

Abstract:

During eight interviews at the Missouri state Capitol, state lawmakers discussed their strategies of working through the press to advance their policy priorities. The lawmakers, who came from across the state, employ a variety of strategies in dealing with the press. Some of the lawmakers use social media heavily to push their messages to followers, while others have no social media presence at all. The lawmakers articulated varying strategies for dealing with the press, ranging from targeting specific journalists with story tips to sending out press releases to a long list of reporters. The discussions also delved into critiques of the press and how those criticisms affected the way particular lawmakers approach their relationship with members of the media.