

2022 Capitol Issues Guide



State Senator
Eric Burlison

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contact Your State Legislators and Elected Officials

State Senator Eric Burlison.....	2
State Representatives.....	3
State Elected Officials.....	3

2022 Capitol Issues

Energy	4-5
Election Integrity.....	6
Second Amendment.....	7-8
Term Limits	8
COVID-19.....	9
Critical Race Theory	10

Dear friend,

I have put together this 2022 Capitol Issues Guide to share a few of my top legislative priorities this year. These issues are some of the most important questions we have faced in our state. I am committed to ensuring the security and integrity of our elections, protecting your Second Amendment rights, fighting against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and preventing Critical Race Theory from being taught in our public schools.

It is an honor to serve as your voice in the Missouri Senate, and I am immensely thankful for your support. If you have any questions or concerns regarding state government, please do not hesitate to contact my Senate office.

Sincerely,



Eric Burlison, State Senator, 20th Senatorial District



STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Serving the 20th Senatorial District

To find your state representative, visit house.mo.gov.

Bishop Davidson – District 130	573-751-2381
Bill Owen – District 131	573-751-2948
Curtis Trent – District 133	573-751-0136
Alex Riley – District 134	573-751-2210
Betsy Fogle – District 135	573-751-9809
Craig Fishel – District 136	573-751-0232
John Black – District 137	573-751-3819
Brad Hudson – District 138	573-751-3851
Jered Taylor – District 139	573-751-3833
Tricia Derges – District 140	573-751-2565

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Governor Michael L. Parson	573-751-3222 governor.mo.gov
Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe	573-751-4727 ltgov.mo.gov
Secretary of State John (Jay) R. Ashcroft 600 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65101	573-751-4936 sos.mo.gov
State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick	573-751-8533 treasurer.mo.gov
State Auditor Nicole Galloway	573-751-4824 auditor.mo.gov
Attorney General Eric Schmitt 207 W. High St., Jefferson City, MO 65101	573-751-3321 ago.mo.gov

2022 CAPITOL ISSUES

ENERGY



Missouri's energy grid is one of the lifelines of our state. With massive blackouts in Texas and California in the past year due to extreme weather, it is important to ensure our energy sources are reliable and resistant to extreme weather changes. I have filed a few bills that I believe will improve our state's energy reliability.

- **Senate Bill 820** would address overzealous homeowners associations (HOAs) that create restrictive regulations for their members regarding the installation of solar panels on members' personal property. The bill states no contract can be made that limits or prohibits the installation of solar panels. These HOA regulations can range from superficial to downright ridiculous, and it is affecting a member's right to manage their property as they see fit. Homeowners should have the right to install solar panels on their property to reduce their energy costs and help our environment.

- It is important to ensure we have different fuel sources across our power grid to reduce the risk of a catastrophic event decimating a single large power plant. Utility-scale solar projects can provide this type of diversity and resiliency. They are generally not compromised by flooding, and the panels and racking systems are rated high for withstanding wind, hail and lightning. **Senate Bill 881** authorizes a sales tax exemption for purchases by a Missouri company of products or equipment to generate solar energy. Utilities currently receive a similar sales tax exemption for the purchase of energy-generating equipment, so this legislation would extend that exemption to companies that produce solar energy.
- **Senate Bill 969** establishes the Missouri Nuclear Clean Power Act and would encourage the construction of nuclear facilities that will create reliable base load generation sources for Missouri's energy needs. Additionally, capital rates will be subject to approval by the Public Service Commission and may be added to current rates. Nuclear energy is dependable and affordable, and maybe most importantly, not susceptible to blackouts due to extreme weather and provides clean energy to protect our environment and residents.
- **Senate Bill 1073** establishes the "Affordable, Abundant, Reliable Electricity Act," requiring the Public Service Commission to coordinate with regional transmission organizations to develop policies that incentivize supplying reliable power in an effective and consistent manner. This legislation would ensure that electric-generating facilities are not closed prematurely by conducting a cost-benefit analysis of keeping it open. Missouri's electric grid must have robust minimum standards and maintain a strong reserve margins to protect our state against unforeseen needs and events.



