteemed guests, and my fellow Missourians.

I am proud to be welcomed to the dais for the first time as the Governor of the State of Missouri, joined by someone who has been by my side for 35 years—my wife and the First Lady of Missouri, Claudia Kehoe.

Today, I stand before you with hope for the future of our state, determined to meet the challenges ahead.

Just over two weeks ago, I was humbled to be sworn in as the 58th Governor of Missouri.

My story is truly one of the American Dream. I am the son of a single mother, raised on hard work and faith—who, as a child, never knew if he would own his own bicycle, let alone serve as your governor.

And the historic makeup of this 103rd General Assembly reflects on the opportunities offered by this great state and nation. For the first time in history, a woman holds the title of Senate President Pro Tem: Senator Cindy O’Laughlin. And Speaker Jon Patterson is not only the first Kansas City-area legislator elected as Missouri House Speaker since before the Civil War, but he is also the first Asian American to lead in this Chamber. Since the Speaker is from Kansas City, as Coach Reid would say... *How ‘bout those Chiefs!*

I am told that I am the first Governor to serve our great state who was born and raised in the city of St. Louis by a single mother.

And all of us got here today based on merit and hard work.

One of the last things my mentor, Dave Sinclair, told me was to “never forget my roots.”

He used to write notes at the dealership on paper plates. As I learned from him, I took up this practice—and I still do to this day, nearly 40 years later. I share this because, throughout my years in this building, I have worked to follow Mr. Sinclair’s advice—to always remember my roots and stay humble.

I share this because, throughout my years in this building, I have worked to follow Mr. Sinclair’s advice—to always remember my roots and stay humble.

The relationships we build here and the way we treat people are far more important than any praise, headline, or viral social media moment. Missourians didn’t send us here to work for ourselves; we’re here to serve them.

I said earlier that I will never forget my roots. Well, I’ve sat where you sit. I understand the pressures you face. And I want to work with you—not against you—because I believe we can only secure Missouri’s future if we work together.

Any efforts we make to improve the lives of Missourians—whether it’s expanding education opportunities, cutting taxes, or expanding childcare—none of it matters if Missourians aren’t safe. Securing Missouri’s future begins with public safety.

Achieving safety and security is not just a goal—it is the foundations of opportunity, stability, and progress. My administration committed to equipping law enforcement with the tools, training, and resources they need to succeed.

By focusing on both enforcement and prevention, Missouri will empower the brave men and women in uniform, enabling every Missourian to live, work, and simply walk through their neighborhoods without fear.

Before taking office, I promised Missourians I would take action on crime as soon as my hand left the Bible on Inauguration Day—and we did just that. We signed six executive orders developed based on input from law enforcement to launch our Safer Missouri initiative.

From organizing regional efforts to arrest dangerous fugitives to charging our state troopers to work with the Trump Administration and our federal partners in an effort to crack down on illegal immigration and establishing a statewide program that encourages communities to support law enforcement, these executive orders were our first step in a comprehensive, multi-phase plan.

But our work on day one was just the start. As I have said before, in the coming weeks, months, and years, our administration will be relentless in our pursuit to make Missouri a place where it's easier to be a cop than a criminal.

This includes supporting law enforcement recruitment and retention efforts.

In our budget, we are recommending funding to bolster the existing Missouri Blue Scholarship Program for law enforcement basic training. We're also recommending \$10 million in funding to assist local communities who prioritize public safety with equipment and training needs through our Blue Shield Program.

We're also supporting legislation to create a new scholarship for law enforcement to access postsecondary education outside of basic training, to assist with recruitment and retention efforts.

When we support law enforcement officers, we must also support their families. I urge the General Assembly to pass legislation from Representative Stinnett and Senator Ben Brown extending professional licensing reciprocity for spouses of law enforcement that move to Missouri from another state.

And, we're adding \$2.5 million to the budget to support the sheriff's retirement system for another year.

Our budget also supports funding for a new crime lab in Cape Girardeau, serving the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop E region.

These steps are critical to making Missouri the best state in the nation to be a law enforcement officer.

Today, there is a lack of hope in many areas of our state, especially in our large metropolitan areas. Many of you know my story. I grew up in North St. Louis City. My old neighborhood was never perfect, but in my younger years, I could still safely walk the streets.

Young people in my old neighborhood—and across our state—now feel like they must turn to violence and gangs to survive. I have walked the streets of my childhood homes in Walnut Park and Baden and spoken to these young people. They simply believe there is no other option. They don't know what opportunities exist outside of the violence and crime that plagues their communities.

This lack of hope and pattern of behavior has taken too many lives and livelihoods of Missourians. It's unacceptable – and we're taking action.

As part of our Safer Missouri crime plan, I am urging the General Assembly to pass a comprehensive crime bill sponsored by Senators Fitzwater and Schroer, and Representative Christ.

