

# Missouri Senate

## Senator Andrew Koenig

District 15

### Legislative Biography



MO Sen. Andrew Koenig is a Senator in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 15th district and received 54.0% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Education and Education committees, and a member of the Tax Policy, Emerging Issues, MO Local Government and Elections, and Fiscal Oversight committees.

He works most frequently on Taxation (128 bills), Health (98 bills), Law (89 bills), Economics and Public Finance (88 bills), and Education (77 bills). He has sponsored 227 bills in his last thirteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 89.8% of the time, getting 36.12% of his bills out of committee, and 3.08% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Sen. Koenig was involved in business. He received his undergraduate degree from Lindenwood University (MO) and an undergraduate degree from Marquette High School.

#### **About**

Assumed Office - 2016

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Manchester, MO

Term - 2nd term

#### **Previous Experience**

Owner, Construction Company (Roofing and Painting)

Licensed Insurance Adjuster, 2006

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 1/29/2024](#)]

### Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
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SB 5	Allows the enrollment of nonresident students in public school districts	Anti-Labor	Voted Yea in Education and Workforce Development Committee
SB 4	Attacks on Teacher Curriculum + Parental Bill of Rights	Culture Wars	Primary Sponsor and Voted Yea
SB 134	Attacks on LGBTQIA+ Student & Teachers ("Don't Say Gay")	Culture Wars	Voted Yea in Education and Workforce Development Committee
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Voted Yea

Other

**Even with Missouri having some of the most restrictive laws in the United States, Senator Andrew Koenig introduced legislation furthering abortion restrictions in Missouri.** Andrew Koenig proposed legislation that would have made it illegal for employers to assist employees in getting abortions. Those who did so would no longer have been able to be awarded grants, tax credits, or other financial benefits from the state. SB 1077 sought to impose stringent regulations on the relationship between employers and their employees regarding reproductive healthcare choices. [[SB 1077](#), Second Read and Referred S Health and Welfare Committee, 1/25/2024; KCUR, [1/7/2024](#)]

**Senator Andrew Koenig sought to drop basic requirements for child labor laws.** In 2023, Andrew Koenig sought changes and advocated for eliminating work permit requirements for children. His proposed legislation aimed to repeal various provisions associated with youth work certificates, specifically removing the prohibition on employers from demanding a certificate as a condition of employment for individuals under 18. According to his proposal, employers would have been mandated to obtain signed permission slips from a parent or guardian under specific work conditions if employing a child between the ages of 14 and 16. SB 175 was voted 'Do Pass' in the Education and Workforce Development Committee but did not become law. [Missourinet, [4/27/2023](#); [SB 175](#), SCS Voted Do Pass S Education and Workforce Development Committee, 2/21/2023]

**Senator Andrew Koenig was the primary sponsor of legislation interfering with public school curricula in an attempt to intimidate instruction on topics related to racism and race-related issues.** Over the past few years, MAGA Extremists in Missouri have led the nation in educational intimidation legislation, outpacing Texas and Oklahoma. Senate Bill 4 was only one of thirty-one such attacks on Missouri students and teachers. The bill attempted to intimidate teachers and public instruction related to racism and race-related issues by creating a statewide portal housing school financial data and every public school curriculum. Senate Bill 4, like many other Republican-led attacks on teachers and students, banned the teaching of Critical Race Theory in public schools. Critical Race Theory, or CRT, has become a catch-all term for MAGA Republicans' attempts to ban instruction on racism. According to KCUR, any district out of compliance with these MAGA Extremist demands would "be subject to litigation or other form of redress and to a civil

penalty of \$500 per occurrence.” [[SB 4](#), Missouri State Legislature, Regular Session 2023; KCUR, [1/24/2023](#); St. Louis Post Dispatch, [8/23/2023](#)]

**Senator Andrew Koenig sought to dismantle Missouri’s Sunshine Law and make it much more difficult for the public to request government records.** Senator Andrew Koenig sponsored SB 174, seeking to amend the definitions of "closed record," "public business," "public meeting," and "public record" in relation to the Sunshine Law. The bill also proposed repealing requirements mandating public bodies to maintain internal communication records and disclose them as a "public record." In 1973, Missouri became one of the earliest states to open all levels of government meetings and records to the public by adopting the Sunshine Law. This legislation rendered meetings, records, votes, actions, and deliberations of public entities accessible to the public unless specific reasons were outlined by statute. SB 174 was voted ‘Do Pass’ in the Senate Governmental Accountability Committee but never became law. [News Tribune, [2/27/2023](#); SB 174, SCS Voted Do Pass S Governmental Accountability Committee, [2/23/2023](#)]

**While advocating against public health orders during the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Andrew Koenig contracted the virus and potentially infected others in lengthy committee hearings.** According to Call Newspapers, “A state Senator who represents South County and West County and has been a harsh critic of business restrictions intended to limit the spread of COVID-19 has tested positive for the contagion and may have infected others during two lengthy committee meetings. Sen. Andrew Koenig, R-Manchester, confirmed on Twitter Friday afternoon that he is ill, sending the tweet about 18 hours after rumors began circulating of his infection... There are potentially 10 lawmakers who may be close contacts to Koenig. The virus is known to be transmissible before symptoms are present and Koenig has not responded to questions about when he noticed symptoms or when he was tested.” [Call Newspapers, [1/8/2021](#)]

**Senator Andrew Koenig supported legislation outlawing the discussion of LGBTQ-related issues in public schools claiming it would stop schools from “indoctrinating kids”.** Senate Bill 134, Missouri’s more extreme version of Florida’s infamous “Don’t Say Gay” bill, would have outlawed K-12 discussion of any LGBTQ person or related issue. Senator Andrew Koenig claimed it would stop schools from “indoctrinating kids.” According to the Associated Press, “Missouri’s bill would only allow licensed mental health care providers to talk to students about gender identity and LGBTQ issues in K-12 public schools, and only if guardians first give permission.” The bill stipulates that any violation of the MAGA Extremist demands will result in “charges of incompetence, immorality, and neglect of duty under the laws governing the discipline of holders of certificate of license to teach.” [KSDK, [2/14/2023](#); [SB 134](#), Missouri State Legislature, Regular Session 2023; Associated Press, [2/7/2023](#)]

**While receiving financial support from a dark money group, Senator Andrew Koenig claimed to not know how the group was spending money and admitted how the lack of transparency gave potential advantage to political insiders over the general public.**

According to the Columbia Missourian, Sen. Andrew Koenig received support from the Freedom’s Promise PAC. This PAC was established in October 2018 by St. Louis lawyer Mark Milton, who serves

as the treasurer for 13 PACs, including the one supporting Koenig. Despite being associated with the PAC, Koenig claimed not to know how Freedom's Promise allocates its funds. However, he did confirm his involvement in fundraising efforts. The senator acknowledged the potential lack of transparency associated with PACs, conceding that political insiders might be more informed about their activities than the general public. [Columbia Missourian, [6/23/2020](#)]

**In 2024, Senator Andrew Koenig was removed from his Committee Chairmanship with his behavior described as an “embarrassment,” a “swamp creature,” and belonging to the “Chaos Caucus.”** Senator Andrew Koenig was removed from the position of Chair of the Committee on Education and Workforce Development in January 2024. This decision came as part of a broader move by the top leader of the Missouri Senate, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, who announced the removal of several state senators from their committee assignments. According to Fox 2 Now Rowden said, “The beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session in the Senate has been nothing short of an embarrassment. . . . A chamber designed to be occupied with civil, principal statesmen and women have been overtaken by a small group of swamp creatures who remind me all too often of my children than my colleagues.” [Fox 2 Now, [1/23/2024](#)]

**In 2011, Andrew Koenig co-sponsored Missouri’s “Birther Bill,” a conspiratorial attempt to prevent President Barack Obama’s second term.** As a State Representative, Andrew Koenig co-sponsored HB 283, a bill that required proof of identity and proof of United States citizenship for the office of President and Vice President to be submitted with the other required certification documents to the Secretary of State. This strategy was employed by the birther movement, who erroneously believed President Barack Obama was disqualified from the Presidency. According to Mother Jones, “But the birthers—those ardent Obama foes who believe the president was not born in Hawaii and, thus, is not constitutionally qualified to serve as president—see this measure as more than symbolic. For them, it’s part of a well-orchestrated campaign to deny Obama reelection. Yet the birthers are charged up about this new battle plan: using GOP-dominated state legislatures to pressure Obama to produce a long-form birth certificate.” HB283 died in committee. [Mother Jones, [1/31/2011](#); HB 283, Public Hearing Complete, [3/1/2011](#)]

