

January 23, 2024

Today, senate members of the Freedom Caucus were stripped of respective chairmanships, some committee assignments and parking spots located in the senate garage.

Before returning to the chamber for the first time since last week's meltdown, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, Majority Floor Leader Cindy O'Laughlin and Assistant Majority Floor Leader Jason Bean held a press conference announcing the unprecedented decision. 14 other members of the Republican Caucus flanked their leadership.

During the press conference 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, principled statesmen and women has been overtaken by a small group of swamp creatures, who all too often remind me more of my children than my colleagues."

The decision by Senate Leadership comes on the 1st day of the 4th week of session. We have observed similar levels of toxicity in the Senate chamber but typically not until shortly before spring break (beginning of March) or the last few weeks of session (late April-mid May).

The Freedom Caucus continues to hold up the traditional business of the Missouri Senate such as approval of the daily journal and prayer. In short, the Missouri Senate can't even get to basic bill referral. After the Freedom Caucus continued to stall daily business, an agreement was reached to adjourn until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow in time for Governor Parson's annual state of the state address.

Senator stripped of chairmanships include:

- Sen. Rick Brattin, R-Harrisonville, from the Select Committee on the Protection of Missouri Assets from Foreign Adversaries. Brattin was also removed from being the vice chair of both the Committee of Veterans, Military Affairs and Pensions and the Committee on Education and Workforce Development.
- Sen. Bill Eigel, R-Weldon Spring, from the Committee of Veterans, Military Affairs and Pensions.
- Sen. Denny Hoskins, R-Warrensburg, from the Committee on Tax Policy and Economic Development. Hoskins was also removed from serving on the Appropriations Committee.
- Sen. Andrew Koenig, R-Manchester, from the Committee on Education and Workforce Development.

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