We're going to increase penalties for crimes like violent rioting and fleeing in a vehicle and we're going to crack down on criminals who participate in reckless stunt driving and street racing, which have damaged property and taken lives for far too long.

This legislation also includes increasing oversight and accountability of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

The current status quo in St. Louis is unacceptable. As the economic powerhouse of our state, we cannot continue to let crime kill growth in the region and drive businesses and families to move outside of our state's borders.

In St. Louis, we have one of the nation's top police chiefs in Chief Robert Tracy, and a tough on crime prosecutor in St. Louis Circuit Attorney Gabe Gore. They could do even more if we give them the tools they need to continue their success.

Our major cities—St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia, and Springfield—can only survive with business investment and we have to be honest where we stand on crime.

The days of political and subjective statistics are done under my administration. The polling data I care about is whether or not a business feels safe enough to invest in our cities. That's the barometer. Period.

It's one thing for elected officials to say they support law enforcement and strengthening public safety, but I hope you will join me in showing support for law enforcement and the businesses creating jobs in our state with real action.

A shocking statistic that isn't talked about enough, is that fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. It has destroyed far too many lives and families. We will tackle the fentanyl crisis in Missouri.

Today, we're joined by Lizzy and Hal Schott from Wildwood, Missouri. Over the summer, I had the privilege of meeting Lizzy, and hearing how this crisis has impacted her family. In tears, she shared that her son, Keenan, tragically passed away at the young age of 30 on July 19, 2021. Keenan passed from fentanyl toxicity.

Keenan was loved by many. A graduate from Truman State University with honors, he worked and owned his own home. Like many young people today, he struggled with mental health issues and was introduced to fentanyl in an effort to self-medicate and feel better.

Since Keenan's passing, Lizzy has dedicated her time and efforts to educating others on the deadly consequences of fentanyl.

Please join me in recognizing Lizzy Schott for all she does to spread awareness and honor her son's memory.

If a drug dealer sells fentanyl that kills a Missourian, they should be charged with first degree murder. Period.

I urge the legislature to take action on this and support Senator Schroer and Representative Keathley's efforts, in honor of all those lost to this tragic epidemic.

In an effort to identify areas of high fentanyl use in schools across the state, we are including \$4 million in investment for fentanyl testing in wastewater systems at schools. This is a \$2 million increase since last year.

Sadly, much of this crisis is coming from our nation's southern border. Last year, I had the privilege of going to the border twice to see the work of our Missouri National Guard and Missouri State Highway Patrol in Texas. Every state is truly a border state.

Missouri will work with President Trump to crack down on illegal immigration and the deadly drugs and criminals that have flooded through our borders.

Crime, illegal immigration, and drugs—these are the things that threaten the success of Missourians. But we have fantastic partners who are committed to working to get these priorities accomplished.

In the upper gallery, the team who helped craft our Safer Missouri initiative are with us today. These individuals represent every sector of law enforcement, from police officers and state troopers to police chiefs and sheriffs. This group worked with my team, Attorney General Andrew Bailey, and members of the General Assembly to put our vision into tangible action.

Would our Safer Missouri crime plan group please stand to be recognized?

I also want to recognize all members of law enforcement and first responders, past and present with us here today... Would you please stand to be recognized?

Thank you for your service and sacrifice to our state. My administration will always have your backs.

While public safety is priority number one for Missourians to prosper, we must also have a robust economy and aggressive economic development efforts.

We're going to work hard to retain and recruit businesses here in Missouri. From manufacturers, to retailers, to Missouri's sports teams, these businesses, who provide jobs and opportunities to Missourians, are an important part of our state's economic success.

As a small businessman and entrepreneur who has created hundreds of jobs, I'm excited to get to work securing investment and growth in our state.

That's why we support legislation to extend the Deal Closing Fund, sponsored by Senator Bernskoetter and Representative Knight, as a continued tool for our economic development teams.

Infrastructure and economic development go hand in hand. While there has been significant investment in infrastructure in recent years, including the expansion of I-70 and multiple bridge projects, we are including a reappropriation of last year's \$100 million for rural road improvements in this year's budget to ensure all those funds are invested in rural infrastructure.

In order to compete with other states, we must focus on reducing taxes and cutting regulations, so families keep more of their own money, and so job creators look at our state to expand and hire more hard-working Missourians.

It won't be easy. It will take time, but I have directed the Missouri Department of Revenue to work with my staff on a sustainable and comprehensive plan to eliminate the individual income tax once and for all.

We are committed to this goal. While we task our best and brightest with developing a responsible plan to eliminate the income tax, the legislature must continue with the success we've seen from cutting taxes so far.

So, I ask you to work with us on this effort and add additional Senate Bill 509 style income tax cut triggers this session.

Missourians can spend their money a whole lot better than government, and I hope you will work with me to help Missouri families secure a better future for themselves...a future with no income taxes.