**As a State Rep. Andrew Koenig introduced multiple anti-science bills, including legislation requiring schools to teach “Intelligent Design.”** According to the National Center for Science Education, “HB 1587 would, if enacted, in effect encourage science teachers with idiosyncratic opinions to teach anything they pleased — proponents of creationism and climate change denial are the usual intended beneficiaries of such bills — and discourage responsible educational authorities from intervening. The bill specifically cites “the theory of biological and hypotheses of chemical evolution” as controversial. . . . Koenig was the sponsor of a string of similar bills: HB 179 in 2013, HB 1276 in 2012, and HB 195 in 2011. All failed. Koenig is also a cosponsor of House Bill 1472 in 2014, a bill that would require equal time for “intelligent design” in Missouri’s public schools, including introductory courses at colleges and universities. He co-sponsored the similar HB 291 in 2013 and HB 1227 in 2012; both failed.” [NCSE, [1/27/2014](#)]

**At a hearing to bar transgender children from bathrooms, Senator Andrew Koenig claimed trans-children were playing pretend, comparing their experience to wanting to be a “dog” or “spaceship.”** While hearing testimony for a proposed "bathroom bill" that would require public school officials to bar transgender students from using restrooms that don't match their birth certificates, Senator Andrew Koenig horrifically suggested children were playing pretend. According to Riverfront Times, “Kids say funny things...’Oh, when I grow up I want to be a dog’, or who knows what... But that doesn’t mean that I turn around and try to cultivate that and say, ‘Yes, you can be a dog.’ Kids, in play, they say different things... They say, ‘I want to be a spaceship.’ Does that mean that we should say something like that and affirm that?” [Riverfront Times, [2/2/17](#)]

**In 2015, Andrew Koenig voted for Right-to-Work legislation.** Right-to-work legislation deprives workers of their freedom to join together and form strong unions if they choose to. All that right-to-work laws do is suppress wages, lower workplace safety, and reduce the quality of public services. Andrew Koenig voted ‘Yea’ on HB116 on 2/12/2015. HB 116 was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon. [[HB116](#), Third Reading, 2/12/2015; HB 116, Vetoed by Governor, [6/4/2015](#)]

**In 2016, Andrew Koenig voted for Paycheck Deception legislation.** Paycheck Deception legislation places unfair restrictions on nurses, teachers, firefighters, and other workers’ ability to have a voice on the job and participate in political debates while letting corporations spend money to elect and lobby politicians without restriction. As a State Representative, Andrew Koenig voted “Yea” on HB 1891 on 2/18/2016. HB 1891 was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon, and the Senate was unable to override. [[HB 1891](#), Third Reading, 2/19/2016; [HB 1891](#), Failed to Pass over Veto (S), 5/12/2016]

# Senator Bill Eigel

District 23

## Legislative Biography



MO Sen. Bill Eigel is a Senator in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 23rd district and received 57.2% of the vote in his last election. He is a member of the Redistricting, MO Economic Development, Education, Transportation Oversight, Rules, Rules, Resolutions and Ethics, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Safety, Veterans and Military Affairs, and Protection of Missouri Assets From Foreign Adversaries committees.

He works most frequently on Economics and Public Finance (51 bills), Health (47 bills), Taxation (42 bills), Law (40 bills), and Education (33 bills). He has sponsored 181 bills in his last thirteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 81.7% of the time, getting 24.86% of his bills out of committee, and 1.66% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Sen. Eigel was involved in business.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2016

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Weldon Spring, MO

Term - 2nd term

### **Previous Experience**

Member, National Rifle Association (NRA)

CPT, U.S. Air Force

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 1/29/2024](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
SB 4	Attacks on Teacher Curriculum + Parental Bill of Rights	Culture Wars	Voted Yea
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Voted Yea

Other

**In 2024, Senator Bill Eigel was removed from his Committee Chairmanship with his behavior being described as an “embarrassment,” a “swamp creature” and belonging to the “Chaos Caucus.”**

Senator Bill Eigel was removed from the position of Chair of the Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Pensions in January 2024. This decision came as part of a broader move by the top leader of the Missouri Senate, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, who announced the removal of several state senators from their committee assignments. According to Fox 2 Now Rowden said, “The beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session in the Senate has been nothing short of an embarrassment... A chamber designed to be occupied with civil, principal statesmen and women have been overtaken by a small group of swamp creatures who remind me all too often of my children than my colleagues.” Senator Eigel responded suggesting he was being victimized and compared himself to former President Trump saying “These are the same tactics The Swamp uses against President Trump... I don’t work for the swamp.” [Fox 2 Now, [1/23/2024](#)]

**Senator Bill Eigel’s GOP colleague, the Majority Leader, told reporters she would “absolutely like to kick him out of the Senate.**

Senator Bill Eigel’s antics in the Missouri Senate reached such frustrating levels for his colleagues in January 2024 that his fellow Republican Senate Majority Leader, told reporters that she would like to expel him from the Missouri Senate. According to the Missouri Independent, “Speaking to the assembled editors and publishers from the Missouri Press Association during their annual visit to the Capitol, O’Laughlin noted that expelling a senator takes 23 votes of the 34-member chamber. ‘Two years ago, I said with 23 votes, you can throw somebody out of here,; she said. ‘And I would do it today.’ Asked who she meant, O’Laughlin named Sen. Bill Eigel... ‘I’d vote for it, yeah,’ she said.” [Missouri Independent, [1/26/2024](#)]

**Senator Bill Eigel, who is running for Governor of Missouri, threatened a “reckoning” and “hell to pay” if elected.**

According to an analysis of fundraising comparisons for Missouri Governor by the Springfield News-Leader, Senator Bill Eigel threatened a “reckoning” was coming for Jefferson City and that there “would be hell to pay.” From Senator Eigel “My message is this: I am the reckoning that will take on the Swamp. I am not the corporatists’ choice. I wasn’t born into a political monarchy. I’ve waged war against the special interest machine in Jefferson City and am despised for it. When I’m governor, there will be hell to pay.” [Springfield News-Leader, [1/19/2024](#)]

**Senator Bill Eigel was threatened by the Trump 2024 Presidential campaign with severe legal consequences for “deceiving donors of their hard-earned dollars by making false and deceptive statements” during his campaign for Governor.**

The Trump 2024 presidential campaign issued a cease-and-desist letter on September 6, 2023, to groups fundraising for state Sen. Bill Eigel in his campaign for Missouri Governor. The letter came after an analysis by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch scrutinized Eigel’s campaign fundraising practices. The report highlighted instances where Eigel’s BILL PAC allegedly sent out email solicitations urging support for Trump while redirecting the funds to Eigel’s own campaign, as revealed in small print within the email. Candidate Bill Eigel, his PAC, and vendor were all threatened with legal consequences if they continued. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “Neither Bill Eigel nor his BILL PAC have anything to do

with President Trump or his campaign. He knows it and Targeted Victory knows it,' Trump campaign lawyer David Warrington wrote this month to BILL PAC's treasurer and Targeted Victory's counsel. 'If you do not cease and desist this unauthorized use immediately, President Trump and his campaign will make sure everyone knows it...Eigel, his PAC, and Targeted Victory have been warned about this unauthorized use and asked to stop it. Yet it appears that you have chosen to ignore those warnings and requests...You are deceiving donors of their hard-earned dollars by making false and deceptive statements implying that donations are going to support Trump and that by donating the donor would 'Stand with Trump,'...In addition to the public opprobrium Eigel, BILL PAC, and Targeted Victory will undoubtedly suffer should you continue with this fraud when you are publicly denounced by President Trump and his campaign, each of you may be exposed to severe legal consequences." [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [9/13/2023](#)]

**In 2023, Senator Bill Eigel appeared in a viral video where he used a flamethrower and vowed to burn books while viewers compared the imagery to Nazi Germany and Klan rallies.**

Senator Bill Eigel and fellow GOP state senator Nick Schroer went viral setting cardboard boxes on fire with flamethrowers at a Republican fundraising event held in Missouri's St. Charles County. Eigel shared on the X platform that his flamethrower stunt was intended to symbolize his approach to tackling the "swamp" in the state capital of Jefferson City. He said, "Let's be clear, you bring those woke pornographic books to Missouri schools to try to brainwash our kids, and I'll burn those too—on the front lawn of the governor's mansion." This statement stirred controversy as Eigel appeared to threaten burning certain books, notably those he labeled as "woke pornographic," if elected governor. The video garnered widespread attention on social media, leading to accusations of book burning against Eigel. According to the Kansas City Star, "Public book burnings typically illustrate extreme censorship related to political, cultural, and religious materials. They often invoke historic atrocities such as burning of Jewish texts in Nazi Germany or racist bonfires by the Ku Klux Klan." [Associated Press, [9/22/2023](#); Advocate, [9/19/2023](#); Kansas City Star, [11/19/2023](#)]

