***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
2023 Session Begins**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the beginning of the 2023 legislative session…

 **Nat Snd 1 :11 Q: the United States….**

The First Regular Session of the 102nd General Assembly began on Wednesday. The first week is largely ceremonial, with swearing ins on the first day and a relatively short day on Thursday…

 **Nat Snd 2 :06 Q: no longer there.**

New Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden of Columbia says there are eight new senators who start this week…

 **Rowden 1 :05 Q: to get there.**

Returning Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Independence says he is looking forward to another session…

 **Rizzo 1 :05 Q: state of Missouri.**

 **Nat Snd 3 :09 Q: to do it**

Senator Rowden says lawmakers continue to utilize the state operating budget as best as possible…

 **Rowden 2 :07 Q: anytime in history.**

Senator Rizzo adds he believes the Legislature should always take a careful approach when budgeting…

 **Rizzo 2 :06 Q: like going in.**

 **Nat Snd 4 :09 Q:**

Senator Rowden also says lawmakers are still reflecting on tax reforms that were made during last year’s extra session…

 **Rowden 3 :07 Q: come with us.**

Senator Rizzo says what happened in the extra session follows a pattern the Legislature has taken that would reduce taxes to the lowest point possible…

 **Rizzo 3 :09 Q: they’re coming from.**

 **Nat Snd 5 :07 Q: 38,000 a year.**

Senator Rowden also says transgender issues will likely be discussed this year…

 **Rowden 4 :05 Q: that’s going away.**

Senator Rizzo stresses he believes teacher pay remains a top priority…

 **Rizzo 4 :07 Q: a lot higher.**

 **Nat Snd 6 :04 Q: will stand adjourned….**

Session will resume on Monday.

Missouri senators hope to learn their committee assignments next week.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.