ELECTION INTEGRITY

Our democracy is built on the foundation that we, as citizens of the United States, have the power to elect individuals to represent us in all levels of government. If we can no longer trust the security and integrity of our elections, our entire political system could collapse. I believe it is imperative, especially after the chaos and confusion of the 2020 general election, that we tighten election laws in Missouri to further secure our elections and gain back the trust of Missourians.

Senate Bill 668 focuses on four critical areas that need the most attention:

- ✓ Cyber security - ensure that no election tabulation machines are connected to the Internet;
- ✓ Private funding influencing election authorities - prevent private individuals or entities from funding election authorities in the state;
- ✓ Lack of election judges - remove unnecessary restrictions that prevent Missouri residents from filling vital roles in the election process; and
- ✓ Illegal voting - require a valid government-issued ID to vote.



One of the most important rights enumerated in the United States Constitution is the right to bear arms. In recent years, I have been increasingly concerned about federal gun laws and their effect on the Second Amendment. I have always been committed to strengthening and protecting this essential right to protect ourselves and our families.

Strengthening Stand Your Ground

- Under our state's current self-defense law, the defendant has the burden to prove he or she reasonably believed physical or deadly force was necessary to protect him or herself or a third person. **Senate Bill 666** shifts that burden to the prosecution, and there would be a presumption of reasonableness that the defendant believed such force was necessary. This legislation is modeled after the Florida statute and would protect law-abiding citizens from harassment and unnecessary prosecution. I believe passing this bill would demonstrate that Missouri truly supports our Second Amendment liberties and the right to defend ourselves.

Second Amendment Preservation Act

- During last year's legislative session, I sponsored the Senate version of the Second Amendment Preservation Act and proudly watched the governor sign the bill into law. This law prohibits local law enforcement agencies from enforcing any federal firearms laws that restrict or prohibit the use, ownership or manufacture of firearms. It is important to ensure that Missouri fights back against federal gun laws that seek to restrict our Second Amendment rights.



TERM LIMITS

I filed **Senate Concurrent Resolution 25** this session to call for an Article V convention in order for the states to place term limits on members of Congress.

The lack of term limits has allowed individuals to become career politicians, forgetting what it is like to live under the plethora of laws they pass and how it affects everyday Americans. Establishing term limits will reduce the chance that one person holds excessive influence on public policy and allows for the best and brightest of our county to have the opportunity to represent their communities.

COVID-19


In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many policies and decisions were made out of fear and lack of information about the virus. We were unsure about masks, how far to stay apart from others or when it might be safe to gather again.

Two years later, our country is in a much better place regarding the pandemic, but we are still dealing with COVID-19 vaccines mandates. As someone who has worked in the health care industry for years, I understand the real threat a pandemic poses to our society. That is why we stayed home in March 2020 to flatten the curve. We did what we needed to do without complaint.

From then on, we saw countless mandates and restrictions imposed by unelected bureaucrats who trampled on our civil liberties, all in the name of public health, and unsurprisingly, we are still seeing these mandates today. I believe that government can have the necessary authority to address these issues, while also protecting our civil liberties.

I believe the greatest infringement we have seen so far are vaccination mandates. My faith tells me that my body is a temple, and I am to take care of what I put into it. I believe I should be able to practice my religion freely and assert my religious beliefs as a valid reason to refuse a vaccine or any other medical treatment or procedure.

I believe everyone should have the freedom to make the best possible health care decisions with their physician, without coercion from government officials, and I will continue to fight for your religious rights and health care freedom.



Critical Race Theory

America's history is complex. Even though there are parts we wish we could change, we would never think to change the facts or how we teach it. Critical race theory aims to rewrite our country's history by claiming every system in our nation is inherently racist.

As a Christian, I believe everyone is made in God's image, and we should treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of the color of their skin. Teaching CRT seeks to further divide us, when right now, we need to stay unified and work together to solve the problems in our country.

For that reason, I have co-sponsored **Senate Bill 645**, which prohibits K-12 public schools from teaching divisive and racially-charged concepts. Education curriculum should be comprehensive and well-balanced. Under SB 645, each local school board would be responsible for approving and adopting curriculum used by their school district. They would also require that all their curriculum be available for review without cost to the general public. This legislation is about ensuring that there is accountability and transparency at the local level regarding what is being taught in classrooms.