

Senator David Gregory

District 15

Legislative Biography



MO Sen. David Gregory is a Senator in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 15th district and received 51.6% of the vote in his last election. He is the Ranking Member of the Judiciary and Civil and Criminal and MO Insurance and Banking committees, and a member of the Education and Economic and Workforce Development committees.

He works most frequently on Crime and Law Enforcement (36 bills), Health (34 bills), Law (33 bills), Economics and Public Finance (25 bills), and Taxation (22 bills). He has sponsored 117 bills in his last fourteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 88.8% of the time, getting 23.93% of his bills out of committee, and 0.85% of his sponsored bills enacted.

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

About

Assumed Office - 2024

Next Election - 2028

Residence - St. Louis, MO

Term - 1st term

Previous Experience

Representative, Missouri House of Representatives (2017-2023)

Civil Litigation Attorney, Private Practice

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 2/10/2025](#)]

Other

David Gregory sponsored legislation to make being an undocumented immigrant punishable by life imprisonment and create a bounty program to encourage citizens to report on other residents. In December 2024, Senator Gregory pre-filed Senate Bill 72, proposing the "Missouri Illegal Alien Certified Bounty Hunter Program." According to Newsweek, "SB 72 introduces several key provisions aimed at addressing illegal immigration at the state level. It classifies illegal

immigration as a state crime under the designation of ‘felony trespassing.’ The bill additionally expands the authority of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), granting it the power to investigate immigration status, collaborate with ICE, and execute arrest warrants. It also establishes an anonymous tip line modeled after federal ICE tip lines, allowing individuals to report suspected illegal immigration. If a tip then leads to an arrest, the person who provided the information may receive a \$1,000 reward.” [Newsweek, [2/13/2025](#); St. Louis Public Radio, [1/27/2025](#)]

David Gregory co-sponsored and voted for Missouri’s total abortion ban, which included no exceptions for rape or incest. In 2019, Gregory co-sponsored HB 126, which ended abortion in Missouri. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [10/12/2024](#); HB 126, Approved by the Governor, [5/24/2019](#); Vox, [9/27/2019](#)]

David Gregory argued Missouri’s total abortion ban didn’t go far enough. In an interview with KFVS, he suggested that lawmakers explore ways to prevent Missouri residents from traveling out of state to obtain abortions, a move that would significantly restrict personal freedom. While Gregory questioned uncertainty about the constitutionality of such a measure, he also emphasized Missouri legislators would be taking steps to investigate legal avenues to enforce such restrictions. Additionally, he suggested that the federal government could then use conditional funding to incentivize the denial of abortion access to Missouri residents. [KFVS, [6/25/2022](#); Progress Missouri, [8/12/2022](#)]

David Gregory faced intense criticism for his proposal to demolish a historic building in Jefferson City to construct a personal castle. Dubbed "Paige's Castle" in reference to Gregory’s wife, the project involved demolishing at least one historic structure near the State Capitol to build a second residence with Airbnb accommodations. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “Former state Rep. David Gregory and wife, Paige Gregory, have proposed building ‘Paige’s Castle’ to replace a 141-year-old home at 401 East Capitol Avenue, just blocks from the Missouri Capitol. ‘It’s been said that every woman deserves a castle’ begins a proposal by the couple to the Jefferson City Council. ‘David Gregory believes this and is making it a reality.’ The Jefferson City Council rejected Gregory’s plans under intense local criticism. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [9/17/2024](#); St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [9/17/2024](#)]

David Gregory accepted the endorsement from a prominent billionaire donor who bankrolled efforts to change how Missouri colleges and universities handle complaints of sexual assault and harassment. In November 2021, Missouri State Representative David Gregory, a Republican candidate for state auditor, received an endorsement from St. Louis billionaire David Steward. According to the Missouri Independent, “Winning Steward’s endorsement could provide a huge financial boost to Gregory’s campaign. Steward is the founder of World Wide Technologies, which, according to Forbes, has a net worth of \$5.8 billion. Since 2011, he has donated nearly \$4 million to various candidates and PACs in Missouri. His most high-profile political involvement in recent years came in 2019 when he bankrolled a nonprofit called Kingdom Principles that made an unsuccessful push to change how Missouri colleges handle cases of sexual assault and harassment. That effort was spearheaded by Richard McIntosh, who at the time was Steward’s lobbyist and

whose son had been expelled from Washington University in St. Louis for allegedly harassing another student in violation of the federal Title IX law, which bars sexual discrimination in education.” [Missouri Independent, [11/21/2021](#)]

