

Missouri

Capitol City: Jefferson City

Governor: Eric Greitens (R). Elected Nov. 2016. Four-year term. RESIGNED

Lt. Gov. Mike Parsons (R) became Governor June 1, 2018.

Primary Elections: August 7, 2018

General Elections: November 6, 2018

The legislature convenes the first Wednesday after the first Monday of January. It adjourns 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 2018; only half of the Senate is up for reelection. Senators from even-numbered districts will be up for reelection in 2018.

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

Senate: 24 R + 9 D + 1 vacant = 34 total

Term 4 years

Senate President – Ron Richard (R-Joplin)

Minority Leader – Gina Walsh (D-Bellefontaine Neighbors)

Major Utility Committee – Senate Commerce Committee (11 members)

Chair – Ed Emery (R-Lamar)

House: 117 R + 46 D = 163 total

Term 2 years

Speaker – Todd Richardson (R-Poplar Bluff)

Minority Leader – Gail McCann Beatty (D-Kansas City)

Major Utility Committee - House Utilities (11 members)

Chair – Rocky Miller (R-Lake Ozark)

Regulatory Body: Missouri Public Service Commission

Five-person commission appointed by the Governor. Confirmed by the Senate. Chairman is Daniel Hall.

Missouri

The 2018 Missouri legislative session came to a close on May 19th. There were 2,079 pieces of legislation filed this session with 145 bills making it to the Governor's desk, compared to 60 bills in 2017, 139 in 2016, 130 in 2015, and 190 in 2014. This includes 16 appropriation bills.

With high expectations entering 2018 legislative session the state was rocked in late January, on the evening of the State of the State address, when it was revealed the Governor Eric Greitens had engaged in an extramarital affair prior to becoming Governor. This story and the frenzy since has created a significant amount of chaos and proved to be a quite a distraction for the General Assembly. The Missouri House of Representatives formed a Special Investigatory Committee to look into the allegations against the Governor which resulted in a special session that convened 30 minutes after the conclusion of regular session. The following week, Governor Greitens resigned and Lt. Governor Mike Parson became Governor. He has been touring the state and many of the state's civic leaders have been pleased with the activity and outreach coming out of his office.

Still, in a session marred with conflict and distractions, several legislative victories for the Republican super majority made their way through the process. Leaders from both the House and Senate believe the primary legacy of the 2018 session should be described as historically productive. These include multiple pieces of tort, tax, labor, education and ethics reform legislation.

Utility Legislation SB 564 was signed into law by Governor Greitens before he left office. The bill is meant to update the state's utility infrastructure and ensure any benefits Missouri electric utilities receive from the federal tax cut are refunded to customers. The bill will allow utilities to use plant in service accounting to make needed grid investments. The bill will also cap electric rates at 3% per year (and 2.85% for the largest utilities).

Tort Reform mentioned by Governor Greitens in his State of the State and a long standing Republican priority, saw over 25 bills filed in Missouri this legislative session. HB 1531 (civil proceedings), HB 1402 (arbitration agreements), HB 1407 (collateral source), HB 1693 (worker's compensation), SB 546 (joinder and venue), SB 596 (10-year statute of limitations – injury), SB 735 (worker's compensation), SB 831 (arbitration agreements), and SB 832 (Merchandising Practices) were the key tort related pieces of legislation and a priority for AIM, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, and other business interests. HB 1531 related to civil proceedings was the only tort reform bill which was truly agreed and finally passed.

Tax Reform was a top priority for rank and file Republican members and they were successful in passing HB 2540 and SB 884. SB 884 focused on corporate tax reform and the legislature approved a bill that makes Missouri's corporate income tax the

Missouri

second lowest in the nation. The reform moved the rate from 6.25% to 4% by 2020. Also, individuals will see a benefit through the largest single year income tax in Missouri's history. The bill reduces the existing individual income tax from 5.9% to 5.5%.

Transportation Tax under legislation approved this session, voters will have the opportunity to decide if the state's tax on fuel should be increased to provide a dedicated funding source for the state highway patrol, which will free up funding for Missouri's roads and bridges. If approved by voters in November, the measure would gradually phase in a fuel tax increase of up to 10 cents per gallon by raising the tax by 2.5 cents a year for four years beginning July 2019. The bill is expected to raise at least \$288 million annually for the State Road Fund to provide funding of Missouri state law enforcement, and \$123 million annually to local governments for road construction and maintenance.

Ethics Reform was set to be a top priority for both chambers entering the 2018 session. Governor Greitens, Speaker Richardson, and Senate leadership all spoke to the need to clean up the culture in Jefferson City. The House passed out Representative Justin Alferman's HB 1303 (lobbyist expenditures) on January 17th with a margin of 134-12. It was heard in a Senate Committee on January 23rd where it ultimately died. The Senate has not viewed Ethics reform as a priority and did not focus their energy on passing any form of ethics reform.

Labor Reform after passing Right to Work in 2017 the Republican majority set their sights on Government Union Reform, Paycheck Protection, and Prevailing Wage. HB 1413 (paycheck protection & government reform) and SB 599 (prevailing wage) were passed at the end of session as part of a compromise between Senate leadership and the Senate minority caucus. Republicans also used their supermajorities to pass SCR 49 which moved the election date on SB 19 (right to work – 2017) from the November election to August 7th. This move was viewed to help the Republican US Senate candidate.

Education Reform was a major platform of Governor Greitens' campaign. Although efforts to expand charter schools statewide and to offer tuition tax credits to attend private schools both failed to make it to the Governor's desk, proponents of education reform tout significant movement on the issue.