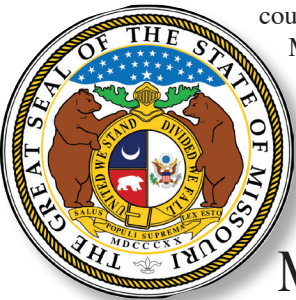


Vote Missouri!



The Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of Voting in Missouri



could fill several thick books because of Missouri's complicated and interesting voting history and current law. The secretary of state's office handles all voting matters. Below are some historical highlights of voting in Missouri.

Missouri was at the forefront of the movement to win the right to vote for women. The National Woman Suffrage Association, the first national women's organization dedicated to women getting the right to vote, was founded in St. Louis in 1867. In 1916, at the Democratic National Convention in St. Louis, women, all dressed in yellow, formed a silent gauntlet ten blocks long, called the Golden Lane, forcing delegates to walk through their line to enter the convention hall. Then, in 1919, Gov. Frederick Gardner called the Missouri legislature into special session where it ratified the constitutional amendment granting suffrage by overwhelming margins, making Missouri the 11th state to pass it.

HELP WANTED

Missouri Voters Must Be:

- 1 Registered to vote. You can register by mail with a postcard available online at www.sos.mo.gov/elections, at the post office or at your county office in charge of elections.
- 2 18 years of age on or before election day, a citizen of the United States and a resident of Missouri.

Missouri African-American leaders, who called themselves the Missouri Republican Union, heavily influenced the elections of U.S. Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes (1876) and James Garfield (1880), neither of whom would have won without the support of black voters.

In the Missouri Constitution of 1945, Missouri adopted the Non-Partisan Court plan for choosing Supreme Court Judges. With this plan, judges are chosen by panel recommendation to the governor for appointment.

After the governor appoints a judge, at the next general election, voters decide whether or not to retain the judge on the court. Many believe this plan allows judges to make decisions without fear of losing an election.

Missouri Voter's Bill of Rights

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

1. Cast your ballot free from interference in a private and secret manner unless assistance is requested.
2. View written instructions on how to obtain a ballot, how to vote and deposit the ballot in the ballot box.
3. Ask for and receive further instructions from election judges concerning the manner of voting.
4. View a sample ballot before voting.
5. Cast a vote if you are in line before the polls close.
6. Ask to have the election judges or person of your choice assist you in voting if you cannot read, are blind, or have any other physical disability; request curbside voting or a more accessible polling location if needed.
7. Receive another ballot if your ballot is accidentally spoiled or you make an error.

LEARNING EXTENSIONS

- 1 For all grade levels, go to www.sos.mo.gov/elections for more information on the history of voting in Missouri and current voter information.
- 2 Grades 4-6:
ACTIVITY #1—Discuss as a class why you think it took women more than 100 years to get the right to vote.
ACTIVITY #2—Read Missouri's Voter's Bill of Rights. Why are these rights important? Why do you think we need them?
- 3 Grades 7-12:
ACTIVITY #1—Read the 15th Amendment. Why was it passed after the Civil War? Why do you think women weren't included?
ACTIVITY #2—Research the Women's Suffrage Movement. Make timelines of the national and Missouri movements and compare and contrast them.
ACTIVITY #3—Research how African-Americans were deprived of their right to vote through poll taxes and literacy tests. (Although Missouri did not use either extensively, there were incidents of both until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.)

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)

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