**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on Session Preview**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we preview more of the philosophies of Missouri senators, as we move closer to the next legislative session…

**Nat Snd / Runs :08 / OC: the labor movement.**

Senator Richard: *“I think it was a transformative election. I think we have a mandate to do several things.”*

Senator Walsh: *“We have to look at the bills and see what they mean to the labor movement.”*

Members of the leadership team, on the majority side, are waiting to hear from the next governor before they set forth the bulk of their agenda. Currently, they have their sights set on three main goals for next year.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard of Joplin says he sees a continued need to cut more red tape for businesses…

**Richard 1 / Runs :17 / OC: in their lives.**

*“We have different degrees of tort reform. We’ve got about nine or 10. We’re going to narrow that down. We’re going to be working on significant tort reform, yes. The governor’s going to give us some scenarios where he can do that by his action, and then we’ll see what legislation needs to be done to rescind some of the regulatory burdens that businesses and people have in their lives..”*

Incoming Senate Minority Floor Leader Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors adds, for her, potential Right to Work legislation continues to be a concern…

**Walsh 2 / Runs :19 / OC: back and regroup.**

*“We have to look at the bills and what they mean to the labor movement. As you know, that’s something that’s very important to me, and I’ve been talking to labor leaders since the election. The reality of what happened was that the leadership in that community gave it their all, and our membership did not come to the plate. We have to face that. We have to fall back and regroup.”*

Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kehoe of Jefferson City says for both he and the governor-elect, transportation remains “top of mind”…

**Kehoe 3 / Runs :17 / OC: to speed on.**

*“Infrastructure is something he’s very interested in, and I’ve talked to him a few times about that. I know Sen. [Doug] Libla has talked to him multiple times about that. But, as you know, even people who have been elected and in this building for several years, don’t understand infrastructure funding because it’s very complicated and takes a long time to get up to speed on.”*

Senator Walsh again points to the difference between running for office and winning a race…

**Walsh 4 / Runs :18 / OC: at his tenor**

*“I’m willing to give the governor the benefit of the doubt. You know, I learned something the night of the election — actually, the next morning. When I got back, I was laying in bed, listening to the television — before I went to the sleep — and I heard Pres.-Elect Trump’s speech, and I was really surprised at his tenor.”*

Prefiling legislation continues, in advance of the 2017 session, with approximately 200 bills now ready for the upcoming session and a dozen joint resolutions set for potential action in the coming year — and this only counts Missouri Senate measures.

The First Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly will begin at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

When lawmakers return to Jefferson City next month, they will do so with one vacancy in the upper chamber, as Sen. Mike Parson of Bolivar is lieutenant governor-elect. There’s no word, yet, on when a special election would be called to fill the unexpired term.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus see a [complete list of prefiled legislation](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/BTS_Web/BillList.aspx?SessionType=R) — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting for the Missouri Senate, I’m Dean Morgan.