**Senator Bill Eigel slammed Missouri Governor Mike Parson for promoting civility in politics calling it a "joke."** Reacting to an advertisement created by the National Governors Association featuring Missouri's Republican governor and Kansas' Democratic governor sitting down at a barbeque calling for more civility in politics, Senator Bill Eigel took to social media claiming "Dems are destroying our cities, mutilating our kids, trampling our rights and defunding our police... 'What a joke...JC needs a reckoning.'" Governor Parson responded saying, "I've never lost an election in my life," Parson continued. "If his whole campaign is based on attacking governors and Republicans and policies up here right now, he needs to take a good look, and he's been in that chamber for a long time his self." [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [11/6/2023](#)]

**Senator Bill Eigel vowed to remove President Biden from Missouri ballots.** According to First Alert 4, "In a news release Friday, State Sen. Bill Eigel (R-Weldon Springs) cites efforts in Maine, Colorado, and other states to remove Trump from the ballot under the Insurrection Clause of the U.S. Constitution as the reason he will file legislation attempting to keep Missouri voters from picking Biden as a candidate of their choosing... 'My legislation exposes the absolute absurdity of Colorado's and Maine's decisions to remove President Donald J. Trump from the ballot,' Eigel said in



the release. 'If radical leftists continue to push lies and fairytales in an attempt to kick Trump off the ballot in their states, Republicans have no choice but to buck up and fight back — use the facts to remove Biden from the ballot before he destroys this country even further.'" [First Alert 4, [1/6/2024](#)]

**In 2023, Senator Bill Eigel introduced legislation banning “red flag” gun measures intended to curb gun violence.** Senator Bill Eigel introduced Senate Bill 10 responding to the U.S. Department of Justice's plan to allocate funds to states for implementing "red flag" laws and crisis intervention programs aimed at addressing gun violence. However, the legislation failed to advance out of committee after a Republican member joined Democrats in voting against it, citing a recent school shooting in Nashville that resulted in the deaths of three students and three adults. SB 10 failed to pass out of the Senate General Laws Committee on March 29th, 2023. [[SB 10](#), Motion to vote bill do pass failed S General Laws Committee, 3/29/2023] Springfield News-Leader, [2/29/2023](#)]

**In 2023, Senator Bill Eigel introduced legislation to eliminate voting machines to be replaced with hand-counting and paper ballots, stating machines were “vulnerable to interference.”** According to the Columbia Missourian, “Senate Bill 98, sponsored by Sen. Bill Eigel, R-Weldon Spring, would require paper ballots for future elections. ‘This would address the concerns and the possibilities that these machines may ... be vulnerable to interference in our elections,’ Eigel said. The bill also contains a provision allowing any registered voter eligible to vote in an election to contest the results of that election in court.” [Columbia Missourian, [3/20/2023](#)]

**In 2021, Senator Bill Eigel claimed “cancel culture” forced a cancellation of a planned fundraiser with himself and Donald Trump Jr.** According to the Missouri Times, “A conservative event headlined by Donald Trump Jr. has been rescheduled for Feb. 3 after JP Morgan Chase delayed it by denying ticket processing services. Organizers for the Defense of Liberty’s speaker series with the former president’s son said JP Morgan Chase’s WePay service, which processed ticket sales, sent a message saying it would shut down its services and refund purchases. ‘It’s no surprise that the cancel culture failed here in the state of Missouri even though woke corporate interests want to shut us up,’ Eigel told The Missouri Times.” [Missouri Times, [12/3/2021](#)]

# Senator Holly Thompson Rehder

District 27

## Legislative Biography



MO Sen. Holly Thompson Rehder is a Senator in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 27th district and received 76.9% of the vote in her last election. She is the Chair of the Fiscal Oversight Committee and a member of the Administrative Rules, Judiciary and Civil and Criminal, MO Health and Pensions, Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, Redistricting, and Appropriations committees.

She works most frequently on Health (69 bills), Crime and Law Enforcement (54 bills), Law (52 bills), Economics and Public Finance (42 bills), and Education (39 bills). She has sponsored 116 bills in her last thirteen years (s) in office, voting with her party 80.3% of the time, getting 39.66% of her bills out of committee, and 5.17% of her sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Sen. Thompson Rehder worked in telecommunications. She received her undergraduate degree from Southeast Missouri State University.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2020

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Scott City, MO

Term - 1st term

### **Previous Experience**

Member, Missouri House of Representatives (2013-2020)

Board Member, Missouri Cable Telecommunications Association

Owner, Integrity Communications

Director of Government Affairs, Galaxy Cablevision

Member, Chamber of Commerce

Member, National Rifle Association

Director, Life Church Board

Former Treasurer, Cape Girardeau County Republican Women's Club

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 1/29/2024](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
SB 4	Attacks on Teacher Curriculum + Parental Bill of Rights	Culture Wars	Voted Yea
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Primary Sponsor and Voted Yea

### Other

**As a State Representative, Holly Rehder took at least \$175k from a prominent anti-labor mega-donor family and pre-filed right-to-work legislation.** According to KSMU, “The start of December is the start of Missouri lawmakers pre-filing legislation for the 2017 legislative session. One that has been controversial for some time is the effort to limit the power of labor unions by turning Missouri into a so-called right-to-work state. The effort in the House is being led by Holly Rehder, R-Sikeston. ‘I’ve been told that it is one of the governor-elect’s top priorities,’ she said. ‘I truly look forward to it being one of the first, second, or third bills that gets through (this year). Holly Rehder ran unopposed in both the primary and the general elections. Even without opponents in either race, anti-labor mega-donor David Humphreys donated \$150k to Rehder’s campaign in June and December 2016. Humphrey’s sister, Sara Atkins, donated an additional \$25k to Rehder’s campaign. David Humphreys individually donated over \$7 million to candidates that cycle. [KSMU, [12/1/16](#); Missouri Ethics Commission, [Accessed 10/5/16](#)]

**Senator Holly Rehder was the primary sponsor of legislation that outlawed college and K-12 trans students from participating on girls’ sports teams.** Senate Bill 39, according to the Kansas City Star, “bans both public and private schools, including colleges, from allowing students to compete in sports that don’t match the gender on their birth certificate. It allows female students to compete in male sports if there are no women’s sports available...schools that violate the law will be stripped of all state aid or revenue. It also allows parents to sue schools.” MAGA Republicans across the country have waged massive culture war attacks on transgender students in schools, including their ability to play sports, use their preferred pronouns, and receive gender-affirming health care. SB 39 was signed into law on 6/7/2023. [[SB 39](#), Missouri State Legislature, Regular Session 2023, Kansas City Star, [6/7/2023](#)]

**In 2015, Holly Rehder voted for Right-to-Work legislation.** Right-to-work legislation deprives workers of their freedom to join together and form strong unions if they choose to. All that right-to-work laws do is suppress wages, lower workplace safety, and reduce the quality of public services. Holly Rehder voted ‘Yea’ on HB 116 on 2/12/2015. Governor Jay Nixon vetoed HB 116. [[HB 116](#), Third Reading, 2/12/2015; HB 116, Vetoed by Governor, [6/4/2015](#)]

**In 2016, Holly Rehder voted for Paycheck Deception legislation.** Paycheck Deception legislation places unfair restrictions on nurses, teachers, firefighters and other workers’ ability to have a voice on the job and participate in political debates while letting corporations spend money to elect and lobby politicians without restriction. As a State Representative, Holly Rehder voted “Yea” on HB

1891 on 2/18/2016. HB 1891 was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon and the Senate could not override. [[HB 1891](#), Third Reading, 2/19/2016; HB 1891, Failed to Pass over Veto (S), [5/12/16](#)]

**After more than two-thirds of Missouri voters defeated the Right-to-Work referendum, Holly Rehder vowed to continue pushing the unpopular anti-labor legislation.** According to Missouri.net, “The Missouri House sponsor of the 2017 right-to-work bill indicates she’ll continue to push for the measure. Tuesday’s right-to-work referendum, which was Proposition A, was rejected by Missourians. The vote was about 937,000 to 452,000. More than 67 percent of Missourians voted against Proposition A. Veteran State Rep. Holly Rehder, R-Sikeston, who sponsored the 2017 House right-to-work bill, issued a statement to Missouri.net on Wednesday. Voters in both Mississippi and Scott counties in her district rejected right-to-work, which says that a person cannot be required to join or refrain from joining a labor organization as a condition of employment.” [Missouri.net, [9/8/2018](#)]