In addition to tax cuts, I hope the legislature will send substantial tort reform to my desk this session. Under this administration, we will not let frivolous lawsuits and litigation crush economic growth.

As many of you have heard me say before, a strong early childhood system is necessary for a prosperous economy. We know that when investing in our children, we are not only preparing them to be ready for school and to be successful later in life; we are also helping the workforce today.

When parents have a safe and reliable place to take their children and know that they are taken care of, they are able to focus on their work and make our communities and economy even stronger.

This is personal to me. My mother worked hard to support my siblings and me. When one of us got sick, she had to make a choice: either leave us at home alone or go to work to pay for our groceries that week. No parent, especially a single mother, should ever have to make that decision.

The biggest challenge to the childcare crisis is getting more teachers in early childhood classrooms and addressing the current regulatory environment.

To be successful, we need commitments from the local and state levels, from public and private partners working together, to find ways to expand access to quality child care in every community across the state.

Thanks to the work of advocates like Wendy Doyle at United WE, we know the administrative burden and complexities involved in licensing a child care program. Missouri must do better.

While there are certainly a number of requirements needed to keep kids safe, we can do a better job of making regulations easier to understand, implement, and comply with.

Today I will be issuing an executive order charging the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-Office of Childhood with a complete re-write of the child care regulations to make them easier to understand and navigate.

They will also find ways to cut the existing regulations substantially, and I mean substantially... all while keeping kids safe. I expect a plan for this to be completed in months, not years.

While the state can't carry the entire burden of this issue, we can be a partner alongside families, employers, and child care providers. We must provide a viable path for businesses who want to offer childcare as a fringe benefit to their employees.

We are also including \$10 million in this year's budget to offer grant funding opportunities to support partnerships between employers, community partners, and the child care industry to make more child care slots available for Missouri families.

We have seen partnerships supported by these grants in recent history have great success.

Today, in the upper gallery, we are joined by Alena Malone with Lovely Child Development Center located in the City of Ferguson. Alena also serves as the Director of Saving our Children North County Resource Center, located in Bellefontaine Neighbors. She is joined by Assistant Director Theresa Hester.

Alena utilized the Innovation Grant to start up a childcare facility that serves 56 children in North St. Louis County. She is a passionate advocate for improving Missouri's child care system, and her work exemplifies the power of collaboration between employers and community partners.

Please join me in recognizing Alena for providing care and services to children in the city of Ferguson and Bellefontaine Neighbors and for her work to improve Missouri's child care industry.

My administration is committed to timely payments for the child care providers who partner with the state to provide care. We know delays in payments from the state have made it difficult for providers to even stay open.

So, starting in fiscal year 2026, providers will receive payments from the state at the beginning of the month and we will pay on enrollment – just like private pay. We will not allow late payments, or technology issues to put these small businesses at risk of not being able to provide for families in need of child care.

Together, we will secure a better environment for providers to thrive, and Missouri's children to be set up for success.

When those kids get older, they will have access to quality education, including career and technical education opportunities that prepare them for the workforce.

In Missouri, we get a lot right when it comes to career and technical education, but gaps remain, and we can do more to increase technical education to skill up our current and future workforce.

We're proposing \$15 million in new funding to address equipment, space, and operational needs of career and technical centers across the state, as well as \$5 million more on an annual basis to support increased operational costs.

Every student in Missouri should be able to talk to school counselors about their future career path, whether that includes college or not.

That's why we are proposing an increase of \$1 million in funding to expand career counseling to more high schools across the state.

But it's not all about funding, either. I will use this office, and call on the legislature to use their voices, to drive conversation and emphasize the importance of these programs.

I am announcing today that we have issued an additional executive order establishing the Governor's Workforce of the Future Challenge, instructing DESE to put a plan in place for better coordination among key stakeholders, including K-12 schools, local business and industry, and higher education to improve the state's career and technical education programs and infrastructure. Again, I expect this work to happen at business-speed, in months...not years.

By addressing critical needs of tax cuts for families, rural roads, childcare access, and career technical training, our budget priorities foster innovation, strengthen communities, and ensure that Missouri remains a competitive and thriving state for all.

Our hard-working agriculture families and their efforts are critical to Missouri's economic success. From multi-generational farmers and ranchers to first-generation farmers like Claudia and me, we must get government out of the way and let our farmers and ranchers do what they do best: work hard and continue to produce results.

Securing the future of agriculture also means investing in the next generation.

At the urging of Senator Black, our budget includes \$800,000 in permanent funding for Missouri FFA.

Seated in the upper gallery is Ms. Adeline Thessen. Addie grew up on her family's fifth-generation cattle and row crop farm in Taos.

Since a young age, she has always had a passion for agriculture. I know this because I bought several of her steers during her 16 plus years of involvement in FFA and 4-H.

She is a 2024 graduate of the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, where she found a passion for agronomy.