In leaked internal documents, David Gregory’s campaign for State Senate signaled worry about his positions on abortion and voucher schemes. According to Progress Missouri, “David Gregory’s campaign accidentally leaked documents detailing concern over his support of private school vouchers and sponsorship of Missouri’s abortion ban.” [X, [11/3/2024](#)]

David Gregory was endorsed by the Koch-funded organization Americans for Prosperity. Americans for Prosperity-Missouri endorsed Representative Gregory in 2024. 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. [Sourcewatch, [Accessed 2/12/2025](#); Americans for Prosperity-Missouri, [10/21/2024](#)]

Representative Justin Sparks

District 110

Legislative Biography



MO Rep. Justin Sparks is a Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 110th district and received 62.7% of the vote in his last election. He is a member of the Crime Prevention And Public Safety and Judiciary committees.

He works most frequently on Crime and Law Enforcement (35 bills), Health (27 bills), Law (21 bills), Education (12 bills), and Taxation (11 bills). He has sponsored 42 bills in his last two year(s) in office, voting with his party 78.0% of the time, getting 7.14% of his bills out of committee, and 0.0% of his sponsored bills enacted.

About

Assumed Office - 2022

Next Election - 2026

Residence - St. Louis, MO

Term - 2nd term

Previous Experience

St. Louis County Police Department

Deputized United States Marshal, Eastern District of Missouri

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 2/10/2025](#)]

Other

In a bizarre podcast interview, Justin Sparks described how his children keep him “honorable” by keeping him from cheating on his wife or looking at pornography. In the same interview, he lamented the outfits “girls” wear to gyms and describes in detail how he looks at the ceiling to prevent him from staring.

Representative Justin Sparks: *They require you to be a better man. They require you to be honorable...not cheat on your wife. For me, it's my boys, my five boys; if I'm going to tell them not to look at pornography, then I better not look at pornography myself.*

Interviewer: *And I think if we started thinking in those terms more, we would see a lot less problems like, you know, at the gym. There's, there's young gals that come by, but the minute I see them, you know what I'm thinking? I know that could be one of my daughters. I know. I mean, I've got daughters that are that age, you know what I'm thinking? I wouldn't want my daughters dressed like that. I wouldn't want men gawking like that.*

Representative Justin Sparks: *No kidding!*

Interviewer: *It's like, and now you don't think about it from a sexual point of view. I actually think about it from the opposite. Like I'm almost feeling sorry for their parents and for them for having to feel the need to be that way to get that attention.*

Representative Justin Sparks: *And what they dress now. It's not even like they're just dressed in workout clothes. It's ridiculous. Some of the stuff that the gals are wearing. And, and it's funny because you can see that the guys that are just there for that reason, not even there for any other reason other than to look at the girls. And then, and then you see the guys like, like what I do, a gal's going to come. I'm going to look at the trusses in the ceiling today, you know, or I'm going to look over, But we're at the opposite side of the gym. There's nothing over there. But I know that what's not over there is some gal in ridiculous clothes. It's going to be exactly in front of me. That's not why we're at the gym anyway. It's not why you should be at the gym. [X, [3/7/2024](#)]*

Justin Sparks called a press conference outside of a local gym to argue against a trans-woman's use of the facilities. According to First Alert 4, "In response to complaints from constituents, Rep. Justin Sparks (R-Wildwood) called a press conference to call for an investigation into the fitness center, Life Time. 'We've decided to take a stand and ensure that the safety of our community comes first,' Sparks said. Sparks also said that he did not believe Missouri should allow trans people to change the gender printed on their driver's license and called the process 'inappropriate.'" [First Alert 4, [8/2/2024](#)]

