***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
Session Begins**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the beginning of the 2021 legislative session…

 **Nat Snd 1 :02 Q: everyone in the….**

The First Regular Session of the 101st General Assembly began on Wednesday with 11 new members sworn into office…

**Nat Snd 2 :07 Q: from this pandemic.**

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz of Sullivan says some priorities carry over from year to year…

 **Schatz 1 :05 Q: in the future.**

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Kansas City adds battling COVID-19 is his priority…

 **Rizzo 1 :06 Q: needs to be.**

 **Nat Snd 3 :04 Q: I think safety.**

With 34 individual voices in the upper chamber, how does Sen. Schatz measure legislative success?...

 **Schatz 2 :07 Q: call that successful.**

Senator Rizzo says mainly, at this point, success means protecting Missourians against coronavirus…

 **Rizzo 2 :05 Q: that’s a success.**

**Nat Snd 4 :07 Q: the top down.**

Senator Schatz says, when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, some local officials’ decisions have been controversial…

 **Schatz 3 :13 Q: people are protected.**

Senator Rizzo says he believes mayors and county commissions have made necessary local decisions…

 **Rizzo 3 :12 Q: when they do.**

 **Nat Snd 5 :06 Q: that right now.**

Senator Schatz says the pandemic may mean limited access to the Capitol…

 **Schatz 4 :12 Q: a safe manner.**

Senator Rizzo adds it comes down to what can be done, within the parameters of Missouri Senate rules…

 **Rizzo 4 :08 Q: as be safe.**

Missouri senators will soon learn their committee assignments, at which point those panels can begin to hear legislation.

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.