Today, Addie works in precision farming, specializing in product support for spray drones and precision equipment. Now, she is an operator and partial owner with her parents on their family farm. Addie also judges county and state livestock shows and helps local youth and their 4-H livestock projects.

She is a prime example of the future of agriculture.

Please join me in recognizing Addie and the Thessen family, even though I may have paid a little too much for those steers...

The Missouri State Fair is a tradition like no other in our state, and Claudia and I have been proud to support the Fair for many years now. It is the best display of agriculture and the future of our state's leading industry.

We're proposing a substantial investment in new bonding to support the construction of a 40,000 square foot covered multi-use livestock barn and 80,000 square foot stalling barn to house equine and other livestock at the Fair's new arena, which was previously supported by the legislature and is now under construction.

As a businessman, I believe a return on investment is critical to any deal and thanks to the cooperation of the Missouri State Fair Commission, we expect their help to retire the bonds for this project with the revenues from this facility. Once fully operational, we expect these investments to pay for themselves by attracting more national and regional events and shows, bringing increased economic activity to Sedalia.

While Missouri agriculture has a \$93.7 billion economic impact in our state, there is still room to grow. As lieutenant governor, I was proud to work with education and agriculture stakeholders on the Missouri Food, Beverage and Forest Products Manufacturing Task Force, where we identified areas for future growth through value-added practices.

Our budget also includes funding to expand Missouri's meat and poultry inspection and production capacity, which will aid in minimizing delays for producers.

Under this administration, our ag industry will continue to grow and thrive because it is not only the backbone of our economy, but our producers feed and clothe the world.

Missouri farmers give back, too. Claudia and I are proud to participate in the Drive to Feed Kids each year at the Fair, held by Missouri Farmers Care. Since 2017, this event has provided over 13 million meals to Missouri children and families.

In partnership with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Farmers Care is bringing this meal packing event to the State Capitol this session. I hope to see legislators join us in this effort to fight hunger in our state.

Would any elected official or guest here today who is in the production agriculture business please stand to be recognized?

We know that securing Missouri's future is only possible with a quality education for our children. Strengthening public education, expanding school choice, and empowering parents is critical to ensuring that every single student has the opportunity to get a world class education.

To expand school choice, I urge the General Assembly to pass voluntary open enrollment in public schools, sponsored by Senator Trent and Representative Pollitt.

We've also included \$50 million in general revenue funding to bolster the ESA program.

By adding state funding to the tax credit program we will be able to serve substantially more children than the program has in the past year.

We are proposing additional funding for charter schools to address capital improvement needs.

This year, we are recommending a \$200 million increase for the Foundation Formula, the largest increase since the current Formula was created. And, over \$370 million to fully fund the state's commitment for school transportation needs to support our hardworking teachers. Our budget includes \$33 million to fund teacher salaries. We've also included \$30 million for Small School Grants to support the continued success of our small rural school districts, the heartbeat of their communities.

You're going to hear it in the media, so you'll hear it from me first. While it's clear our support for K-12 education is a record investment and the largest we have ever seen, we are not fully funding the Foundation Formula.

While we are committed to making good on the funding commitments passed by the legislature last year, this budget does not include the additional \$300 million liability that was imposed by an administrative body.

I want to be clear that I am a proud supporter of education in all its forms—public schools, private schools, charter schools—as long as Missouri's children are getting a quality education. Throwing more money at the problem is not the solution. We have invested over \$4 billion in K-12 education and we still aren't seeing acceptable results across the state.

The Foundation Formula in its current form has gotten out of control. With funding requirements this body has implemented as well as changing educational needs across the state, we no longer feel the formula, as currently written, appropriately allocates funding for public education. We must find a solution that does a better job of incentivizing performance and managing unrealistic annual adjustments.

The current formula was written twenty years ago.

Since its inception, funding for the Foundation Formula has increased by nearly \$2 billion while enrollment has declined by nearly 30,000 students.

That is why today we are announcing that we have issued an additional executive order establishing the School Funding Modernization Task Force to recommend changes to better serve students and families.

We know that rewriting the Formula is a monumental task. It's about looking decades ahead, and not just the current needs of school districts. I urge those involved to keep that in mind so we can solve this problem for future generations of children.

We must modernize the way we fund education, while recognizing high performing schools and ensuring lower performing schools have a plan to do better.

We are also committed to ensuring we have the best qualified people in place to lead Missouri public and charter education. Former Missouri State Senator and current Commissioner Karla Eslinger is a fantastic start and I have committed to meeting regularly with the Commissioner and legislative leadership to move our vision of increased accountability for school performance and student outcomes forward.

But I want to be clear, this administration will not retain or appoint members of the State Board of Education who do not align with our vision.

As I've said before, we must commit to teaching our kids how to think not what to think. Because in Missouri, we educate, we do not indoctrinate.