After the incident, Sparks filed legislation to limit gender-marker changes only to those that match the sex assigned at birth. According to the Missouri Independent, "Rep. Justin Sparks, a Republican from Wildwood, proposed a more restrictive policy in a bill that limits gender-marker changes only to those that match the sex assigned at birth. The bill has a caveat that those with sex-development disorders who may have been incorrectly assigned a gender designation may still change their marker. The bill would prohibit changes on licenses for any 'factor other than evidence demonstrating the person's biological sex.' Sparks' bill would also remove a provision that currently allows birth certificates to be amended following gender-reassignment surgery. [Missouri Independent, [12/9/2024](#)]

Justin Sparks advocated for \$6 million in earmarks before taking a job with the organization in charge of the project. According to the Missouri Independent, "As a new legislator in 2023, state Rep. Justin Sparks became the leading advocate for a proposal to create a child care facility serving employees of the St. Louis County Police Department. A few months after lawmakers approved spending \$6 million from federal COVID relief funds to create the center, Sparks took a job with the

organization in charge of the project, the National Law Enforcement Foundation. So far, the foundation, created in 2022, has used \$3.7 million of the funding. Sparks, a Republican from Wildwood who resigned from a job with the county police in 2022 to seek office, has recently faced some criticism over the earmark.” [Missouri Independent, [1/7/2025](#)]

After only receiving ten votes in a long-shot bid to become Missouri House Speaker, the Republican victor described Sparks as having “an oceanic ego who took it upon himself to make this day about himself.” According to KCUR, “The Missouri legislature made history Wednesday as Republicans elected the first Asian American speaker of the House and the first woman to be president pro tem of the state Senate. In the House, state Rep. Jon Patterson of Lee’s Summit won an overwhelming victory over a challenger from within the Republican conference, state Rep. Justin Sparks, helped to the 152-10 victory by votes from minority Democrats. At a news conference after the House session, Patterson called the challenge ‘disappointing’ and said Sparks forced the vote for personal reasons. “This was not about Amendment 3 (which restored abortion rights) or any policy agenda,” Patterson said. “This was a person with an oceanic ego who took it upon himself to make this day about himself.” [KCUR, [1/8/2025](#)]

Representative Brad Christ

District 96

Legislative Biography



MO Rep. Brad Christ is a Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 96th district and received 55.2% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Emerging Issues committee, and a member of the MO Rules - Administrative Oversight and Student Accountability committees.

He works most frequently on Economics and Public Finance (16 bills), Taxation (13 bills), Health (12 bills), Crime and Law Enforcement (10 bills), and Law (9 bills). He has sponsored 39 bills in his last two year(s) in office, voting with his party 97.5% of the time, getting 35.9% of his bills out of committee, and 0.0% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Rep. Christ was involved in business. He received his undergraduate degree from DePaul University (IL) and an undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University High School.

About

Assumed Office - 2022

Next Election - 2026

Residence - Saint Louis, MO

Term - 2nd term

Previous Experience

Ambassador, Association of Corporate Growth

Investor, Greater St. Louis, Inc.

Account Executive, Yell (2006-2007)

Internet Marketing Consultant, ReachLocal (2007-2009)

General Manager, Systems Consultant, BusComm, Inc. (2009-2016)

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 2/10/2025](#)]

Other

Brad Christ sponsored legislation that attempts to overturn the will of Missouri voters by allowing the State to control the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. According to St. Louis Public Radio, “The Missouri House gave initial approval Tuesday to legislation that would place control of the St. Louis police department under a gubernatorial-appointed board. The Republican-led chamber advanced the bill on a voice vote. It needs another vote to pass the chamber. Through the legislation, a five-person board would assume control of the police department in August. The board would consist of the mayor and four commissioners. All four commissioners must have lived in St. Louis for at least three years. Other than the mayor, none of the commissioners would be allowed to hold public office. There are no other requirements to be a commissioner. One of the four appointments is at the sole discretion of the governor. The St. Louis department has been under local control since 2013, after Missouri voters approved a ballot measure in 2012. It marked the first time in over 150 years that the mayor’s office had authority over the department. Currently, only Kansas City’s police department is under state control.” [St. Louis Public Radio, [Accessed 2/15/2025](#)]