**In 2022, Senator Holly Rehder sponsored legislation critics said criminalized homelessness.** Senator Holly Rehder sponsored SB 1106, which would have banned people from sleeping on state-owned land and allowed Missouri’s attorney general to sue local governments that didn’t enforce the ban. According to the Pitch, “In explaining her amendment during the Senate debate, Rehder focused solely on funding mental health services for people experiencing homelessness. She made no mention of the penalty provision in the bill that seeks to make it a Class C misdemeanor to sleep or camp on unauthorized state-owned land. No senator spoke up in opposition to the amendment.” SB 1106 died in after being voted “Do Pass” in the Seniors, Families, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee [[SB 1106](#), Voted Do Pass S Seniors, Families, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee, 3/30/2022; The Pitch, [5/30/2022](#)]

# Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden

District 19

## Legislative Biography



MO Sen. Caleb Rowden is the Senator in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 19th district and received 51.6% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Gubernatorial Appointments and Administration committees, the Ranking Member of the Rules, Rules, Resolutions, and Ethics committee, and a member of the Capitol Security and Redistricting committees.

He works most frequently on Economics and Public Finance (66 bills), Missouri (52 bills), Taxation (42 bills), Health (40 bills), and Education (40 bills). He has sponsored 155 bills in his last thirteen years (s) in office, voting with his party 98.5% of the time, getting 25.81% of his bills out of committee, and 3.23% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Sen. Rowden was involved in entertainment as a Christian singer/songwriter. He received a degree from the University of Missouri.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2016

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Columbia, MO

Term - 2nd term

### **Previous Experience**

Member, Missouri House of Representatives (2013-2016)

Owner, Clarius Interactive

Member, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

Member, MO Cattlemen's Association

Member, National Rifle Association (NRA)

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 1/29/2024](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Role</b>
SB 4	Attacks on Teacher Curriculum + Parental Bill of Rights	Culture Wars	Voted Yea

SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Voted Yea
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Other

**Senator Caleb Rowden’s leadership has been described as “oligarchy” and has faced scrutiny as he stripped fellow Senators of their committee powers.** Senator Caleb Rowden has traded barbs with the Missouri Freedom Caucus over the years, and his decisions have led to calls for a leadership change. In 2021, according to the Missouri Independent, Senator Bob Onder described Rowden’s leadership as “subverting the democratic process with cheap parliamentary tricks’ that create an ‘oligarchy where a couple folks in leadership’ make all decisions.” In 2024, Rowden stripped four members of the Freedom Caucus from their committee powers; Senator Denny Hoskins said Rowden was attempting to “stack the deck” against fellow Republicans. [Missouri Independent, [7/16/2021](#); The Kansas City Star, [1/23/2024](#)]

**In 2013, Caleb Rowden introduced an ALEC model bill less than two months after becoming a newly elected representative.** Less than two months after becoming a newly elected representative, Caleb Rowden introduced a nearly word-for-word ALEC model bill. According to the Center for Media and Democracy, “The Missouri bill was proposed by Rep. Caleb Rowden (R), a newly-elected politician who has been in office for less than two months. It is not known whether Rowden has already become an ALEC member, but he may have been assigned the legislation by a more senior ALEC member legislator -- an increasingly common way of hiding ALEC's fingerprints. Rowden, who before becoming a legislator was a Christian rocker, certainly did not come up with this legislation on his own.” [PR Watch, 2/15/[2013](#)]

**In 2015, Caleb Rowden voted for Right-to-Work legislation.** Right-to-work legislation deprives workers of their freedom to join together and form strong unions if they choose to. All that right-to-work laws do is suppress wages, lower workplace safety, and reduce the quality of public services. Caleb Rowden voted ‘Yea’ on HB 116 on 2/12/2015. HB 116 was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon. [[HB 116](#), Third Reading, 2/12/2015; HB 116, Vetoed by Governor, [6/4/2015](#)]

**In 2016, Caleb Rowden voted for Paycheck Deception legislation.** Paycheck Deception legislation places unfair restrictions on nurses, teachers, firefighters, and other workers’ ability to have a voice on the job and participate in political debates while letting corporations spend money to elect and lobby politicians without restriction. As a State Representative, Caleb Rowden voted “Yea” on HB 1891 on 2/18/2016. HB 1891 was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon, and the Senate could not override it. [[HB 1891](#), Third Reading, 2/19/2016; HB 1891, Failed to Pass over Veto (S), [5/12/16](#)]

# Senator Rick Brattin

District 31

## Legislative Biography



MO Sen. Rick Brattin is a Senator in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 31st district and received 71.4% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Protection of Missouri Assets From Foreign Adversaries committee, the Ranking Member of the Education committee, and a member of the Government Accountability, Veterans and Military Affairs, General Laws, and Gubernatorial Appointments committees.

He works most frequently on Law (71 bills), Health (70 bills), Missouri (66 bills), Economics and Public Finance (65 bills), and Education (64 bills). He has sponsored 212 bills in his last thirteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 75.6% of the time, getting 15.57% of his bills out of committee, and 0.0% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Brattin most frequently works on legislation with Sen. Andrew Koenig (R-15) (67 bills) and Rep. Donna Baringer (D-82) (40 bills). He most frequently votes with Sens. Nick Schroer (R-2) and Jill Carter (R-32) (88%).

Before entering politics, Sen. Brattin was involved in agriculture. Brattin says he has owned and operated a small construction company for 14 years and maintains a 40-acre farm in central Cass County, north of Harrisonville.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2020

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Harrisonville, MO

Term - 1st term

### **Previous Experience**

Member, Missouri House of Representatives (2010-2018) (Majority Whip)

Auditor, Cass County

Member, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

Member, Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce

Member, National Rifle Association (NRA)

Operator, 40-acre Farm (Central Cass County north of Harrisonville)

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
SB 21	Modifies the duration of unemployment benefits based on the unemployment rate	Anti-Labor	Voted Yea in Committee
SB 5	Allows the enrollment of nonresident students in public school districts	Anti-Labor	Voted Yea in Committee
SB 4	Attacks on Teacher Curriculum + Parental Bill of Rights	Culture Wars	Voted Yea
SB 134	Attacks on LGBTQIA+ Student & Teachers ("Don't Say Gay")	Culture Wars	Voted Yea in Committee
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Co-Sponsored and Voted Yea

### Other

**Republican colleagues stripped "hard-right" "swamp creature" Brattin of his committee assignments for using the Senate for "personal interest" without "integrity."** In January 2024, Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden (R) "stripped a group of hard-right senators of their committee chairmanships," The Kansas City Star reported, referring to Brattin, state Sen. Bill Eigel, and state Sen. Denny Hoskins, leaders of the far-right "Freedom Caucus." Rowden, flanked by GOP senators, called the group the "Chaos Caucus" and blamed it for making the legislative session "an embarrassment." Rowden called Brattin and the other caucus members "swamp creatures who, all too often, remind me more of my children than my colleagues." Sen. Jason Bean, a Holcomb Republican, and the assistant majority leader, said that Brattin and the caucus had not "followed the tradition of respect and integrity." Bean said, "They have used the floor of the Senate for their own personal interest, make political speeches and obstructed the process in which legislation and issues are debated and passed." The punishment came after the Senate "collapsed into a complete meltdown" when the Freedom Caucus held up dozens of nominees of Gov. Mike Parson (R), "effectively holding the appointments hostage until senators advance a divisive proposal to make it harder to change the state constitution," according to The Star. [The Kansas City Star, [1/23/24](#); Fox 2 Now, [1/23/24](#)]

**Brattin sought to prohibit Missourians from amending the state constitution by majority vote.** In January 2024, Brattin pushed for legislation to make it harder for constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petition to pass. Conservatives, worried that a signature campaign will succeed in putting an initiative on the statewide ballot to restore abortion rights, have sought to increase the majority required, currently 50%, or add a requirement that the majority be achieved in both rural and urban areas. [Missouri Independent, [1/19/24](#)]