In the classroom, common sense discipline is a must. Disrespect towards a teacher or other students is unacceptable. If we are teaching kids to be prepared to succeed in the workforce, respect, and discipline are a basic component.

We all agree that kids deserve to feel safe at school.

I am asking the General Assembly to pass legislation requiring applicable agencies to meet regularly to discuss school safety concerns, planning, and prevention efforts, sponsored by Senator Burger and Representative Chris Brown as well as legislation sponsored by Senator Henderson and Representative Allen that requires schools to report school safety incidents and threats to DESE so we can have better data on trends and occurrences.

These investments in public safety, economic development, education, and agriculture are made possible, in part by the work of dedicated public servants across the state...

As we built out our Cabinet, we chose leaders who will strive to work at business-speed, keeping efficiency and effective practices at top of mind in everything we do—a Cabinet that works for you.

In an effort to build on our vision for state government, I have directed these leaders to spend dedicated time each month reviewing regulations, their necessity, and ways to reduce their regulatory burden. I look forward to working with these men and women, and the nearly 49,000 hardworking state team members in the years ahead.

Would the members of the Cabinet please stand to be recognized for all you do on behalf of the people of Missouri?

We have made much progress on supporting our state workforce in recent years, but more is needed.

As any businessperson will understand, we must keep up with the market to retain and recruit a talented workforce. Right now, it's extremely difficult for our agencies to operate efficiently with an average turnover rate of 20 percent in our state workforce. That's why we are proposing a statewide retention pay plan increase for state employees for every two years of service to the state with a cap of twenty years of service. State employees working in 24/7 facilities that already have this time of service pay plan will receive a cost-of-living adjustment.

Finally, I will say this... this administration will be built on merit, and we will not support DEI programs in state government. I will be taking action on this in the coming weeks...

As we are seeing a national movement to reduce the size of government and focus on efficient practices, I hope to see the same in Missouri.

You won't find this in the budget currently, as it's a work in progress, but I am working with House and Senate leadership to ensure Missouri has its own version of a DOGE government efficiency initiative very soon—a Show-Me DOGE, if you will...

Our Missouri DOGE will have an immediate return on investment, as we will ask industry experts from around the state to donate their time to assist our state agencies in the areas of their expertise. For every dollar we invest in this, we will ask that they invest the same in their time and efforts.

We cannot secure a brighter future for our state without a functioning and efficient state government that serves Missouri families well.

Because this is why we are all here—to be a voice for families, children, and those who can't speak for themselves. That includes the unborn.

In our state, we value a culture of life. We treasure our families.

Regardless of how you voted on Amendment 3, Missouri has so much more to offer women. In Missouri, there are better, safer choices than abortion, and we are committed to helping pregnant women know these exist, including the incredible Pregnancy Resource Centers across the state.

We're asking the General Assembly to support alternatives to abortion with 4 million dollars in additional funding to benefit expecting and new mothers. That's a more than 50% increase to existing services.

Let's work together to support Missouri women so abortion doesn't even have to be considered an option.

Working together... It's what we must do to accomplish these goals and a better Missouri.

It won't be easy. The politics of today's world tells us that we can't work together, and that consensus is just not possible. But I have built a life and a career on doing just that, without sacrificing my core, Christian, conservative beliefs.

Because it's not just about us. Our work in this building is only possible because of those who came before us: the sacrifices of our brave service men and women.

That is why we are proposing an additional \$10 million of general revenue funding to our Missouri Veterans Homes. Under the Kehoe Administration, no veterans home will close due to a lack of state funding.

In the Chamber with us today, we are honored to have the Commanding Officer of the USS Missouri, Commander Andrews, and crew members Senior Chief Weaver and Petty Officer Schmidt – who is from Nixa, Missouri. Missourians thank you for all you do to keep our country safe and honor Missouri’s namesake Naval ship. Would you please stand to be recognized?

Now, would any other US military veterans or active duty members please stand to be recognized? Please join me in thanking these men and women for their service.

So, to the members of the General Assembly, I look forward to working with you in this first session that I have the privilege of serving as your Governor.

I promise I will never “forget my roots” and I will work with you, just as I have in this building for years.

My friend, and United States Senator Roy Blunt often told a story of a statue that stood in our Nation’s Capital for over 100 years, who no one knew the name of. He told this story because it’s not about your name or who you are when you are a public servant.

Senator Blunt said, “What we do here is more important than who we are.”

I try to live by that today, and I hope the members in this chamber will as well.

Because I believe the budget and legislative priorities we outlined today will be a first step in securing an even safer, stronger, and more prosperous Missouri!

May God bless you. May God bless the United States of America. And may God continue to bless the great State of Missouri!

