***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script  
Session Preview – Priorities**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review legislative priorities for both caucuses, heading into the next session…

**Nat Snd :06 Q: are every year.**

For each Missouri senator, there are differing priorities for the new year.

But, collectively, this list is narrowed to a smaller list on which most members can agree.

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz of Sullivan says, above all else, the [Missouri Constitution](https://revisor.mo.gov/main/Home.aspx) requires a balanced budget each year…

**Schatz 1 :03 Q: that reflects that.**

The [Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) is among those panels that meets first, given the timeline in which to have a budget approved and delivered to the executive branch in early May.

Senator Schatz also says there remains a need for infrastructure improvements…

**Schatz 2 :04 Q: conversation about that.**

Last year’s bonding proposal equals more than 200 Missouri bridges receiving repairs, starting this year. But, other questions remain, particularly toward lettered highways and I-70. These are concerns that have been in the forefront for many years.

Senator Schatz adds economic development, through tort reform, remains fully unresolved…

**Schatz 3 :04 Q: the business community.**

Senator Schatz says another priority is a perennial topic…

**Schatz 4 :05 Q: of bills filed.**

State law dictates a minimum of 25 percent of the state operating budget be for education. Exactly how the money will be used will be up to not only lawmakers, but those who serve on the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee.

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader Gina Walsh of Bellefontaine Neighbors says jobs remain a priority for her membership…

**Walsh 1 : 04 Q: a fair wage.**

In addition to economic development incentive items that are introduced, a family-leave plan has been in the mix the last couple of years.

Senator Walsh also says most legislative priorities stay the same from year to year…

**Walsh 2 :04 Q: always come back.**

She adds education funding is always a top priority…

**Walsh 3 :04 Q: moving it around.**

Senator Walsh says public safety is another pressing issue…

**Walsh 4 :04 Q: just affluent areas.**

As mentioned last week, work done by the [Missouri Senate Interim Committee on Public Safety](https://www.senate.mo.gov/sips/) will be a focal point for many lawmakers during this upcoming legislative session.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate — plus, see a complete list of [pre-filed legislation](https://www.senate.mo.gov/20info/BTS_Web/BillList.aspx?SessionType=R) — by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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