***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script  
Committee Assignments**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the first *full* week of the 2023 legislative session…

**Nat Snd 1 :05 Q: Sen. Rowden? Here….**

The first hearing took place this week when the Missouri Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee met on Wednesday morning. All committees have been named, along with their chairs and members, for this and next session. More panels will start meeting next week…

**Nat Snd 2 :06 Q: facing our state.**

New Missouri Senate Majority Floor Leader Cindy O’Laughlin of Shelbina says there is a new energy and new leadership in the upper chamber…

**O’Laughlin :07 Q: to doing that.**

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Independence adds he believes there is plenty of time to get to the major issues…

**Rizzo 1 :05 Q: for working families.**

**Nat Snd 3 :07 Q: difficult for us.**

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden of Columbia says, for him, the focus is on Missouri’s classrooms…

**Rowden 1 :06 Q: every education channel.**

But Sen. Rizzo says there are still differences in the approach on what may, and may not be, an issue…

**Rizzo 2 :05 Q: what it is.**

**Nat Snd 4 :04 Q: on starting-teacher salary.**

Senator Rowden, more specifically, says he favors teacher pay raises…

**Rowden 2 :08 Q: it’s hurting kids.**

But Sen. Rizzo says he believes this discussion is long overdue…

**Rizzo 3 :09 Q: for a profession.**

**Nat Snd 5 :03 Q: a tax cut.**

Senator Rowden says, when it comes to future tax cuts, Missouri currently has a stable economy and a budget surplus…

**Rowden 3 :07 Q: the money for.**

Senator Rizzo says he believes lawmakers need to concentrate on workforce development…

**Rizzo 4 :08 Q: for skilled-labor jobs.**

Missouri senators will return to Jefferson City on Tuesday. Monday is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Next week will also mark the governor’s annual budget address to lawmakers. Commonly known at the State of the State, the Missouri General Assembly will learn what the executive branch has in store for this legislative session on Wednesday afternoon.

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.