

December 21, 2022

Good morning.

Legislators have shifted focus from bill filing to prepping their offices for the next session. 'Tis the season means things will slow down a bit between now and the first week of January.

We will continue to monitor all activity and provide updates accordingly. We hope you enjoy your holidays and the calm before the storm!

Governor Parson Announces Next State Treasurer

Yesterday, Governor Mike Parson announced Vivek Malek as the next state treasurer. Governor Parson now holds the record for the most statewide office appointments while in office. Malek is replacing Scott Fitzpatrick who was elected state auditor in November. The pull press release is available [online](#).

In Brief...

- Also on Tuesday, Governor Mike Parson issued Executive Order 22-09 to prepare for winter weather and the extreme cold expected to impact the state starting today. The Order activates the Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan and the Missouri National Guard for state and local response efforts.
- This week St. Louis County has received the first installment from the \$458 million opioid settlement that the state of Missouri reached with three U.S. drug distribution companies and drugmaker Johnson & Johnson. The county received about \$4.8 million of the \$45 million it is due from the settlement and according to county officials, the funds were deposited into the Opioid Remediation Fund established to support the treatment of substance use or mental health conditions.
- The U.S. Congress has passed legislation that requires duck boat operators to abide by stricter safety regulations, four years after a sinking on Table Rock Lake killed 17 people. Under the legislation, duck boats must follow recommendations set by the National Transportation Safety Board-including the mandated use of life jackets, increased buoyancy standards and the removal of canopies that make it difficult for passengers to escape if they sink. The bill has passed through both chambers and awaits the President's signature.

State of the State Address:

Governor Mike Parson announced he will deliver the 2023 State of the State Address on January 18, 2023 at 3 p.m. During the annual address, Governor Parson will highlight his 2023 legislative and FY24 budget priorities.

Solar Task Force:

This week the Task Force on Fair, Nondiscriminatory Local Taxation Concerning Solar Energy Systems met Monday to finalize a report they compiled designed to address disputes between local governments and solar energy companies over property taxes. The task force convened publicly three times and received public testimony from interested stakeholders. Here are the committee's recommendations and findings:

- A single, uniform, and fair method of assessing solar property for the entire state is preferable to 114 counties using different methodologies (no recommendation on the method was given)

- All commercial solar property should be assessed locally by county assessors and not by the State Tax Commission
- The tax revenue generated from the assessment of solar property should remain in the county in which the property is located, rather than distributed as other investor-owned utility property taxes are
- The solar industry should pay its fair share of property taxes to counties, school districts, and other taxing jurisdictions
- Any Enhanced Enterprise Zone or other tax abatement programs entered into under state law should be honored for existing projects

The Task Force did recommend further study on the methodology to be used to assess solar property, on the classification of solar property, is solar real or personal property, and how should the land solar property reside be assessed.

Upcoming Hearings:

There are currently no upcoming hearings posted at this time.

Key Upcoming Dates:

- January 4, 2023 – First day of MO Legislative Session
- January 18, 2023 – State of the State Address
- March 9 – 20, 2023 – Legislative Spring Break
- May 12, 2023 – Last day of Legislative Session

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