



Legislative Update

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STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Mike Parson delivered the State of the State Address to a joint session of the House and Senate in the House Chamber on January 16. The State of the State address gives the Governor a chance to present his vision for the state and his budget priorities. Governor Parson focused on workforce development and infrastructure.

The Governor's budget recommendations for FY 2019-20 include several increases for K-12 public education, including:

- \$61 million for the basic equity funding formula, which will provide full funding for next year based on the most recent DESE estimate,
- \$3 million for the Early Childhood Special Education program, and
- \$10 million for transportation services.

The Governor's budget recommendations for FY 2019-20 keep aid to colleges and universities approximately level with the current year and move funding and staff for workforce development programs from the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Higher Education. The Governor also recommends several increases for higher education, including:

- \$22 million for the newly-proposed Fast Track program to provide grants to students over age 25 years with household incomes under \$80,000 working on degree programs that fill high-needs skills gaps,
- \$16 million for the newly-proposed Missouri Excels program, a program for Missouri higher education institutions to develop and expand employer-driven education, training programs, and initiatives to increase career readiness, and
- \$20 million for institution deferred maintenance at four-year colleges and universities.

MNEA remains hopeful that the Governor and legislature can work together to fulfill the promise of a quality education for all Missouri students, regardless of where they live.

HOUSE REVISES RULES

The House debated and approved House Committee Substitute for House Resolution 7 (Vescovo) to revise House rules on January 15. A number of amendments were considered before the resolution was adopted. In addition to other changes, the resolution adds language in response to the portion of Constitutional Amendment 1 (CLEAN Missouri) establishing that legislative records are public records and subject to Missouri's Sunshine Law. Rule 127 allows House members to maintain confidential constituent case files and allows the majority and minority party caucuses to maintain

confidential records regarding caucus strategy. Under this House rule, confidential constituent case files include written or electronic correspondence between a member and a constituent or other party regarding a constituent's grievance, a question of eligibility of the constituent for any benefit, or any issue regarding a constituent's request for assistance. The House rejected House Amendment 12, offered by Rep. Burnett, to add a new rule regarding lobbyist gifts, an issue also addressed by the provisions of Constitutional Amendment 1. Amendment 1 provides that lobbyist gifts are limited to five dollars per occurrence.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz released his appointments to Senate committees on January 16.

The membership of the Senate Education Committee will be:

Gary Romine, chair
Wayne Wallingford, vice-chair
Ed Emery
Doug Libla
Bob Onder
Cindy O'Laughlin
Jason Holsman
Jill Schupp
Lauren Arthur

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES APPOINTED

House Speaker Elijah Haahr released his appointments for House education committees on January 16.

The membership of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee will be:

Rebecca Roeber, chair
Chuck Basye, vice-chair
Judy Morgan
Dottie Bailey
Ben Baker
Gretchen Bangert
Paula Brown
Phil Christofanelli
Mary Elizabeth Coleman
Shamed Dogan
Karla Eslinger
Raychel Proudie
Dan Stacy
Kathryn Swan

The membership of the House Higher Education Committee will be:

Dean Dohrman, chair
Elaine Gannon, vice-chair
Greg Razer
John Black
Ann Kelley
Kip Kendrick
Raychel Proudie
Jeff Shawan
Brenda Shields
Curtis Trent

SENATE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee met on January 16 to hear a number of appointments and reappointments, including Kayla Sue Schoonover, Independent, as a member of the Missouri Western State University Board of Governors. The committee approved the appointments, but the appointments have not yet been taken up and approved by the full Senate.

The Gubernatorial Appointments Committee will need to meet regularly over the next several weeks to hear all of the interim appointments made since Veto Session last year. Interim appointments must be approved by the Senate within thirty days of the start of session or the appointment fails and, if not properly withdrawn by the Governor, the prospective appointee can never be appointed to that position.

REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND YOUR MNEA LEGISLATIVE FORUM!

Missouri NEA's regional legislative events started with the Mid-Missouri Legislative Forum in Columbia on January 17. These free events will be legislative discussion panels. As in previous years, these events provide a chance for members to build relationships with area legislators and support their understanding of MNEA priorities and education issues. Plan to attend and invite fellow members, administrators and school board members who would enjoy and benefit from a discussion regarding support for public education!

LEGISLATIVE FORUM SCHEDULE:

Jefferson County/Southeast Legislative Forum	January 24
Kansas City Regional Legislative Forum	January 31
St. Louis Legislative Forum	March 7

PLEASE REGISTER NOW for your regional MNEA Legislative Forum at

<https://www.mnea.org/Missouri/PoliticalAction/5.aspx>

Be sure to click through the "RSVP now" link for your event and then "Send RSVP" to register. For additional information contact Sandy Smith (sandy.smith@mnea.org).

CAPITOL ACTION DAYS RETURN!

MNEA Capitol Action Days will allow planned, face-to-face contact with legislators throughout the session. Capitol Action Days will generally be on Wednesdays starting in February and continuing through the end of session in May. For details and contact information, please visit:

<http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/CapitolActionDays.aspx>

Your MNEA calendar includes the dates that MNEA Board of Directors members selected for your Governance District. If you are not able to attend on these designated days, feel free to contact Sandy Smith (sandy.smith@mnea.org) to arrange to attend a different Capitol Action Day. Each Capitol Action Day will start with a briefing at 10:00 a.m. to provide you with the most up-to-date information.

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