**Republican senator blasted Brattin for "pushing around ... sexual assault survivors" by torpedoing legislation to help child victims of sex trafficking.** In 2022, Missouri state Sen. Holly Thompson Rehder (R) called out Brattin and members of his all-male Conservative Caucus "for torpedoing bipartisan bills to help new mothers and sexual assault survivors," the Associated Press



reported. Brattin had tried to amend Thompson Rehder's bill on child sex trafficking by tacking on a provision to make it a misdemeanor for teachers to give students access to books he described as obscene and pornographic. Thompson Rehder said her bill was "hijacked by a few men who wanted to talk about another issue." Thompson Rehder, who said the controversial amendment would jeopardize the bill's chances of passing, sharply criticized Brattin and his colleagues. "The people they are pushing around now are sexual assault survivors," Thompson Rehder said. "The people they are running over now are the children of this state." [Associated Press, [3/9/22](#)]

**Brattin proposed requiring women seeking abortions to obtain written consent from the father, except in cases of "legitimate rape;" later proposed banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest.** In 2014, Brattin introduced a bill to require women seeking abortions to get permission from the fetus's father, except in cases of incest or "legitimate rape." Brattin said, "Just like any rape, you have to report it, and you have to prove it. So you couldn't just go and say, 'Oh yeah, I was raped' and get an abortion. It has to be a legitimate rape." In 2022, as a candidate for Congress, Brattin proposed banning abortion in all circumstances, even in cases of rape and incest. He said he would provide an exception only for saving the life of the mother. [Courthouse News Service, [12/23/14](#); Columbia Missourian, [7/22/22](#)]

**Brattin claimed on the House floor that "there is a distinction between homosexuality" and "being a human being."** In 2017, Brattin said during a Missouri House floor debate, "When you look at the tenets of religion, of the Bible, of the Quran, of other religions, there is a distinction between homosexuality and just being a human being." Brattin's remarks, which made national headlines, came as he argued against a measure to ban discrimination in employment, housing, and accommodation based on sexual orientation. The Kansas City Star editorial board called Brattin's comments "deplorable" and demonstrative of "a stunning lack of understanding of theology and self-government." Noting that Republicans billed their efforts as intended to make the state more business-friendly, the editorial board asked what business would want to operate in a state that "tolerates discrimination" and "where a representative thinks gays and lesbians are less than human?" [The Kansas City Star, [5/9/17](#)]

**The Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights identified Brattin among ten state legislators nationwide embodying "far-right efforts to advance from the margins to the mainstream."** "No member represents the far-right views towards the LGBTIA community more openly than Missouri State Sen. Rick Brattin," the civil rights organization wrote. IREHR also cited Brattin's sponsorships of a fetal heartbeat bill "enforced through private civil action," legislation attacking racial equity, a bill banning vaccine requirements, and a nullification law allowing the General Assembly to refrain from enforcing any federal laws it deems unconstitutional. He also introduced a bill requiring creationism to be taught on equal footing as evolution in public schools. Brattin claimed that "gender confusion" and "anti-whiteness" are "symptoms of American Communism" being pushed in "a deliberate effort to destroy America." [Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, [2022](#); Mother Jones, 2/8/13]

**Brattin tried to make Missouri the only state that taxes food but not guns.** In 2023, Brattin sponsored legislation to exempt sales of firearms and ammunition made in Missouri from all state and local sales taxes. The bill would have made Missouri the only state in the country that taxes food but does not tax gun sales after Republicans removed an amendment that would have eliminated the state's 1.225% sales tax on non-prepared food. Brattin explained that eliminating the tax on food would be too expensive. [The Kansas City Star, [3/8/23](#)]

**Brattin is a member of the Koch-funded organization Americans for Prosperity.** According to the Center for Media and Democracy, Americans for Prosperity is a "right-wing political advocacy group founded by billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch, the owners of Koch Industries. AFP serves as the Kochs' 'grassroots' operation, also known as astroturf. AFP spends millions on TV ads in election cycles." As of 2023, AFP has 36 State Chapters with at least 250 staffers, and it boasts of 3.2 million activists participating in their ground force. "In the 2012 election cycle, it was a key component of the Kochs' \$400 million political network, receiving large portions of its money from Koch-linked dark money groups like Freedom Partners, American Encore, and Donors Trust. [Americans for Prosperity-Kansas City Facebook Page, accessed [2/2/24](#); Sourcwatch, accessed [2/2/24](#)]

**In 2015, Rick Brattin voted for Right-to-Work legislation.** Right-to-work legislation deprives workers of their freedom to join together and form strong unions if they choose to. All that right-to-work laws do is suppress wages, lower workplace safety, and reduce the quality of public services. Rick Brattin voted 'Yea' on HB 116 on 2/12/2015. HB 116 was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon. [[HB116](#), Third Reading, 2/12/2015; HB 116, Vetoed by Governor, [6/4/2015](#)]

# Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman

District 22

## Legislative Biography



MO Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman is a Senator in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 22nd district and received 65.5% of the vote in her last election. She is the Chair of the MO Health and Pensions committee, and a member of the Public Assistance, The Justice System, Judiciary and Civil and Criminal, Fiscal Oversight, and MO Local Government and Elections committees.

She works most frequently on Crime and Law Enforcement (37 bills), Health (32 bills), Law (29 bills), Education (22 bills), and Taxation (17 bills). She has sponsored 96 bills in her last five year(s) in office, voting with her party 91.1% of the time, getting 17.71% of her bills out of committee, and 1.04% of her sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Sen. Coleman was involved in business. She received her undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University (MO) and a professional degree from St. Mary's University School of Law.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2022

Next Election - 2026

Residence - Arnold, MO

Term - 1st term

### **Previous Experience**

Missouri Representative, Missouri House of Representatives 2019-2023

Associate, Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison and Tate 2007-2009

Attorney at Law, Mary Elizabeth Coleman 2009-2015

Lead Fellow, Billiken Angels Network 2010-2016

Member, Pate Coleman Realty, LLC 2012-2015

Member, Arch Grants Board 2015-2018

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 1/29/2024](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
<a href="#">HB 253</a>	Establishes transfer procedures to nonresident districts for students in public schools	Anti-Labor	Voted Yea
<a href="#">SB 4</a>	Attacks on Teacher Curriculum + Parental Bill of Rights	Culture Wars	Voted Yea
<a href="#">SB 39</a>	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Co-Sponsored and Voted Yea
<a href="#">HIR 94</a>	Voter ID Constitutional Amendment	Voter Suppression	Voted Yea

### Other

**Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman filed a lawsuit challenging the cost estimate of a Missouri abortion-rights amendment.** According to the Missouri Independent the lawsuit, “Challenging Republican state Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick’s conclusion that a proposed constitutional amendment rolling back Missouri’s abortion ban would have no cost to state government if it were approved by voters next year.” The plaintiffs support Attorney General Andrew Bailey’s argument that legalizing abortion will cost the state billions of dollars. In a statement released after filing the lawsuit, Kelly, Coleman, and Forck said the legal challenge is “not about individual officeholders, but about the omission of the true fiscal costs to individual Missourians with measures that could imperil their financial futures, and cost the state billions of dollars in health care funding.” [Missouri Independent, [8/7/2023](#)]

**Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman sponsored legislation to ban companies that do business with the state from cutting ties with other companies that don’t support trans rights.** Senate Bill 1061, introduced by Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman, states that “a public entity shall not enter into a contract with a company... unless the contract includes a written certification that the company is not currently engaged in and shall not, for the duration of the contract, engage in any kind of economic boycott.” The “economic boycott” includes “does not facilitate, is not expected to facilitate, or does not commit to facilitate access to abortion, sex or gender change, or transgender surgery or medical treatments” while “public entity” includes the state, subdivision, and public schools, city governments, county governments, and public libraries. SB 1061 is currently moving in the Missouri Legislature. [[MO SB 1061](#), Second Read and Referred S Governmental Accountability Committee, 1/25/2024; LGBTQ Nation, [12/12/2023](#)]

**Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman introduced amendments that would let private citizens sue anyone they suspect of helping a Missouri resident get an abortion in another state.** Modeled after controversial Texas SB 8, Senator Coleman added amendments to HB 2012 to allow private citizens to sue anyone who helps a Missouri resident obtain an abortion out of state. Coleman told The Washington Post, “‘If your neighboring state doesn’t have pro-life protections, it minimizes the ability to protect the unborn in your state,’ said Coleman, who said she’s been trying to figure out how to crack down on out-of-state abortions since Planned Parenthood opened an abortion clinic on the Illinois-Missouri border in 2019.... ‘It’s just tragic,’ she said of the number of Missouri residents who get abortions in Illinois. ‘It feels very sad and heavy.’” Abortion rights advocates say the measure is unconstitutional because it would effectively allow states to enact laws beyond their

jurisdictions. The bill died in the House. [[HB 2012](#), died in House, 3/29/2022; Washington Post, [3/8/2022](#)]

**Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman sponsored a universal school choice measure.** SB 81 would expand vouchers and take taxpayer funding for schools and give it to charter and religious schools without income or geographical limits, with devastating effects for students. According to the Center for Media and Democracy, “ALEC’s ‘Parent Choice Scholarship Program Act - Universal Eligibility’ creates a voucher program to use taxpayer funds that would be spent on public schools to subsidize private for-profit, religious, or other primary and secondary schools. This program has no income limit for subsidy and therefore all students would be eligible.” SB 81 died in the Senate. [[MO SB 81](#), Informal Calendar S Bills for Perfection, 5/12/2023; ALEC Exposed, accessed [1/31/2024](#)]

**Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman is a highly vocal anti-abortion legislator and pushes measures restricting women’s basic autonomy.** Coleman told Public Radio, “What we hear and what we see is that people are getting abortions largely because of crises that are happening in their lives,” she said. “And so, my fundamental belief is that women deserve support, and they deserve equality and not having to deny what is fundamental about being a woman in order to be successful economically.” According to the Washington Post, Coleman told a crowd “Women deserve better than abortion.” She told Politico, “If you believe as I do that every person deserves dignity and respect and protection whether they’re born or unborn, then of course you want to protect your citizens, no matter where they are.” [STLPR, [1/7/2022](#); Washington Post, [12/29/2022](#); Politico, [3/19/2022](#)]

**Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman filed a lawsuit against a school district over their pandemic mitigation plan, including quarantine and mask policies.** According to My Leader Paper, “Attorney and state Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman has filed a lawsuit against the Fox C-6 School District, the second lawsuit she filed this month on behalf of parents who say their children have been denied access to free education because of orders and guidance issued to stem the spread of COVID-19.” The plaintiffs sought the district to stop enforcing its COVID-19 mitigation plan, including its quarantine and masking policies. Coleman sued the Health Department to prevent them from enforcing the policies. Coleman filed to dismiss the lawsuit once the Board of Education voted to drop masking protocols. “This is a win for students and parents against tyrannical bureaucrats who are desperate to hold onto power with the forced masking of students,” Coleman said after the district changed its mask policy. “These bureaucrats have decided their own petty power is more important than our children’s education.” [My Leader Paper, [10/25/2021](#); My Leader Paper, [11/18/2021](#)]

# Missouri House of Representatives

## Speaker Dean Plocher

District 89

### Legislative Biography



MO Speaker Dean Plocher is the Speaker in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 89th district and received 60.1% of the vote in his last election. He is a member of the Capitol Security committee.

He works most frequently on Law (30 bills), Economics and Public Finance (28 bills), Commerce (20 bills), Health (17 bills), and Crime and Law Enforcement (14 bills). He has sponsored 51 bills in his last thirteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 84.0% of the time, getting 43.14% of his bills out of committee, and 9.8% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Plocher was involved with the legal industry. He received his undergraduate degree from Middlebury College (VT) and a professional degree from St. Louis University School of Law (MO).

#### **About**

Assumed Office - 2015

Next Election - 2024

Residence - St. Louis, MO

Term - 5th term

#### **Previous Experience**

Attorney, Principle, D. Dean Plocher, P.C. 2001-Current

Municipal Judge, 21st Judicial Circuit

Board of Directors, Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Association

Member, Republican National Lawyers Association

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 1/29/2024](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Voted Yea
HJR 94	Voter ID Constitutional Amendment	Voter Suppression	Voted Yea

Other

**Speaker Dean Plocher charged the state for trips already paid for by his campaign.** “A review of Plocher’s expense reports over the years, obtained in early October by The Independent through Missouri’s Sunshine Law, shows the Hawaii expense wasn’t an isolated event. On at least nine occasions since 2018, Plocher spent campaign money on conference registration, airfare, hotels and other travel expenses, and then also sought reimbursement from the legislature. In each instance, Plocher was required to sign a sworn statement declaring that he had used “personal funds” to pay the expenses. Campaign and legal experts interviewed by The Independent say an elected official is allowed to use campaign money for official business. Or, they can use personal money and then request reimbursement from the state. But doing both could violate state and federal law. Submitting false expense reports could be prosecuted as stealing from the state, a class A misdemeanor. It could also be considered a false declaration, a class B misdemeanor that involves knowingly submitting any written false statement.” He chalked up the false expense reports to a “checkbook error” and paid back the illegal reimbursements. [Missouri Independent, [10/23/2023](#)]

**Speaker Dean Plocher converted an office into a liquor ‘pantry’ and spent \$60,000 in taxpayer money renovating the speaker’s office, including expensive furniture and a custom cabinet for a \$2,500 refrigerator.** The Missouri Independent reported, “House Speaker Dean Plocher took over that space and converted it into what has been jokingly referred to as his ‘butler’s pantry,’ a makeshift storage room stocked with liquor, beer, wine and soda to complement the supply in his office. The move was part of a \$60,000 renovation of Plocher’s office in late 2022 and early 2023, paid for with public funds by the House. Half the costs stemmed from expenses resulting from repairs to walls, baseboards and ceilings in the speaker’s office. The other half, according to records obtained by The Independent through Missouri’s Sunshine Law, went towards new furnishings — to the tune of about \$29,000, including \$8,600 for a black leather sofa and armchairs, \$2,500 for a new walnut table, \$2,500 for a refrigerator with an ice maker, \$5,000 for a custom cabinet to hold the refrigerator and \$385 for two walnut trash can bins.” [Missouri Independent, [12/20/2023](#)]

**Speaker Dean Plocher is possibly under investigation by the FBI for threatening to terminate his staff in a push to reward a private company with a government contract.** The House Ethics Committee is investigating allegations that Plocher threatened the jobs of nonpartisan staff as part of his push to convince his colleagues to spend \$800,000 to hire a private company to manage constituent information. One example of such threats includes, Missouri Independent’s reporting, “Dana Miller, chief clerk of the House since 2018 and a chamber staff member since 2001, wrote in an email to a GOP lawmaker last week about ‘threats made by Speaker Plocher concerning my future employment.’ She wrote that Plocher made statements to her ‘connecting this contract with

campaign activity’ — suggesting the speaker’s motivation was his 2024 campaign for lieutenant governor — and expressed that she had ‘growing concerns of unethical and perhaps unlawful conduct.’” Miller was fired after voicing concerns about the contract, and the ethics investigation into Plocher continues. [Missouri Independent, [12/20/2023](#); Missouri Independent, [9/22/2023](#)]

**As the investigation into Speaker Dean Plocher continues into its fourth month, he continues to terminate staffers.** According to the Missouri Independent, “Missouri House Speaker Dean Plocher fired his legislative director Wednesday, the latest in a series of departures from his office as he continues to face an ethics investigation into allegations of unlawful conduct. Erica Choinka had worked for the Missouri House since 2016, first as a legislative assistant and then as legislative director for former Speakers Elijah Haahr and Rob Vescovo. She continued to serve under Plocher until Wednesday, when she was fired. Choinka declined to comment, and a spokesman for Plocher did not immediately respond to an email about the dismissal. The staff shakeup follows the firing of Plocher’s chief of staff in October and the resignation of his chief legal counsel in November. And it comes as an ethics inquiry into his alleged misconduct enters its fourth month.” [Missouri Independent, [1/31/2024](#)]

**Speaker Dean Plocher claimed banning medical care for transgender youth was “protecting children.”** MissouriNet reported Plocher said, “I don’t think this body, this caucus has any disdain for anybody, okay. What we’re doing is protecting children from undergoing what we determined, we believe, is harmful procedures when you’re a teenager. To be given drugs to become permanently sterile, to change your body when you’re a teenager, you can’t even lawfully drive, or drink, or vote and they’re asking you to be able to do that to a child. I think that’s entirely wrong.” [MissouriNet, [5/15/2023](#)]

**In 2016, Dean Plocher voted for Paycheck Deception legislation.** Paycheck Deception legislation places unfair restrictions on nurses, teachers, firefighters, and other workers’ ability to have a voice on the job and participate in political debates while letting corporations spend money to elect and lobby politicians without restriction. Representative Dean Plocher voted “Yea” on HB 1891 on 2/18/2016. HB 1891 was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon, and the Senate was unable to override. [[HB1891](#), Third Reading, 2/19/2016; HB 1891, Failed to Pass over Veto (S), [5/12/16](#)]



# Representative Brad Hudson

District 138

## Legislative Biography



MO Rep. Brad Hudson is a Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 138th district and received 100.0% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Economic Development committee, the Vice Chair of the Public Policy and MO Rules - Legislative Oversight committees, and a member of the Fiscal Review, General Laws, Student Accountability, and Ways and Means committees.

