



Mike Kehoe

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

January 28, 2025

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI:

It is the honor of our lifetime for Claudia and me to serve as Missouri's First Lady and Governor. As we have traveled across this great state, we met with countless hardworking Missourians—parents, small business owners, teachers, law enforcement officers, farmers, and others—who shared their hopes for their families and communities. They care about safer streets, a quality education for their kids, access to affordable child care, and economic opportunities that allow them to secure a better future for themselves and their loved ones.

Our crime plan – Safer Missouri – includes increased funding for law enforcement recruitment and retention efforts, as well as grant funding to ensure our men and women in blue have the equipment and training they need to keep our streets safe. We will bolster regional anti-crime task forces and partner with the federal government to enforce immigration laws in an effort to secure our state and stop the plight of human and fentanyl trafficking in Missouri communities. We will improve school safety. And, we are asking the General Assembly to increase oversight and accountability of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. No more should our nation's promising youth have their lives stolen due to lawlessness in our state's largest metropolitan area. It's one thing for elected officials to say they support law enforcement and strengthening public safety, but I hope you will join me showing we support law enforcement and the businesses investing in our state and creating jobs with real action.

This year, we will prioritize improvements and expansions in early childhood programs helping ensure that we are meeting the demands of both Missouri families and our workforce. Our budget priorities include a historic \$200 million funding increase of the K-12 Foundation Formula – the largest year-over-year increase since the formula was established over 20 years ago, fully funds school transportation, and includes a historic \$50 million investment to expand school choice across Missouri.

Additionally, our budget will support the families by improving health care access and outcomes. We will fund much-needed and well-earned pay increases for our state team members. We will support Missouri's agriculture producers. And finally, we are committed to developing a comprehensive, sustainable plan to eliminate Missouri's income tax once and for all.

By working together, we can pair smart policies with our promise of limited government to unleash freedom for all and safeguard the next generation's future. I firmly believe that these are the essential priorities to secure an even safer, stronger, and more prosperous Missouri.

Let's get to work,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Kehoe".

Mike Kehoe
Governor