On motion of Senator Luetkemeyer, the Joint Session was dissolved and the Senators returned to the Chamber where they were called to order by President Wasinger.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Pro Tem O’Laughlin submitted the following:

January 28, 2025

Kristina Martin
Secretary of Senate
201 W. Capitol Ave. Rm 325
Jefferson City, MO 65101

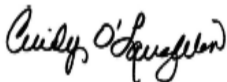
Secretary Martin,

This letter is to inform you of a change to the escort committee for the upcoming State of the Address. Senator Jamie Burger will be replacing me, Sen. Cindy O’Laughlin, on the committee.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this change, please feel free to reach out to my office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



President Pro Tem

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Senator Hudson introduced to the Senate, Houston track team, coach Michael Tottingham; assistant

coach Todd McKinney; Jeff Gettys; and team members, Maleki Morgan; Oliver Choat; Myles Copley; Kayla Wagner; and Kristen Ely, Houston.

Senator Fitzwater introduced to the Senate, John Cooper; and Jessica Zumwalt, Lincoln County.

On motion of Senator Luetkemeyer, the Senate adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 29, 2025.

SENATE CALENDAR

TWELFTH DAY—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

FORMAL CALENDAR

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILLS

SB 181-Crawford	SB 209-Mosley
SB 182-Crawford	SB 210-Mosley
SB 183-Crawford	SB 211-Fitzwater
SB 184-Cierpiot	SB 212-Fitzwater
SB 185-Cierpiot	SB 213-Fitzwater
SB 186-Cierpiot	SB 214-Trent
SB 187-Bernskoetter	SB 215-Trent
SB 188-Bernskoetter	SB 216-Trent
SB 189-Brown (16)	SB 217-Black
SB 190-Brown (16)	SB 218-Black
SB 191-May	SB 219-Black
SB 192-May	SB 220-Schroer
SB 193-Brattin	SB 221-Schroer
SB 194-Brattin	SB 222-Schroer
SB 195-Brattin	SB 223-Coleman
SB 196-Moon	SB 224-Coleman
SB 197-Moon	SB 225-Coleman
SB 198-Moon	SB 226-Carter
SB 199-Bean	SB 227-Carter
SB 200-Bean	SB 228-Carter
SB 201-Bean	SB 229-Brown (26)
SB 202-Roberts	SB 230-Brown (26)
SB 203-Roberts	SB 231-Brown (26)
SB 204-Roberts	SB 232-McCreery
SB 205-Washington	SB 233-McCreery
SB 206-Washington	SB 234-McCreery
SB 207-Washington	SB 235-Henderson
SB 208-Mosley	SB 236-Henderson

SB 237-Henderson	SB 285-McCreery
SB 238-Burger	SB 286-McCreery
SB 239-Burger	SB 287-McCreery
SB 240-Burger	SB 288-Henderson
SB 241-Webber	SB 289-Burger
SB 242-Nurrenbern	SB 290-Burger
SB 243-Nurrenbern	SB 291-Crawford
SB 244-Crawford	SB 292-Crawford
SB 245-Crawford	SB 293-Crawford
SB 246-Crawford	SB 294-Brattin
SB 247-Cierpiot	SB 295-Brattin
SB 248-Brattin	SB 296-Brattin
SB 249-Brattin	SB 297-Moon
SB 250-Brattin	SB 298-Moon
SB 251-Moon	SB 299-Moon
SB 252-Moon	SB 300-Roberts
SB 253-Moon	SB 301-Roberts
SB 254-Bean	SB 302-Roberts
SB 255-Roberts	SB 303-Washington
SB 256-Roberts	SB 304-Washington
SB 257-Roberts	SB 305-Washington
SB 258-Washington	SB 306-Mosley
SB 259-Washington	SB 307-Mosley
SB 260-Washington	SB 308-Mosley
SB 261-Mosley	SB 309-Fitzwater
SB 262-Mosley	SB 310-Fitzwater
SB 263-Mosley	SB 311-Fitzwater
SB 264-Fitzwater	SB 312-Trent
SB 265-Fitzwater	SB 313-Trent
SB 266-Fitzwater	SB 314-Trent
SB 267-Trent	SB 315-Black
SB 268-Trent	SB 316-Black
SB 269-Trent	SB 317-Black
SB 270-Black	SB 318-Schroer
SB 271-Black	SB 319-Schroer
SB 272-Black	SB 320-Schroer
SB 273-Schroer	SB 321-Coleman
SB 274-Schroer	SB 322-Carter
SB 275-Schroer	SB 323-Carter
SB 276-Coleman	SB 324-Carter
SB 277-Coleman	SB 325-Brown (26)
SB 278-Coleman	SB 326-Brown (26)
SB 279-Carter	SB 327-Brown (26)
SB 280-Carter	SB 328-McCreery
SB 281-Carter	SB 329-McCreery
SB 282-Brown (26)	SB 330-McCreery
SB 283-Brown (26)	SB 331-Crawford
SB 284-Brown (26)	SB 332-Crawford

