***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Mid-Session Recess**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the first half of the Second Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly…

**Nat Snd  
:06  
Q: we don’t agree.**

Missouri senators say it has been a productive two and a half months.

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard of Joplin says progress has been made on several issues…

**Richard 1  
:03  
Q: clear path forward.**

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur adds measures that pass generally reflect the majority of the Missouri Senate…

**Schupp 1  
:06  
Q: have bipartisan support.**

Missouri Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kehoe of Jefferson City says [Senate Bill 617, 611 and 667](http://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=69472991) – tax reform legislation -- includes several senators, not just the sponsor…

**Kehoe 1  
:04  
Q: their concerns are.**

Senator Schupp points out her concerns with the proposal…

**Schupp 2  
:09  
Q: General Revenue-neutral proposal.**

Senator Richard points out economic development remains his top priority, in the remaining eight weeks of session…

**Richard 2  
:04  
Q: and job expansion.**

Senator Schupp says she agrees with improving economic development opportunities…

**Schupp 3  
:03  
Q: that end goal?**

In looking ahead to the second half of the legislative session, Sen. Kehoe mentions a part of tax reform includes an increase to the state gas tax…

**Kehoe 2  
:05  
Q: of their recommendation.**

But, Sen. Schupp says she has other issues with the tax bill…

**Schupp 4  
:06  
Q: to sit down.**

In the first half of the Second Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly, 558 Missouri Senate and 660 Missouri House bills were introduced, with 71 bills and resolutions having passed the upper chamber and two House bills sent to the executive branch.

With eight weeks to go, lawmakers also have to have the Fiscal Year 2019 state operating budget approved and sent to the governor no later than 6 p.m. on Friday, May 11.

Missouri senators will return to Jefferson City on Monday, March 26. The Second Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly will officially end on Friday, May 18.

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.