Brad Christ sponsored a provision limiting civilian review boards from investigating law enforcement officers accused of misconduct. In 2024, Rep. Christ introduced provisions within an omnibus public safety bill that sought to limit the authority of civilian oversight boards. According to Spectrum News, “The same bill also includes a provision sponsored by Rep. Brad Christ, of St. Louis County, that specifies civilian review boards are “limited to reviewing, investigating, making findings, and recommending disciplinary action against law enforcement officers,” accused of misconduct. The Jones administration and a spokesperson for the St. Louis Board of Aldermen both criticized the language Monday. ‘This legislation is a troubling maneuver that will preempt the ability of local governments to set the appropriate scope for their civilian oversight boards. We will continue to work with our Civilian Oversight Board to ensure they can complete their work effectively and efficiently,’ said Conner Kerrigan, the city’s communication director.” [Spectrum News, [5/20/2024](#)]

Brad Christ sponsored legislation pushing charter schools in Missouri. According to the Missouri Independent, “Bills authorizing specific counties to establish charter schools had more traction. Rep. Brad Christ, a St. Louis Republican, got his bill seeking to authorize charter schools in St. Louis County through committee early in the 2024 legislative session and has refiled the bill this year. He believes legislation providing alternatives to traditional public schools will gain more traction under the leadership of Gov.-elect Mike Kehoe, who has spoken publicly about his support for charter schools and K-12 tax-credit scholarships.” [Missouri Independent, [12/31/2024](#)]

Representative Melanie Stinnett

District 133

Legislative Biography



MO Rep. Melanie Stinnett is a Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 133rd district and received 56.1% of the vote in her last election. She is the Chair of the Health and Mental Health Policy committee, and a member of the MO Rules - Administrative Oversight and Appropriations - Education committees.

She works most frequently on Health (24 bills), Law (7 bills), Social Welfare (6 bills), Education (6 bills), and Crime and Law Enforcement (4 bills). She has sponsored 37 bills in her last two year(s) in office, voting with her party 96.1% of the time, getting 21.62% of her bills out of committee, and 0.0% of her sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Rep. Stinnett was involved in medicine. She received her undergraduate degree from Missouri State University (MSU) and a graduate degree from Missouri State University (MSU).

About

Assumed Office - 2022

Next Election - 2026

Residence - Springfield, MO

Term - 2nd term

Previous Experience

Speech-Language Pathologist, PRN 2010-2014

Owner, Speech-Language Pathologist, TheraCare Outpatient Services 2014-2022

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 2/18/2025](#)]

Other

Melanie Stinnett introduced extreme anti-abortion legislation to overturn voter-approved Amendment 3 and ban gender-affirming surgeries for youth. In October 2024, Stinnett told KY3, "We have abortion on our ballot in November this year. I think it is really important that people have a voice and they are able to let that voice be heard and how they feel about how it should look

like for our state.” After Amendment 3, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative, passed in 2024, Stinnet sponsored HJR 54, which would have voters overturn abortion rights, allow for damages, and ban gender-affirming healthcare for transgender youth. According to STLPR, “The resolution, if passed by voters, would remove the provisions that were in Amendment 3 and instead allow abortion only in cases of rape, incest, medical emergencies or fetal anomalies. For someone to receive an abortion following rape or incest, they would first have to produce documentation that the crime has been reported to a law enforcement agency. In those cases, abortion would only be allowed up to 12 weeks. The measure would allow for damages, including the suspension or revocation of medical licenses of someone who “intentionally or negligently causes damage to another person relating to the provision of reproductive health care or the performance or inducement of an abortion. In addition to the abortion-related measures, the resolution bars transgender youth from accessing gender-affirming health care like hormone treatments.” Stinnet denied sponsoring the legislation to overturn the will of the people and said, “It is through this process that Missourians will have an opportunity to modify and clarify the abortion laws of Missouri.” She told KY3, “The biggest responsibility I have as a state legislator is to listen to my constituents.” [STLPR, [2/5/2025](#); KY3, [10/21/2024](#)]

Representative Ed Lewis

District 6

Legislative Biography



MO Rep. Ed Lewis is a Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represents the 6th district and received 78.5% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the MO Elementary And Secondary committee, and a member of the Budget, Education, and Utilities committees.

