

# Missouri

Capitol City: Jefferson City

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

Primary Elections: August 5, 2014

General Elections: November 4, 2014

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 2014; only half of the Senate is up for reelection. Senators from even-numbered districts will be up for reelection in 2014. This will be the first election for some senators in new senate boundaries.

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

**Senate:** 24 R, 10 D

Term 4 years

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

Minority Leader – Jolie Justus (D – Kansas City)

Major Utility Committee – Senate Commerce Committee (10 members)

Chair – Brad Lager (R - Savannah)

**House:** 109 R and 53 D (one vacancy)

Term 2 years

Speaker – Tim Jones (R – St. Louis)

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

Major Utility Committees - House Utilities (24 members)

Chair – Doug Funderburk (R – St. Peters)

**Regulatory Body:** Missouri Public Service Commission

Five-person commission appointed by the Governor. Confirmed by the Senate. Currently one vacancy.

Chairman is Robert Kenney.

# Missouri

Missouri ended its legislative session on May 17 at 6pm as they are constitutionally required to do. The governor has until July 15 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 11.

The legislature spent a great deal of time on a tax cut proposal that was recently vetoed by the Governor. House Bill 253 (Berry, R-38), or the Broad-Based Tax Relief Act of 2013, would have reduced personal, business, and corporate income taxes. This piece of legislation would have reduced the personal income tax from 6% to 5.5% over a ten-year period, and the corporate income tax from the current 6.25% to 3.75% over five years. There would have been a 50% deduction for business income reported on individual tax returns over the next five years.

Although there was hope that an economic development bill would have been passed this year, the legislature was unable to agree on tax credit reforms and an overall package was not approved. There were several energy bills that were discussed during the past session. They include:

An electric infrastructure system replacement surcharge (ISRS). The electric ISRS initiative never was able to get to a vote in the Missouri Senate, despite a majority of senators in support. Seven republican senators led the opposition to ISRS. An expansion of water ISRS was defeated in the Senate on its final vote. An expansion of the gas ISRS passed the Senate early in the year before the electric ISRS became “toxic” and ultimately passed the House on the last week. There is a strong push by consumer groups to have the governor veto the gas ISRS bill.

A phase out of solar rebates. Initial legislation included a phase out of solar rebates paired with net metering enhancements and net metering cost recovery. Additional cost recovery and net metering expansions were eventually dropped from the bill, but a phase-out was approved. Current rebates are \$2/watt and will change to: July 2014-\$1.50; July 2015-\$1; July 2016-\$0.50; July 2017-\$0.50; July 2018-\$0.50; July 2019-\$.25; July 2020—END.

Enhanced scrap metal protections. The city of Kansas City led an effort to make it harder for thieves to sell copper and other precious metals. The bill requires scrap metal dealers to keep electronic records and require documentation of drivers' licenses, photos and license plates of those selling scrap metals.

FERC Authority. The bill to give the PSC authority to intervene in FERC cases passed on the last day of session.