

# 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 15<sup>th</sup>. The governor has until July 14<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto bills. Successful bills go into effect on August 28 unless there is an emergency clause. Missouri legislators return to Jefferson City for a veto session (where they will consider any bills vetoed by the governor) September 16<sup>th</sup>.

It was a strange legislative session that featured suicides by the elected state Auditor and his spokesman, along with the election of a new Speaker on the final day of session after a sexting scandal forced the previous Speaker's resignation. In addition, the Senate used a rare procedural move in the final week to end debate on Right to Work legislation. This led to no other business being completed for the final week.

There were several energy-related bills that were discussed during the past session. They include:

After seven long years, incentives to lure data centers finally passed in Missouri. The data center industry is a nearly \$100 billion enterprise, growing at more than eight percent annually. These incentives will be helpful in ongoing efforts to bring data centers (and their massive power needs) to Missouri.

Lawmakers who are outraged with the EPA filed legislation giving themselves the ability to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP). Failure to submit a SIP would result in a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP). Utilities have a working relationship with Missouri's DNR and believe a SIP will result in a compliance plan that will be better for customers. Utilities were able to educate lawmakers and come up with a solution that puts pressure on the EPA without endangering a SIP.

Utilities were able to fend off bad legislation that would be harmful to the company and customers. Proposals to expand net-metering, introduce retail-wheeling and a form of limited deregulation received hearings but did not advance. Also, legislation limiting the ability to perform meter refresh was also given a hearing.

The State did fund the Utilicare program at \$4 million dollars in the 2016 budget. This marks the second consecutive year and a very good trend moving forward. Additionally, utilities were successful getting \$100,000 budgeted for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Tax Credit. This was the first time it was included in the budget.