He works most frequently on Education (41 bills), Health (35 bills), Economics and Public Finance (30 bills), Law (27 bills), and Crime and Law Enforcement (23 bills). He has sponsored 54 bills in his last four year(s) in office, voting with his party 57.7% of the time, getting 22.22% of his bills out of committee, and 1.85% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Rep. Lewis was involved in education. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri and a graduate degree from Pittsburg State University (KS).

About

Assumed Office - 2020

Next Election - 2024

Residence - Savanah, MO

Term - 3rd term

Previous Experience

Former Chemistry and Physics Teacher

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 2/18/2025](#)]

Other

Ed Lewis sponsored legislation to make it harder to amend the Missouri Constitution by initiative petition. Lewis sponsored HJR 76, which would require a majority of votes statewide and in more than half of the congressional districts to take effect, and HJR 72 would prohibit foreign governments and political parties from sponsoring, funding, or making contributions related to initiative petitions and require majority approval both statewide and in a majority of congressional

districts. Missouri's ballot initiative process is already grueling, requiring petitioners to collect more than 171,000 signatures from registered voters in six of Missouri's eight congressional districts by May. The path to successfully landing an initiative on the ballot usually costs millions of dollars and months of litigation. "To change the constitution of the state of Missouri, there should be broad support statewide, and I would submit broad geographic support," Lewis told his colleagues during a hearing in the house's elections and elected officials committee. Neither bill passed after GOP senators engaged in public vitriol against each other. [Missouri Independent, [1/23/2024](#); STLPR, [5/16/2024](#)]

Ed Lewis sponsored legislation to bar public officials from prohibiting religious gatherings post-COVID pandemic. Lewis co-sponsored HB 75, preventing the government from limiting or interrupting religious services, even in emergencies. The so-called Missouri Religious Freedom Protection Act was inspired by lockdowns during the pandemic in which large public gatherings were prohibited to stem the spread of COVID-19. The bill has passed the House. [KZRG, [2/17/2025](#); KCUR, [2/14/2024](#)]

Ed Lewis sponsored legislation to refuse the COVID-19 vaccine. Lewis sponsored HB 1686, which would have created provisions relating to the right to refuse the COVID-19 vaccine and medical treatment. Introduced in 2022, the bill would prohibit public bodies, political subdivisions, public school districts, state departments or agencies, public officials, peace officers, and gubernatorial appointees from mandating COVID-19 vaccinations, conditioning rights or services on vaccination status, or imposing penalties based on vaccination status. The bill passed both chambers but died. [Quorum, accessed [2/19/2025](#)]

Former State Representative Dan Stacy

District 31

Legislative Biography



Dan Stacy is a former Representative in the Missouri General Assembly who represented the 31st district and received 56.8% of the vote in his last election. He was the Chair of the Career Readiness committee, the Vice Chair of the MO Elections And Elected Officials committee, and a member of the MO Elementary And Secondary and MO Corrections And Public Institutions committees.

He worked most frequently on Law (53 bills), Economics and Public Finance (49 bills), Education (34 bills), Taxation (33 bills), and Crime and Law Enforcement (30 bills). He has sponsored 49 bills in his last thirteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 84.8% of the time, getting 16.33% of his bills out of committee, and 0.0% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Rep. Stacy was a member of the clergy. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas and an undergraduate degree from Iraan High School (TX).

About

Assumed Office - 2016

Left Office - 2025

Residence - Blue Springs, MO

Term - Served four terms

Previous Experience

Missouri Representative, Missouri House of Representatives 2016-2024

Jackson County Republican Committee

National Rifle Association (NRA)

Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce

[Quorum, [Accessed 02/20/2025](#)]

Other

Dan Stacy is running for election to the Missouri State Senate to represent District 8.

