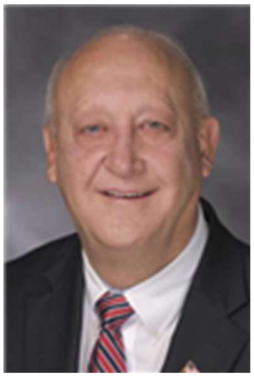

CAPITOL REPORT
DALE WRIGHT

DISTRICT 116
MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEES

*ELECTIONS
*HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
*WAYS AND MEANS

August 14, 2026

Dear Friends,

Today's legislative report focuses on legislation addressing economic growth and infrastructure, building a stronger future for Missouri, and our General Revenue Fiscal 2027 year projections. If you have any questions regarding any of the following bills or issues, please feel free to contact my office by email or office phone. I am always happy to assist you and provide any additional information you may need.

Economic Growth and Infrastructure Legislation
During the 2026 legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly passed measures to address economic development, infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism, and local development. August 28th is when legislation can become actual laws.

HBs3231 and 2531 allow participating communities to establish special development areas designed to attract businesses, encourage job creation, support housing development, and improve infrastructure. **They expand the Missouri Downtown and Rural Economic Stimulus Act** which provides financing and tax tools for redevelopment projects that help communities compete for outside investments while supporting downtown revitalization, business expansion, housing, and long-term economic growth.

SB 1553 creates new incentives for companies investing in the production of critical materials and pharmaceuticals in Missouri. The legislation establishes tax credits and grant opportunities for qualifying businesses making significant investments in manufacturing facilities and equipment. It includes workforce development requirements and provisions designed to ensure companies receiving incentives fulfill their commitments. The measure is intended to strengthen Missouri's manufacturing base, attract strategic industries, and improve the state's ability to produce important materials and pharmaceutical products domestically.

SB 913 extends existing agricultural, energy, and economic development tax credits through 2033 and includes credits in wood energy, biodiesel, ethanol, meat processing, urban agriculture, railroad rolling stock, and specialty agricultural crops. The bill also creates a new Railroad Infrastructure Tax Credit beginning in 2027 to encourage investment in railroad maintenance and expansion projects.

SB 903 expands Missouri's infrastructure protections to include telecommunications networks and fiber infrastructure. The legislation increases penalties for damaging or stealing telecommunications infrastructure and creates a new offense for unauthorized possession of certain copper, brass, aluminum, fiber, and telecommunications materials.

SB 1408 increases Missouri's maximum speed limit on rural interstates and freeways from 70 miles per hour to 75 miles per hour.

Building Missouri's Future
The Missouri House Future Caucus has released a framework designed to help local governments evaluate proposed artificial intelligence infrastructure projects and their potential impacts on their communities.

The AI Infrastructure Community Evaluation Framework (AICEF) will provide cities and counties with a customizable tool for assessing issues including electric and water demands, infrastructure costs, potential impacts on utility customers and taxpayers, tax incentives, and the overall fiscal benefits of proposed projects. The framework also encourages communities to establish measurable and enforceable commitments for benefits promised by developers.

The framework is intended to help communities approach AI infrastructure proposals from a position of strength while protecting local resources and neighborhoods.

State Releases Preliminary 2027 Health Insurance Rates
The Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance has released preliminary information on health insurance plans and premiums for Missouri's 2027 individual and small group markets.

The department is reviewing proposed rates to determine whether requested changes are justified and whether plans comply with state and federal requirements. Missourians can review the proposed rates and submit public comments through Aug. 31. Final rates are expected to be published no later than Oct. 31.

insurance companies are expected to continue offering individual coverage in the state, while four companies are expected to offer plans in Missouri's small group market. The individual market generally serves Missourians who do not receive health insurance through an employer, while the small group market serves businesses with two to 50 employees.

First Active Classroom Teacher Appointed to State Board of Education
Michael McDonald of Kansas City, a math teacher in the Park Hill School District, was appointed to the board's teacher representative position. The advisory position was established by state law in 2018 but had remained vacant since its creation.

Former St. Louis Mayor Vincent Schoemehl Jr. was also appointed to the board. Schoemehl previously served on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and St. Louis Public Schools Board and was president and CEO of Grand Center, Inc. before retiring in 2015.

The State Board of Education establishes policies and standards for Missouri public schools and oversees the work of the Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education. Under state law, the teacher representative participates in State Board meetings but does not vote. The position carries a four-year term, must be held by an active classroom teacher, and rotates among Missouri's congressional districts.

Missouri General Revenue Collections Increase in July

Missouri began the 2027 fiscal year with an increase in state general revenue collections. State Budget Director Dan Haug reported that net general revenue collections totaled $880.8 million in July, up 5% from $839 million during July 2025.

Several major revenue sources increased compared to the same month last year. Individual income tax collections rose 1.9% to $510.9 million, while sales and use tax collections increased 8.5% to $333.6 million. Corporate income and corporate franchise tax collections increased 15% to $43.3 million, and pass-through entity tax collections rose 3.3% to $20.7 million.

Collections from all other sources declined 29.3%, from $54.2 million to $38.3 million.
Refunds totaled $66.1 million, down 19.4% from $82 million in July 2025
July marked the first month of Fiscal Year 2027, which began July 1.

My Best to You!