

# MISSOURI

## 2012 State Legislature Profile and Summary

Capitol City: Jefferson City

**Governor:** Jay Nixon (D), elected in 2008; former state Attorney General for 16 years and State Senator prior to AG.

Primary Elections: August 7, 2012

General Elections: November 6, 2012

All House seats are up for election in 2012; only half of the Senate is up for reelection. Senators from odd-numbered districts are elected in presidential election years.

There are new district boundaries and numbers after the redistricting process happened in first quarter 2012.

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. No appropriation bill may be considered after 6:00 p.m. on the first Friday after the first Monday in May.

Governor has a two term limit. Legislators are limited to a maximum of eight years in the Missouri House of Representatives and eight years in the Missouri Senate.

**Senate:** 34 members; 26R, 8D

Term 4 years

Senate President – Rob Mayer R-Dexter (Term limited)

Minority Leader – Victor Callahan D-Independence (Term limited)

Major Utility Committee – Senate Commerce Committee (9 members)

Chair – Brad Lager (R - Savannah)

**House:** 163 members; 106R, 56D

Term 2 years

Speaker – Steve Tilley (R-Perryville, not seeking reelection)

Minority Leader – Mike Talboy (D-Kansas City, not seeking reelection)

Major Utility Committee – House Utilities Committee (26 members)

Chair – Darrell Pollock (R-Lebanon)

**Regulatory Body:** Missouri Public Service Commission

The Missouri Public Service Commission regulates investor-owned electric, steam, natural gas, water and sewer and telephone companies. The Commission was established in 1913. There are five commissioners on the PSC.

They are appointed by the governor. There is a current vacancy and one commissioner that will require senate confirmation in 2013; current Chairman is Kevin Gunn.

#### Major Issues (none passed during 2012 legislative session)

There were continued discussions around renewable energy, regulatory changes and focus on an additional reactor at the Callaway nuclear facility during the 2012 legislative session. Interest fizzled after Ameren and Westinghouse announced a new partnership and effort to develop small modular facilities at the Callaway site.

Additionally, there was a proposed initiative petition that would have created a new renewable energy standard and required investor owned utilities to use 25% renewable energy by 2026. There was organized opposition to this effort. In the end, Renew Missouri did not turn in the required signatures for the petition and declared they would not attempt any petitions this year.

There was an unsuccessful bill that dealt with pole attachments; it would have allowed telecommunications and broadband service providers and rural electrical cooperatives to attach, maintain, and operate their equipment on another's pole in order to promote, encourage, and facilitate the deployment of electrical smart grid technologies, broadband communications, and similar advanced technologies in rural areas of the state. It also spelled out timing and payment schedules when the attachment takes place. Although cooperatives, cable and telephone providers reached an agreement in the last days of session a senator unexpectedly opposed the bill because he felt it was not fair to property owners.

#### Addition Information:

Since 2009, Ameren Missouri has sought legislation to help it finance the early stages of building a second generating plant at the Callaway County site (located in mid-Missouri). Opposition killed those proposals because they required higher rates before electricity would be generated. Although the legislative efforts are not needed now, there will be future efforts to change the regulatory framework moving forward.

Ameren, Westinghouse and around 15 other partners have applied for a portion of the \$452 million U.S. Department of Energy grant to develop small modular reactors, or SMRs. The department can choose one or two applicants, and the money is designed to cover 50 percent of the cost of certifying the design and obtaining a construction license.

Westinghouse has been working on a reactor that would produce up to 225 megawatts of power. A full-size nuclear reactor typically generates 1,000

megawatts of electricity or more. There is potential to house five reactors on the Callaway site.

## **Links**

<http://house.mo.gov/default.aspx> (Missouri House of Representatives website)

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/> (Missouri Senate website)