Dan Stacy declared candidacy for the 2026 election. Stacy was previously a Missouri House of Representatives member, representing District 31. He was not able to file for re-election due to term limits. Throughout his political career, he has received endorsements from various conservative organizations, including Missouri Right To Life, National Rifle Association, and Missouri Chamber Political Action Committee [The Missouri Times, [02/20/2025](#); Ballotpedia [02/20/2025](#)]

Dan Stacy, a self-described “constitutional conservative,” made passing Right-to-Work legislation a top priority upon his election to the Missouri House.

In 2017, after pulling off an upset victory against incumbent Rep. Sheila Solon—who had opposed right-to-work—Stacy joined the legislature with strong financial backing, including a \$25,000 contribution from the Humphreys family. He vowed to push right-to-work legislation “right away,” emphasizing its potential to improve job prospects in Missouri. Stacy followed through on this commitment, voting in favor of a right-to-work bill prohibiting mandatory union fees in workplaces. If enacted, the law would have prevented unions from requiring non-members to pay fees, even though unions would still be obligated to represent all employees. [KSDK, [01/19/2017](#)] [The Missouri Times, [08/03/2016](#)]

Dan Stacy pushed to mandate "In God We Trust" displays in public buildings and schools.

In December 2023, Dan Stacy introduced legislation for the 2024 session that mandated the prominent display of the national motto, "In God We Trust," in all public buildings, including schools and institutions of higher education. As the bill's primary sponsor, Stacy sought to reinforce the motto's presence in government spaces, aligning with efforts seen in other states to emphasize religious heritage in public institutions. Under the legislation, all public buildings were required to display framed copies of the motto in a highly visible location. These posters had to adhere to specific design requirements, including a minimum size of 11 inches by 14 inches, the motto as the central focus in a large, prominent font, and the inclusion of representations of both the U.S. and Missouri state flags. [Show Me Progress, [12/04/2023](#)]

Dan Stacy was among the early proponents of the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program, sponsoring legislation in 2018 and 2019.

In 2018, Dan Stacy sponsored legislation to establish the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program, a controversial initiative that would divert public tax dollars to private education through tax-credit-funded savings accounts. Under Stacy's proposal, families could use these funds for private school tuition, tutoring, and other educational expenses—effectively redirecting money away from Missouri's public school system. While his bills in 2018 and 2019 failed to advance, similar efforts by other lawmakers eventually led to the passage of House Bill 349 in 2021, raising concerns about the long-term impact on public school funding and accountability. [MO [H.B. 34](#); MO [H.B. 1639](#)]

During his tenure, Dan Stacy consistently backed anti-abortion measures that threatened women's rights and penalized those who support reproductive health.

Dan Stacy's voting

record and public statements reveal a troubling trend of anti-abortion policies that prioritize ideology over women's health and rights. His support for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act in 2022 highlights a willingness to impose extreme restrictions on reproductive health care, focusing on punitive measures rather than comprehensive support for women and families. Additionally, Stacy's opposition to Amendment 2, which aimed to expand Medicaid in Missouri, reflects a concerning disregard for the healthcare needs of low-income individuals, especially women who may rely on Medicaid for essential reproductive health services. By arguing against measures that could improve access to care, he demonstrates a singular focus on limiting abortion access at the expense of broader healthcare needs. [MO [H.R.26](#) ; Missouri Independent, [04/20/2021](#); Missouri Right To Life PAC [08/20/2020](#)]

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 Government Efficiency committee, and a member of The Justice System, Public Assistance, Administrative Rules, Education, Judiciary and Civil and Criminal, Fiscal Oversight, and General Laws committees.

She works most frequently on Crime and Law Enforcement (44 bills), Health (42 bills), Law (34 bills), Education (33 bills), and Taxation (28 bills). She has sponsored 123 bills in her last six year(s) in office, voting with her party 84.8% of the time, getting 20.33% of her bills out of committee, and 0.81% 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 02/16/2024](#)]

