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

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review some of the thoughts of Missouri senators, as they near the start of the next legislative session…

**Nat Snd / Runs :08 / OC: hurt my caucus.**

Senator Kehoe: *“You know, you have campaigns. People go out and they campaign on different issues.”*

Senator Walsh: *“I don’t know that I have a need to forget it. I don’t know that it will hurt my caucus.”*

For many people, Nov. 8 is now a distant memory. But, for those who were involved in getting elected or re-elected, some of the words that were said going into the election may continue to echo.

For the 33 people who will comprise the upcoming 99th General Assembly in the Missouri Senate, the only thing on their minds is doing the job to which they were elected.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kehoe of Jefferson City says there’s a difference between campaigning and governing…

**Kehoe 1 / Runs :13 / OC: how it goes.**

*“You know, you have campaigns, people go out and they campaign on different issues. I don’t consider myself a corrupt person. I don’t consider the senators I serve with, on either side of the aisle, corrupt people. So, it is what it is. That’s what you do to campaign and that’s how it goes.”*

Incoming Senate Minority Floor Leader Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors adds those things said in campaigns don’t necessarily reflect future legislation…

**Walsh 2 / Runs :29 / OC: forward for Missouri.**

*“I don’t know that I have a need to forget it. I don’t know that it will hurt my caucus or my members moving forward, because they’re willing to work with the new administration. Right? We serve in the minority. As you know, you can all count to nine. There are nine of us. So, the ball is in the majority’s court. They own the [Missouri] House and the Senate and the governor’s mansion. And, until I have reason not to, I am willing to work with everybody in this building to move things forward for Missouri.”*

When Missouri’s new fiscal year began on July 1, Missouri senators were also able to start pre-filing bills. “Pre-file” means to put together something a lawmaker would like to see changed, deleted from or added to state law. The potential legislation is first put into words and then researched, in case such a statute already exists in Missouri law.

All of the different proposals are held by those lawmakers who hope to sponsor the legislation in the year that will follow. Then, on Dec. 1, those ideas receive their bill numbers for the upcoming regular legislative session. Bills are numbered based on the sponsor’s seniority in the Missouri Senate. For instance, the person who has been in the upper chamber the longest — who also served a full eight years in the Missouri House of Representatives — is considered to be the senior-most member of the Missouri Senate. Since term limits also play a role — meaning there can be more than one senator who is in his or her final two years in office, AND was in the Missouri House for four terms — other factors are taken into consideration before levels of seniority are granted.

These measures are then the first to be considered when the next session begins in January.

And, as always, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus see a [complete list of pre-filed legislation](http://www.senate.mo.gov/legislation/) — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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