SB 333-Brattin	SB 381-Fitzwater
SB 334-Brattin	SB 382-Fitzwater
SB 335-Brattin	SB 383-Fitzwater
SB 336-Moon	SB 384-Trent
SB 337-Moon	SB 385-Trent
SB 338-Moon	SB 386-Trent
SB 339-Roberts	SB 387-Black
SB 340-Roberts	SB 388-Black
SB 341-Roberts	SB 389-Black
SB 342-Washington	SB 390-Schroer
SB 343-Washington	SB 391-Schroer
SB 344-Washington	SB 392-Schroer
SB 345-Mosley	SB 393-Carter
SB 346-Mosley	SB 394-Carter
SB 347-Mosley	SB 395-Carter
SB 348-Fitzwater	SB 396-Brown (26)
SB 349-Fitzwater	SB 397-Brown (26)
SB 350-Fitzwater	SB 398-Brown (26)
SB 351-Trent	SB 399-McCreery
SB 352-Trent	SB 400-McCreery
SB 353-Trent	SB 401-McCreery
SB 354-Black	SB 402-Moon
SB 355-Black	SB 403-Washington
SB 356-Black	SB 404-Washington
SB 357-Schroer	SB 405-Washington
SB 358-Schroer	SB 406-Mosley
SB 359-Schroer	SB 407-Mosley
SB 360-Carter	SB 408-Mosley
SB 361-Carter	SB 409-Fitzwater
SB 362-Carter	SB 410-Fitzwater
SB 363-Brown (26)	SB 411-Fitzwater
SB 364-Brown (26)	SB 412-Trent
SB 365-Brown (26)	SB 413-Trent
SB 366-McCreery	SB 414-Trent
SB 367-McCreery	SB 415-Black
SB 368-McCreery	SB 416-Black
SB 369-Brattin	SB 417-Carter
SB 370-Moon	SB 418-Carter
SB 371-Moon	SB 419-McCreery
SB 372-Moon	SB 420-McCreery
SB 373-Roberts	SB 421-McCreery
SB 374-Roberts	SB 422-Washington
SB 375-Washington	SB 423-Washington
SB 376-Washington	SB 424-Washington
SB 377-Washington	SB 425-Mosley
SB 378-Mosley	SB 426-Fitzwater
SB 379-Mosley	SB 427-Trent
SB 380-Mosley	SB 428-Trent

SB 429-Trent	SB 477-Brown (16)
SB 430-McCreery	SB 478-Trent
SB 431-McCreery	SB 479-Trent
SB 432-Washington	SB 480-Gregory (15)
SB 433-Washington	SB 481-Bernskoetter
SB 434-Washington	SB 482-Bernskoetter
SB 435-Trent	SB 483-Schroer
SB 436-Trent	SB 484-Schroer
SB 437-Trent	SB 485-Schroer
SB 438-Washington	SB 486-Schroer
SB 439-Washington	SB 487-Schroer
SB 440-Washington	SB 488-Crawford
SB 441-Trent	SB 489-Brown (26)
SB 442-Trent	SB 490-Schnelting
SB 443-Trent	SB 491-Schnelting
SB 444-Washington	SB 492-Crawford
SB 445-Washington	SB 493-Schroer
SB 446-Washington	SB 494-Schroer
SB 447-Trent	SB 495-Schroer
SB 448-Trent	SB 496-Nurrenbern
SB 449-Trent	SB 497-Nurrenbern
SB 450-Washington	SB 499-Schroer
SB 451-Trent	SB 500-Schroer
SB 452-Trent	SB 501-Carter
SB 453-Trent	SB 502-Hough
SB 454-Trent	SB 503-Henderson
SB 455-Hough	SB 504-Black
SB 456-Roberts	SB 505-Schroer
SB 457-Henderson	SB 506-Schroer
SB 458-Schnelting	SB 507-Schroer
SB 459-Schnelting	SB 508-Burger
SB 460-Gregory (21)	SB 509-Nicola
SB 461-Gregory (21)	SB 510-Nicola
SB 462-Gregory (21)	SB 511-Cierpiot
SB 463-Lewis	SB 512-Bernskoetter
SB 464-Lewis	SB 513-Brown (16)
SB 465-Lewis	SB 514-Black
SB 466-Gregory (21)	SB 515-Brown (26)
SB 467-Gregory (21)	SB 516-Brown (16)
SB 468-Lewis	SB 517-Schroer
SB 469-Lewis	SB 518-Trent
SB 470-Lewis	SB 519-Carter
SB 471-Lewis	SB 520-Carter
SB 472-Lewis	SB 521-Carter
SB 473-Schroer	SB 522-Brown (26)
SB 474-Nurrenbern	SB 523-Brown (26)
SB 475-Coleman	SB 524-Henderson
SB 476-Gregory (21)	SB 525-Schnelting