Undermining American Democracy

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

Other

Mary Elizabeth introduced extreme anti-abortion legislation to overturn voter-approved Amendment 3 and ban gender-affirming surgeries for youth. Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman introduced extreme anti-abortion legislation aimed at overturning the voter-approved Amendment 3, which enshrines reproductive health care rights in Missouri's constitution. The proposed bill seeks to ban gender-affirming surgeries for minors and prohibit all abortions, allowing exceptions only for medical emergencies and cases of rape. By pushing for such significant restrictions, Coleman not only challenges the recent democratic decision made by Missouri voters but also raises serious concerns about the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations, particularly minors seeking gender-affirming care. Despite seeking to overturn the will of the people, Coleman stated, “these constitutional amendments align with the beliefs of the majority of Missourians when it comes to supporting the dignity and value of all life.” [Missouri Independent, [12/03/2024](#)]

Mary Elizabeth Coleman sponsored anti-democratic legislation to raise the threshold for passing constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petition in Missouri.

Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman has sponsored legislation that raises serious concerns about the democratic process by imposing stricter requirements for passing constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petition in Missouri. Coleman's bill would mandate both a statewide majority and a majority vote in five of the state's eight congressional districts for an amendment to pass, replacing the current simple majority requirement. This shift effectively undermines the ability of voters to enact change through direct democracy and complicates the process for citizens seeking to amend the Constitution. [Missouri Independent, [3/13/2024](#)]

Election Transparency Initiative, a dark money group sowing distrust in elections, endorsed Mary Elizabeth Coleman for Missouri Secretary of State. The Election Transparency Initiative, a project tied to Richard Uihlein, a Republican mega-donor known for funding divisive conservative causes, has endorsed State Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman in her bid for Missouri Secretary of State. This endorsement raises alarms about the potential implications for election integrity in Missouri, given Uihlein's history of supporting initiatives that aim to restrict voting rights and sow distrust in the electoral process. In her response to the endorsement, Coleman declared, “As Missouri's next Secretary of State, ensuring election integrity will be my top priority.” However, this rhetoric masks a troubling agenda that seeks to impose unnecessary barriers to voting. Coleman's plans to collaborate with local election authorities to audit and clean up voter rolls may sound

benign, but they are often used as a pretext for disenfranchising eligible voters under the guise of preventing fraud. [The Missouri Times, [07/30/2024](#)]; [The New York Times, [05/08/2023](#)]

Mary Elizabeth Coleman filed a lawsuit challenging the cost estimate of an 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, including Mary Elizabeth Coleman, 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](#)]

Mary Elizabeth Coleman sponsored legislation to ban companies that do business with the state from cutting ties with other companies that 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 facilitating 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](#)]

Mary Elizabeth Coleman introduced amendments that would let private citizens sue anyone they suspected 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](#)]

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](#)]

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](#)]

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](#)]

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 68.5% of the vote in his last election. He is the Chair of the Capitol Security and Education committees, and a member of the Education, Government Accountability, Veterans and Military Affairs, Local Government, Elections and Pensions, and Gubernatorial Appointments committees.

He works most frequently on Law (82 bills), Health (73 bills), Economics and Public Finance (73 bills), Education (67 bills), and Missouri (66 bills). He has sponsored 242 bills in his last fourteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 75.3% of the time, getting 14.46% of his bills out of committee, and 0.0% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Sen. Brattin was involved in agriculture. He received a degree from Lee's Summit High School.

About

Assumed Office - 2020

Next Election - 2028

Residence - Harrisonville, MO

Term - 2nd term

Previous Experience

Missouri State Senator (2021–Present)

Majority Whip, Missouri House of Representatives (2017–2019)

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)

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 02/17/2025](#)]

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+ Students & 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

In 2025, Rick Brattin continues to push legislation diverting public school funds to private and homeschool families. Senator Rick Brattin is again putting Missouri's public schools on the back burner in favor of tax breaks for private and homeschooled families. As chair of the Senate Education Committee, Brattin is backing legislation allowing families who opt out of public education to claim a tax credit—pulling taxpayer dollars away from struggling public schools. The bill ties the credit to the state adequacy target, basing the tax break on spending levels in Missouri's best-funded districts. Meanwhile, public schools across the state face teacher shortages, outdated facilities, and severe budget constraints. Instead of addressing these urgent issues, Brattin is pushing a plan to drain even more public education resources. Brattin compared the tax credit to a gas tax refund, where drivers submit receipts for reimbursement. However, unlike roads, Missouri's public schools can't function if the state keeps diverting funds to families who opt out of the system. [Missouri Independent, [02/18/25](#); KCUR, [02/19/25](#)]

