***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script
Election Reform**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we look deeper into some of the ideas Missouri senators have for election reform…

**Nat Snd :07 Q: discussions right now.**

Making changes to elections has been something the Missouri Legislature has dealt with for decades. Over the years, several ideas have been floated and/or put into practice, including what is referred to as “motor voter,” early voting, easing restrictions on absentee voting and changes made last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

There were several measures introduced during this year’s regular legislative session, most of which were not fully discussed for varying reasons, mainly due to a lack of time — combined with all of the matters lawmakers saw this year.

Missouri Senate Majority Floor Leader Caleb Rowden of Columbia says election “reform” does not mean restricting people…

 **Rowden 1 :22 Q: what’s happening nationally.**

Some of the concern has surrounded mail-in ballots, and any discrepancies that may or may not have occurred in states where these were used last year. At the same time, there are typically questions over early voting, and how long before an election it should be allowed.

Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Kansas City says there has to be some sort of balance…

 **Rizzo :20 Q: difficult to vote.**

Most of the election-related legislation this year either drew from last year’s actions to ensure safer voting during the pandemic or was related to last year’s elections.

Senator Rowden says one of the election reform measures that came from the Missouri House of Representatives this year was, in his opinion, inadequate…

 **Rowden 2 :17 Q: good public policy.**

As is usually the case, some of the same legislation introduced this year will see a return during next year’s regular legislative session. Prefiled proposals will begin to see official bill numbers for the 2022 session assigned to them on Dec. 1.

The Second Regular Session of the 101st General Assembly will start in January.

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.