

Vote Missouri!

ELECT YOUR STATE AUDITOR



Who Is Watching Out For Our Money?

This may sound like the beginning of an advertisement for a bank, but it is a question that every Missouri taxpayer has about what happens to the taxes we pay to the state. We want to make sure our money is used for things we need—like education, roads and health care for older people. The Missouri State Auditor is the elected official who tries to make sure that our tax money is used well. Here are some things you should know about the auditor:

The auditor is elected every four years, in the election year when none of the other statewide officeholders are elected.

Margaret B. Kelly was the first female state auditor and she was the first woman to hold a statewide office in Missouri. In 1984, the governor appointed Kelly to the office after the resignation of the previous state auditor. She was elected to a full term as state auditor in 1986 and held the office until 1994, when she was succeeded by Claire McCaskill.

Christopher “Kit” Bond, a former United States senator, once served as state auditor. John Ashcroft, a former United States Senator from Missouri and the former Attorney General for President George W. Bush, once served as state auditor.

HELP WANTED

Auditor for the State of Missouri

He or she must be:

- 1 at least 30 years of age
- 1 a citizen of the United States for 15 years
- 1 a resident of Missouri for 10 years before the election

Bond and Ashcroft both served as Missouri governor after they served as auditor.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ELECTIONS AND VOTING IN MISSOURI, INCLUDING CURRENT CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE—mo.gov and sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri.



State Auditor Facts

Watching out for the taxpayers' money is a huge job. Important things that the auditor's staff does are:

1. Going to each of Missouri's 114 counties to make sure elected officials there are spending tax money wisely on schools, roads, bridges and the courthouse.
2. Checking the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and the attorney general to make sure they are spending money the way the law tells them to.
3. Making sure that state office space is being used in the best way that it can be used. For example, the auditor may suggest that a smaller or less expensive office building will save the taxpayers money.
4. Suggesting to Missouri's state agencies how they could make the best use of the taxpayers' money, favor and many think this led the way to national reforms in campaign financing.

LEARNING EXTENSIONS

- 1 For all grade levels, go to www.auditor.mo.gov for more information on the state auditor.
- 2 Grades 4-6: ACTIVITY #1. On the state auditor's website, integrity, reliability, accountability and respect are listed as values necessary for a good auditor. Look these words up in the dictionary and discuss their meanings. Why are these values important for the state auditor? Should every elected official have these values? Why or why not.

ACTIVITY #2. Look through the newspaper for examples of people who are managing taxpayers' money. How do these jobs compare or differ from the state auditor?

- 3 Grades 7-12: ACTIVITY #1. Some people think that another qualification for the state auditor should be that the person be a certified public accountant, an expert at numbers and seeing how money is being used. Currently, that's not required. Would you vote for this change in the state Constitution? Why or why not. Write a letter to the editor stating your position on this.

ACTIVITY #2. Invite an elected county official—the presiding county commissioner would be the best choice—to visit your classroom. Have the commissioner or other official talk about what happens when the state auditor visits your county.

ACTIVITY #3. How important do you think the state auditor is to a democratic form of government?

MISSOURI STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:

GLE—SS3-A1, C, CA2, 3, 1.6 (for grades K-8)

CLE—SS2C, CA 2, 3, 1.6 (for grades 9-12)