

# Missouri

Capitol City: Jefferson City

**Governor:** Jay Nixon (D). Re-Elected Nov. 2012. Four year term.

Primary Elections: August 2, 2016

General Elections: November 8, 2016

The legislature convenes the first Wednesday after the first Monday of January. It adjourns on May 30, with no consideration of bills after 6:00 p.m. on the first Friday following the second Monday in May.

All House seats are up for election in 2016; only half of the Senate is up for reelection. Senators from odd-numbered districts will be up for reelection in 2016.

Governor has a two term limit. Legislators can serve eight years in each chamber.

**Senate:** 25 R, 9 D

Term 4 years

Senate President – Tom Dempsey (R-St. Charles)

Minority Leader – Joseph Keaveny (D – St. Louis City)

Major Utility Committee – Senate Commerce Committee (11 members)

Chair – Mike Kehoe (R – Jefferson City)

**House:** 117 R, 44 D and 2 Vacancies

Term 2 years

Speaker – Todd Richardson (R – Poplar Bluff)

Minority Leader – Jake Hummel (D – St. Louis)

Major Utility Committees - House Utilities (11 members)

Chair – T.J. Berry (R – Kearney)

Utility Infrastructure (19 members)

Chair- Lyndall Fraker (R-Marshfield)

Energy and Environment (13 members)

Chair- Rocky Miller (R-Osage Beach)

**Regulatory Body:** Missouri Public Service Commission

Five-person commission appointed by the Governor. Confirmed by the Senate. Chairman is Robert Kenney.

# Missouri

Missouri session ended on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Legislators return to Jefferson City for a veto session (where they will consider any bills vetoed by the governor) September 14<sup>th</sup>. The session was eerily quiet on energy issues besides Performance Based Rates, a bill designed as a comprehensive solution to regulatory lag (it ended in an organized filibuster). Almost everything that dealt with a utility or energy failed in this session. Gas and Water utilities also sought legislation and even though their proposals were much less complex, they also failed.

The State did fund the Utilicare program at \$4 million dollars in the 2017 budget. This marks the second consecutive year and a very good trend moving forward. It funds customers who struggle with electric bills. Additional success was holding \$50,000 budgeted for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Tax Credit for the second year in a row.

The Supreme Court decision to stay the Clean Power Plan (CPP) took the impetus out of two pieces of legislation aimed at giving lawmakers a bigger say. A bill was filed that may have limited DNR's ability to submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP). There were also companion bills that would have required IOU's to show CPP costs on a customer's bill.

Utility legislation died that sought to dictate utility's energy mix, change eminent domain rules, mandate a meter opt out program and embarrass utilities. Several of those proposals took a step back this year and did not even get a hearing.

Utility Workers were added to Missouri's "Move Over" law. Vehicles approaching a stationary utility truck on the side of the road displaying amber or white lights will need to change lanes if possible or slow down as they approach the vehicle. This law is intended to help protect utility workers working alongside Missouri's roads and highways. The law was first put into effect for emergency responders.

## Non-Utility Legislation:

The Senate passed the controversial religious liberty bill after nearly 40 hours on continuous debate. The measure would have added legal protections for those who refused to provide services based on religious objections. Critics said it legalized discrimination. Republican leadership finally employed a rarely used maneuver to end debate and force the Previous Question. However, after several weeks and extensive lobbying from the business community, the resolution failed in a House Committee.

The Governor vetoed a "paycheck protection" measure that would require public employees who are not emergency responders to opt in each year for union dues to be taken out of their paycheck. The House mustered the 109 votes to override the Governor, however; the Senate fell short of overriding the law by 1 vote.

Missourians will have a chance to vote on Voter ID this year. The legislature placed the measure on the ballot that would require Missourians to show a photo ID at their polling place.