He works most frequently on Health (29 bills), Law (25 bills), Crime and Law Enforcement (23 bills), Education (20 bills), and Economics and Public Finance (20 bills). He has sponsored 46 bills in his last nineteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 92.5% of the time, getting 45.65% of his bills out of committee, and 2.17% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Rep. Hudson is the pastor to the congregation at Blessing Heights Worship Center. He received his undergraduate degree from Midwest College of Theology. He is a candidate for state Senate (District 33).

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2019

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Cape Fair, MO

Term - 3rd term

### **Previous Experience**

Stone County Assessor (2009-2019)

Coordinator, Stone County National Day of Prayer

Member, International Association of Assessing Officers

Member, MO State Assessors Association Legislative Committee

Member, MO Farm Bureau

Member, National Rifle Association

Member, Stone County Republican Club

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 2/8/2024](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
HB 253	Establishes transfer procedures to nonresident districts for students in public schools (open enrollment "parent choice")	Anti-Labor	Voted Yea
HJR 94 (2022)	Voter ID Constitutional Amendment	Voter Suppression	Voted Yea
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Voted Yea

### Other

**Hudson sponsored a controversial, strict ban on gender-affirming care and complained that he felt "threatened" by Democratic legislators' arguments against it.** In 2023, Hudson sponsored HB 419, legislation to impose a strict ban on transgender health care for minors and some adults. Democrats, some of whom have transgender family members, pleaded with Republicans to oppose the bill, arguing the government should not decide for transgender people and their doctors how they should be treated. Rep. Peter Merideth (D-St. Louis) said he was struggling to maintain friendships with legislators who supported strict government intervention in such "as personal as it gets" matters. Hudson accused Meredith of threatening him with those remarks. "They're going to threaten us with lost friendships. They're going to threaten us with the opinions of our children and grandchildren," he complained. The bill passed the House despite some Republicans opposing it for being too restrictive. The Senate passed a more lenient version that provided an exemption for transgender youth who had already started treatment and included a 2027 sunset. The House ultimately agreed to approve the Senate version, which was signed into law. [Missouri Independent, [4/13/23](#); Associated Press, [6/7/23](#)]

**Hudson sponsored multiple anti-LGBTQ bills as Missouri lawmakers filed more bills attacking the LGBTQ community than legislators in any other state.** In addition to sponsoring a bill banning gender-affirming care for many Missourians, Hudson sponsored HB 1157, a bill to prevent doctors and healthcare providers from being sued for refusing to provide such care. "During several points in the last legislative session, Missouri lawmakers had filed the most anti-LGBTQ bills of any state," the Kansas City Star observed in 2024. [Kansas City Star, [12/13/23](#)]

**Hudson proposed ending the right of Missourians to amend the state constitution by majority vote.** In January 2024, Hudson introduced HJR 76, legislation to make it harder for constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petition to pass. Conservatives, worried that a signature campaign will succeed in putting an initiative on the statewide ballot to restore abortion rights, have sought to increase the majority required, currently 50%, or add a requirement that the majority be achieved in both rural and urban areas. Hudson's proposal would require that a majority of Missouri's congressional districts vote for a ballot measure for it to pass, in addition to a statewide majority vote. The Kansas City Star editorial board wrote that the plan "would make it much more difficult for Missourians to have a say in how their state is run" and instead "centralize power with Jefferson City politicians." [MissouriNet, [1/8/24](#); Missouri Independent, [1/19/24](#); Kansas City Star, [1/9/24](#)]

**Hudson said ending safe and legal abortion access in Missouri “will always be a major highlight of my legislative career.”** After the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Hudson lauded the decision and said he was “extremely proud” to have helped pass Missouri’s near-total abortion ban. Hudson said the law, which contains no exceptions for rape and incest, made Missouri “the first in the country to effectively end abortion. This will always be a major highlight of my legislative career. Former President Trump deserves so much credit for this current Supreme Court.” [Branson Tri-Lakes News, [7/5/22](#)]

**Hudson claimed men were being “silenced” on abortion because of their gender and insisted “the ladies” “want” him to take away reproductive rights because some of them voted for him.** In 2021, Hudson claimed on the House floor that abortion rights supporters had told him that he shouldn’t speak on the issue because he is a man. “Well, I’m going to remind you of something: I did not just get sent up here by men,” Hudson proclaimed. “As a matter of fact - I haven't looked up the statistics - but I would say in my district there are just as much if not more women. And those women voted for me. ... They know how I stand, they want me to speak for them, and all of you pro-life men that are in this chamber, the ladies in your district want you to speak for them as well. So do not allow yourself to be silenced because of your gender.” [TikTok, [5/12/21](#)]

# Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch

District 44

## Legislative Biography



MO Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch is a Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 44th district and received 62.6% of the vote in her last election. She is the Vice Chair of the Appropriations - Education committee, and a member of the Healthcare Reform, MO Elections And Elected Officials, MO Elementary And Secondary, and Government Administration committees.

She works most frequently on Crime and Law Enforcement (69 bills), Health (58 bills), Economics and Public Finance (58 bills), Law (57 bills), and Education (52 bills). She has sponsored 41 bills in her last thirteen year(s) in office, voting with her party 84.6% of the time, getting 26.83% of her bills out of committee, and 0.0% of her sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Rep. Toalson Reisch was involved with the legal industry. She did not receive a degree from the University of Missouri.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2016

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Hallsville, MO

Term - 4th term

### **Previous Experience**

Member, Boone County REDI, CERT Team

Member, Hallsville Historical Society

Member, National Rifle Association (NRA)

Member, Hallsville Chamber of Commerce

Member, Hallsville Church of Christ

Legal Assistant, Cline, Braddock, and Basinger Law Office, Columbia

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 1/29/2024](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
SB 4	Attacks on Teacher Curriculum + Parental Bill of Rights	Culture Wars	Voted yea in House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education
HB 253	Establishes transfer procedures to nonresident districts for students in public schools	Anti-Labor	Voted Yea
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Voted Yea
HJR 94	Voter ID Constitutional Amendment	Voter Suppression	Voted Yea

### Other

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch brought a gun to an event at the Daniel Boone Regional Library that did not allow for concealed carry and then threatened a lawsuit.** Toalson Reisch attended a League of Women Voters forum at the library when someone attending the event overheard her mention she was carrying a gun. According to the Columbia Missourian, “An attorney representing Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch, R-Hallsville, notified the library in a letter that she would sue if it did not change the signs to acknowledge Missouri's new concealed carry laws. The new signage, posted between 8 and 9 a.m. Friday, reads: “No person shall possess, on the library premises, a weapon of any kind, unless authorized by law.” The old signs read: “Carrying or possession of firearms or weapons prohibited.” The library's board of trustees voted to amend library signs after threats stemming from this event. [Columbia Missourian, [2/16/2017](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch was sued by a constituent after blocking them on Twitter.** According to the Columbia Missourian, “A lawsuit filed Wednesday by Columbia lawyer Mike Campbell against Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch, R-Hallsville, argues that no, public officials cannot block people on Twitter. In the lawsuit, Campbell claimed Reisch blocked him on Twitter after he retweeted a critique of her actions. The suit also claims that Reisch's Twitter functions as a public forum and that she cannot ‘discriminate against speakers based on their viewpoints’. She uses her account to address and interact with her constituents, and the suit claims Campbell was ‘engaging in fully protected political speech.’” Mike Campbell retweeted Rep. Kip Kendrick's retort of Reisch's tweet that her opponent was unpatriotic. Reisch won the case in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, after losing in District Court, allowing her to continue to block constituents online. [Columbia Missourian, [6/28/2018](#); Columbia Daily Tribune, [1/29/2021](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch claimed, without evidence, that Columbia Public School students dressed as animals using litter boxes as bathrooms.** The Columbia Daily Tribune reported, “State Rep. Cheri Reisch is spreading an unfounded rumor on her Facebook page that Columbia Public Schools students dressed as animals are using litterboxes as their bathroom, said the district superintendent and her November opponent. ‘This is happening in Columbia Public Schools also,’ Reisch wrote in a Tuesday post linking to another post. ‘Yes, the janitor has to clean the litter box. To read more comments, click on the original post.’ People dressing as animals sometimes refer to themselves as ‘furries.’ Some on Facebook asked her to provide evidence or proof, but she didn't. Others believed her claim and questioned what the school district was doing

