

DO YOU KNOW?

Who was the first woman to serve in the Missouri Senate? How many Democrats and Republicans are in the Missouri Senate? What was one of the longest bills ever introduced in the Missouri Senate?

The answers to these questions and other facts about the Senate follow.

1. Missouri's 34 state senators hail from a variety of diverse backgrounds including nine in business, seven in law, three in education, five in agribusiness, two in finance, five in public service, one in real estate, one in construction marketing and one electrician.
2. Twenty-seven current state senators served previously in the Missouri House of Representatives.
3. The average age of those currently serving in the Missouri Senate is 50.
4. Senator Michael Kinney was the oldest to serve in the Missouri Senate. Elected in 1912 and retiring in 1968 at the age of 93, Sen. Kinney also served the longest time in the Missouri Senate.
5. Elected in 1960, Senator Theodore McNeal was Missouri's first African-American state senator. Three African-Americans currently serve in the Missouri Senate.
6. Missouri's first woman state senator, Mary Gant, served from 1972 until 1980. Seven women currently serve in the Missouri Senate.
7. Elected in 1977, Senator Gwen Giles was Missouri's first African-American woman state senator.
8. Senator J. O. Morrison and Sen. James L. Mathewson were the longest serving state senate presidents pro tem in Missouri history. They each served for eight years.
9. At least 46 state senators have attained higher statewide office or become a U.S. senator or congressman for Missouri.
10. More than half of Missouri's state senators reside in one of the state's three largest metropolitan areas – Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield.
11. In 2001, the Republican party won the Missouri Senate majority for the first time since 1948. The current party split in the Missouri Senate is 20 Republicans and 14 Democrats.
12. The geographic size of Missouri's 34 state senatorial districts ranges from a few square miles in some urban areas to 16 counties in some rural areas.
13. Each state senator represents a district comprised of approximately 165,000 Missourians.
14. The Missouri Senate meets each year from early January to mid-May for the regular legislative session. In the weeks during this time, the Missouri Senate typically meets from mid-afternoon Mondays to mid-afternoon Thursdays. (The same holds true for the Missouri House of Representatives.)
15. Missouri state senators earn an annual salary of about \$31,350.
16. There are currently 16 standing committees in the Missouri Senate.
17. With rare exception, all Missouri Senate chamber proceedings, committee meetings and committee hearings are open to the public and the media.
18. The shortest bill introduced in the Missouri Senate was one line long. One of the longest bills introduced was Senate Bill No. 52 (897 pages) in 1993.
19. Taxes, education, healthcare and crime are some of the most debated subjects in the Missouri Senate.
20. Major legislation topics for 2007 included creation of Mo HealthNet medical assistance program and funding for higher education through the Lewis and Clark Discovery Fund. Property tax reform will be a major topic in 2008.
21. State lawmakers considered more than 2,074 bills and resolutions in 2007.
22. Term limits for State Senators and Representatives were approved by voters in November 1992 and became effective December 3, 1992. Senators are limited to two 4-year terms and Representatives to four 2-year terms. The constitution was amended in 2002 to add provisions for partial terms served. Senator Victor Callahan was the first Senator eligible to serve a partial term and two full terms. The initial effect of term limits occurred in the 2002 election when 12 Senators and 73 House members were ineligible to run for re-election.
23. Lawmakers must approve a new budget each year. In 2007 the appropriations total, after governor vetoes, was \$21.488 billion.

(Updated December 2007)

MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI SENATE
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 (SECOND REGULAR SESSION)

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* Elected in Special Election September 4, 2007

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE MISSOURI SENATE