SB 526-Carter	SB 574-Schroer
SB 527-Carter	SB 575-Schroer
SB 528-Beck	SB 576-Schroer
SB 529-Crawford	SB 577-Schroer
SB 530-Crawford	SB 578-Bernskoetter
SB 531-Schroer	SB 579-Hudson
SB 532-Nicola	SB 580-Hudson
SB 533-Nicola	SB 581-Henderson
SB 534-Nicola	SB 582-Nurrenbern
SB 535-Crawford	SB 583-Gregory (15)
SB 536-Crawford	SB 584-Gregory (21)
SB 537-Brown (16)	SB 585-Brown (16)
SB 538-Schroer	SB 586-Hough
SB 539-Nurrenbern	SB 587-Hudson
SB 540-Moon	SB 588-Hudson
SB 541-Moon	SB 589-Hudson
SB 542-Henderson	SB 590-Hudson
SB 543-Lewis	SB 591-Hudson
SB 544-Lewis	SB 592-Carter
SB 545-Lewis	SB 593-Burger
SB 546-Lewis	SB 594-Burger
SB 547-Hudson	SB 595-Burger
SB 548-Black	SB 596-Gregory (15)
SB 549-Beck	SB 597-Gregory (15)
SB 550-Schroer	SB 598-Gregory (15)
SB 551-Roberts	SB 599-Gregory (15)
SB 552-Trent	SB 600-Schnelting
SB 553-Trent	SB 601-Gregory (21)
SB 554-Schroer	SB 602-Gregory (21)
SB 555-Hudson	SB 603-McCreery
SB 556-Henderson	SB 604-McCreery
SB 557-Burger	SB 605-McCreery
SB 558-Burger	SB 606-McCreery
SB 559-Burger	SB 607-McCreery
SB 560-Gregory (15)	SB 608-Lewis
SB 561-Gregory (15)	SB 609-Lewis
SB 562-Gregory (15)	SB 610-Gregory (21)
SB 563-Lewis	SB 611-May
SB 564-Williams	SB 612-May
SB 565-Bean	SB 613-Schnelting
SB 566-Crawford	SB 614-Fitzwater
SB 567-Gregory (21)	SB 615-Fitzwater
SB 568-Gregory (21)	SB 616-Webber
SB 569-Roberts	SB 617-Webber
SB 570-Hough	SB 618-Cierpiot
SB 571-Coleman	SB 619-Moon
SB 572-Coleman	SB 620-Gregory (15)
SB 573-Coleman	SB 621-Gregory (15)

SB 622-Gregory (15)	SJR 16-Mosley
SB 623-Hudson	SJR 17-Fitzwater
SB 624-Hudson	SJR 18-Fitzwater
SB 625-Moon	SJR 19-Fitzwater
SB 626-Carter	SJR 20-Trent
SB 627-Webber	SJR 21-Trent
SB 628-Webber	SJR 22-Trent
SB 629-Webber	SJR 23-Schroer
SB 630-Cierpiot	SJR 24-Schroer
SB 631-Brattin	SJR 25-Coleman
SB 632-Schroer	SJR 26-Coleman
SB 633-Bernskoetter	SJR 27-Carter
SB 634-Brown (16)	SJR 28-Carter
SB 635-Gregory (21)	SJR 29-Carter
SB 636-Gregory (21)	SJR 30-Brown (26)
SB 637-Roberts	SJR 31-Brown (26)
SB 638-Brattin	SJR 32-Hudson
SB 639-Henderson	SJR 33-Schnelting, et al
SB 640-Henderson	SJR 34-Nicola
SB 641-May	SJR 35-Nicola
SB 642-Hudson	SJR 36-Nurrenbern
SB 643-Hudson	SJR 37-Moon
SB 644-Crawford	SJR 38-Moon
SB 645-Schroer	SJR 39-Mosley
SJR 1-Cierpiot	SJR 40-Carter
SJR 2-O'Laughlin	SJR 41-Carter
SJR 3-O'Laughlin	SJR 42-Carter
SJR 4-Williams	SJR 43-Carter
SJR 5-Brattin	SJR 44-Carter
SJR 6-Brattin	SJR 45-Carter
SJR 7-Brattin	SJR 46-Carter
SJR 8-Moon	SJR 47-Carter
SJR 9-Moon	SJR 48-Schnelting
SJR 10-Moon	SJR 49-Lewis
SJR 11-Bean	SJR 50-Brattin
SJR 12-Washington	SJR 51-Hudson
SJR 13-Washington	SJR 52-Hudson
SJR 14-Mosley	SJR 53-Brattin
SJR 15-Mosley	SJR 54-Nicola

INFORMAL CALENDAR

RESOLUTIONS

SR 18-May	SR 39-Nurrenbern
SR 32-Moon	HCR 2-Riley (Luetkemeyer)

To be Referred

SR 85-Moon
SR 86-Moon

SR 87-Moon

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