Rick Brattin pushes legislation to defund schools over DEI and critical race theory. Senator Rick Brattin is using his power as Senate Education Committee Chair to push legislation that would strip funding from public schools for teaching diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) or critical race theory (CRT). Under S.B. 115, schools that discuss systemic racism, engage in activism, or train teachers on so-called "divisive concepts" could face investigations and lose up to half of their state funding. Brattin's bill also includes the "Sunlight in Learning Act"—forcing schools to publicly post all instructional materials. The "Parents' Bill of Rights"—allows parents to object to classroom content. Instead of addressing Missouri's underfunded schools and teacher shortages, Brattin is pushing political censorship at the expense of students and educators. Brattin's bill is a direct attack on academic freedom and free speech, forcing educators to self-censor or risk financial ruin for their schools. [KMZU, [02/18/25](#); Missouri Independent, [02/14/25](#)]

Rick Brattin pushes to overturn voter-approved abortion rights and undermine democracy. Senator Rick Brattin is leading a blatant attack on democracy and reproductive rights, pushing a constitutional amendment to overturn Amendment 3, the voter-approved measure that legalized abortion in Missouri. Brattin's proposal would impose harsh new restrictions, allowing abortions only for fetal anomalies and in cases of rape or incest—but only if the victim files a police report, an invasive and unnecessary barrier for survivors. This move is part of a broader Republican effort to

override the will of Missouri voters and reinstate draconian abortion bans. By using his position to undermine a democratic decision, Brattin is making it clear: he values political control over Missourians' rights. [Missouri Independent, [12/20/24](#)]

Senator Brattin supports anti-democratic legislation that would raise the threshold for passing constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petition. Senate Joint Resolution 74 proposed changes would require any constitutional amendment initiated by citizens to not only secure a simple majority of votes statewide but also achieve a majority in the majority of Missouri's congressional districts, effectively undermining the principle of "one person, one vote." This legislation would silence citizen-led ballot measures, making it nearly impossible for average voters to enact change, especially in light of recent initiatives to secure abortion rights in Missouri. Brattin has expressed that Republicans are prepared to use "any means necessary" to pass this bill, reflecting a disregard for democratic processes. This change significantly weakens voters' capacity to bring about change through direct democracy and makes it more difficult for citizens to pursue constitutional amendments. [Missouri Independent, [05/10/2024](#)]

Brattin's 'Right-Wing Fit of Hysteria' Led to Reckless Accusations and Lawsuit Over the Damaged Reputation of an Innocent Man. Senator Rick Brattin is facing a lawsuit from Denton Loudermill, a U.S. citizen, and father of three from Kansas, whom he falsely identified on social media as the shooter at the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory celebration. Following a chaotic incident where gunfire erupted during the celebration, Brattin, along with Senators Denny Hoskins and Nick Schroer, joined a wave of misinformation circulating online. After images of a man temporarily detained at the scene spread through social media, speculation arose—largely unfounded—that he was an undocumented immigrant responsible for the violence. Without waiting for official identification, Brattin and his colleagues shared posts suggesting that Loudermill was the shooter. In reality, Loudermill was a Chiefs fan who had simply been slow to leave the area as the chaos unfolded. As a result of the senators' incorrect accusations, Loudermill claims he faced harassment and threats. He filed a lawsuit against Brattin, Hoskins, and Schroer, alleging that their social media posts violated his privacy and libeled him. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. This legal action comes after a previous case involving the same senators that was dismissed on October 21 in Kansas federal court, where U.S. District Judge John Broomes ruled he did not have jurisdiction over Brattin, Hoskins, and Schroer. Now, the Missouri attorney general's office is representing the three senators in this new lawsuit. [Missouri Independent, [08/31/24](#); Missouri Independent, [05/13/2024](#)]

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 would succeed in putting an initiative on the statewide ballot to restore abortion rights, 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](#)]

A fellow 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,” and 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](#); Sourcewatch, 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](#)]