



## Governmental Services Group

The 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly will conclude its final term in 2024, opening session Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The opening remarks of leaders in both chambers struck an optimistic tone against the backdrop of what is expected to be a brutal 2024 campaign cycle not just in Missouri, but nationwide. Missouri will have its unique challenges as five Senators are currently running for statewide office. This is likely to be further complicated should any congressman on the federal side decline to run for reelection.

The conservative caucus, now rebranded as the “Freedom Caucus”, now with a more solidified association with the national Freedom Caucus, is expected to expand its ranks in the House and potentially in the Senate should the 2024 primaries go their way. For roughly an hour on the opening day of session two members of this group, Sens. Schroer and Brattin, held the floor discussing how conservative priorities are not being pursued and calling out fellow Republicans for not doing enough on tax reform, gun rights, and education reform.

It was very clear that some of the same Senate fractures between leadership and this group are likely to show throughout session, putting in jeopardy many policy items and general productivity of the legislature. Still, this week was largely ceremonial and until the hearing schedule really begins to ramp up its unclear how unproductive the session will be.

We will continue to inform you of the latest in Jefferson City and wish you all a Happy New Year!