about it. 'There are no litterboxes and there never have been,' Superintendent Brian Yearwood said Thursday after investigating the claim. Tuesday was the first day of school for CPS. 'Running down these unwarranted rumors is a tremendous waste of time,' Yearwood said. 'Our focus is on the education of our scholars.'" She stood by her disputed claim and said she wanted to protect confidential sources. [Columbia Daily Tribune; [8/25/2022](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch said "Columbia sucks" about Columbia Public Schools District in a committee hearing.** In a House Education Committee hearing, Reisch said "Columbia sucks" towards a witness from the Missouri Association of School Administrators who left the witness stand after her comments. She continued her attack on public education, saying students were flocking from CPS to rural schools in the county. She defended her statement to the Columbia Daily Tribune, "'There are a lot of things that need improvement with CPS. I hear from parents in my district and the frustrations they have with the administration and the school district. My job is to represent the parents and students in my district.'" [Columbia Daily Tribune, [2/6/2022](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch cosponsored legislation to allow for concealed carry for school personnel.** Reisch cosponsored HB 70, which requires school faculty and staff who want to participate to get a concealed carry permit and be approved and designated by the district school board to carry a gun on school property. According to KSDK, Toalson Reisch said, "This is helpful not just in schools, but for example, if you're a school bus driver and somebody wants to try to come on to your bus and harm you and your kids or you're the school secretary." The House passed HB 70, but it died last session. [[MO HB 70](#), reported do pass, 4/20/2023; KSDK, [3/9/2023](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch sponsored legislation to expand charter schools within the Columbia Public Schools District.** According to KBIA, "Reisch's bill would allow charter schools to operate within the Columbia Public Schools District without the local district's sponsorship. The measure states that charter schools may operate in a school district with a population of more than 125,000 but less than 160,000. Columbia's population is slightly greater than 126,000 people, according to the 2020 census from the U.S. Census Bureau. The bill's fiscal note shows an estimated impact of \$2,807,469 to \$13,335,474, depending on the number of charter schools created and the number of students choosing to enroll. Fiscal notes are an estimate of the direct impact of bills required by Missouri law." HB 1941 passed out of the House Special Committee on Education Reform. [[HB 1941](#), HCS Voted Do Pass, 1/29/2024; KBIA, [1/30/2024](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch opposed an amendment to raise the threshold for child marriages from 15 to 16.** In 2018, the Evans amendment would make 16 the minimum age for marriage in Missouri with parental consent and prohibit marriage between a child and anyone over 21. According to the Kansas City Star, Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch opposed the measure because, "her parents, who married in the 1950s, would have been prevented from doing so under Evans' amendment. "In my day, if a woman got (pregnant) out of wedlock, they had to revert to a shotgun wedding. But now," Toalson Reisch said, "let's just ... stay single, let's not have a two-parent household or a father in the picture of this child." Toalson Reisch also expressed concern for how the amendment would affect religious groups such as the Amish in her community. "They feel biblically

that it's better to marry than to burn,'" SB 655 that included the Evans amendment was signed into law. [[SB 655](#), signed into law, 7/13/2018; Kansas City Star, [5/16/2018](#)]

# Representative Doug Richey

District 39

## Legislative Biography



MO Rep. Doug Richey is a Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 39th district and received 100.0% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Government Accountability committee, the Ranking Member of the Education committee, and a member of the Student Accountability, Budget, and Government Accountability committees.

He works most frequently on Education (41 bills), Crime and Law Enforcement (38 bills), Economics and Public Finance (34 bills), Health (33 bills), and Law (29 bills). He has sponsored 64 bills in his last five year(s) in office, voting with his party 92.6% of the time, getting 29.69% of his bills out of committee, and 1.56% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Rep. Richey was involved in education. He received a graduate degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS).

Richey is currently a candidate for state Senate (21st District). He is senior pastor at Pisgah Baptist Church.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2019

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Excelsior Springs, MO

Term - 3rd term

### **Previous Experience**

Member, Missouri House of Representatives (2019-2023)

Member, Excelsior Springs Community Center Board

Former Conference President, Missouri Baptist Convention Pastors Conference

Former President, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) National Alumni

Life of Duty Member, National Rifle Association (NRA)

Member, American Legion Post 236

Combat Engineer, Missouri Army National Guard



## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
HB 253	Establishes transfer procedures to nonresident districts for students in public schools (open enrollment "parent choice")	Anti-Labor	Voted Yea
HJR 94 (2022)	Voter ID Constitutional Amendment	Voter Suppression	Voted Yea
SB 39	Trans Youth Sports Ban	Culture Wars	Voted Yea

### Other

**Richey proposed a ban on diversity initiatives that even fellow Republicans slammed as disruptive, "unconstitutional," "overly broad," and likely to cause "billions of dollars in cuts to hospitals, health care facilities, colleges and universities."** In 2023, Richey proposed a budget amendment to ban state spending on diversity initiatives. Gov. Mike Parson's administration said the proposal would cause major disruptions to routine government operations. The Office of Administration said it would conflict with laws encouraging women- and minority-owned businesses to participate in state contracting and was "unconstitutional in that it attempts to place substantive law within an appropriation bill." The Department of Social Services said it could cause problems working with faith-based foster care agencies and contracts for Medicaid providers. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education said the language could disrupt the distribution of funds to public schools. The Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development reported that it would have to end partnerships with organizations like the Missouri Chamber of Commerce. Richey's amendment was adopted by the House but ran into immediate opposition in the Senate, where Senate Appropriations Chair Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield) said he would be "taking that completely out." Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden (R) wrote that Richey's language was "overly broad and would result in billions of dollars in cuts to hospitals, health care facilities, colleges and universities, and the Missouri House of Representatives itself." [Missouri Independent, [4/18/23](#)]

**The Missouri Chamber called Richey's ban on diversity initiatives an "anti-business mandate" that would infringe on private organizations' freedom.** The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry "strongly opposed" Richey's anti-diversity, equity and inclusion budget amendments as "government overreach" and an "anti-business mandate which would threaten private companies' contracts with the state." Phillip Arnzen, director of legislative affairs for the Missouri Chamber, said, "We believe if you're a private organization, you should be able to run the organization or business the way that you would like." [Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, [3/31/23](#)]

**Defending his proposal to ban DEI programs at public universities, Richie struggled to say whether racism occurs on campuses.** In 2023, during a committee hearing on Richie's bill to ban diversity, equity and inclusion policies at major universities, Richie struggled to respond to

questioning from Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D-St. Louis) as to whether racism exists on college campuses. "Uh, we'd have to define our terms," Richey said. "It's never a yes or no question." Pressed by Bosley, Richey allowed that "people have difficulties with racist thoughts" before finally saying, "yeah," when Bosley said, "So that's a yes." Eight years earlier, University of Missouri system president Tom Wolfe resigned after drawing national attention for ignoring protests over the Ferguson police shooting of Michael Brown. Richey's bill was based on "model" legislation drafted by the Cicero Institute in Texas. [Daily Kos, [3/10/23](#); Heartland Signal Twitter, [3/6/23](#)]

**Richey opposed bipartisan efforts to address Missouri's high maternal death rate, blaming women's "decision-making" for their deaths.** In 2022 and 2023, Richey was one of only a handful of lawmakers to oppose bipartisan legislation to address Missouri's 12th-worst-in-the-nation maternal mortality rate. The legislation, which received backing from both ends of the abortion rights spectrum, with support from Planned Parenthood and Missouri Right to Life, called for extending pregnancy-related Medicaid from 60 days after childbirth to a full year. Hard-right Republicans derailed the bill in 2022. Arguing that the state could do little to address postpartum health problems, Richey cited a report showing that substance use disorder contributed to 54 percent of pregnancy-related deaths. "We're dealing with behavioral characteristics and decision-making on the part of others," he said. "It's disturbing — you don't want to see a high mortality rate at all. But it's really hard for the state to help women make the right choices." The Kansas City Star reported that "such thinking ignores how systemic barriers to health care, and lack of providers and insurance, often block access to the help, such as mental health services, that could keep these patients alive." The legislation passed in 2023 despite Richey voting against it. [Kansas City Star, [6/1/23](#); [SB106](#)]

**Richey promised to "hold the line" against rape and incest exceptions to the state's abortion ban.** Richey, as a candidate for House speaker in 2022, said he would "hold the line" on not adding exceptions for rape and incest to the state's abortion ban. Missouri was one of a dozen states that forced women and girls who were raped and became pregnant to carry their pregnancies to term or seek an abortion outside of the state. Richey said, "the baby in the womb is ... innocent of any wrongdoing in what took place to bring about that child's existence." [Kansas City Star, [7/6/22](#)]