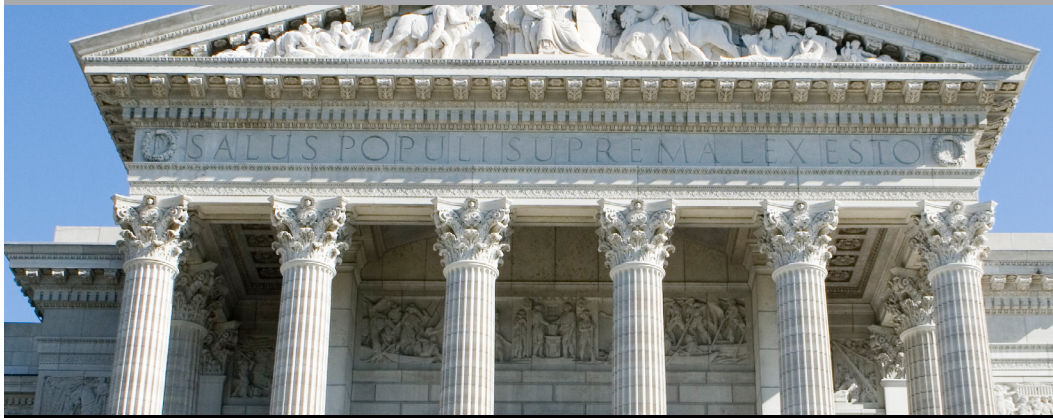


# 2015 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



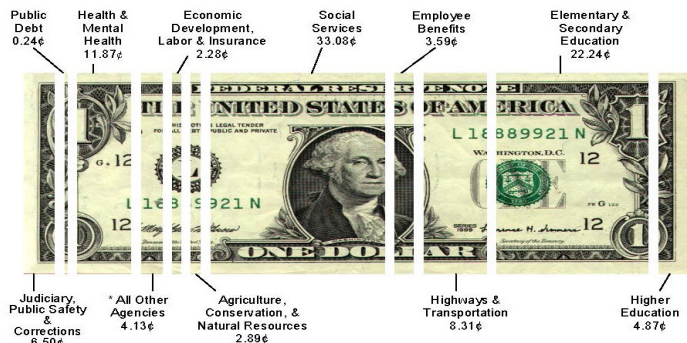
## SENATOR JOSEPH KEAVENY MINORITY FLOOR LEADER DISTRICT 4: ST. LOUIS CITY AND COUNTY

Website for Constituents  
[www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny](http://www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny)

- Review Sen. Keaveny's sponsored legislation
- View the Criminal Procedures Seminar
- Read the Minority Party Medicaid Report
- Find neighborhood meeting information
- Request a courtesy resolution for anniversary or retirement
- View press releases and other media
- Sign up to receive the Keaveny Connection monthly newsletter
- Listen to Sen. Keaveny's audio podcasts

## Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR  
FISCAL YEAR 2016 TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED OPERATING BUDGET  
All Funds: \$26.028 Billion



\*Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate

The graphic to the left illustrates how tax dollars are slated to be distributed for Fiscal Year 2016, which started July 1, 2015, and ends June 30, 2016.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for reading this 2015 legislative session report. This year, I was honored that my colleagues elected me to be the Senate Minority Floor Leader.

Success this session was not measured in what passed the legislature, but what the minority party did not allow to pass, including cuts to unemployment benefits and photo voter ID.

Unfortunately, the General Assembly failed to expand Medicaid again despite the outcries of thousands Missourians. Hospitals are closing, people are dying, and Missouri is losing millions of dollars to other states every year we do not enable workers earning low wages to have health insurance.

I continued my work on reducing wrongful convictions, updating receivership laws, and increasing contributions to the state's deferred compensation plan. Please visit my website to review additional legislation I sponsored.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the Missouri State Senate.

Sincerely,

Senator Joseph P. Keaveny

## Find Your Unclaimed Property

In the 4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, which includes St. Louis City and County, there is more than \$42,752,548.16 worth of unclaimed property. According to the Missouri Treasurer's office, one in 10 Missourians have assets they need to claim. To search the Unclaimed Property Database, visit [www.showmemoney.com](http://www.showmemoney.com), or call (573) 751-0123.

## Unemployment

The minority party stopped cuts to people on unemployment. **House Bill 150** would have changed the maximum length of state unemployment benefits from 20 weeks to 13 weeks, when the state unemployment rate drops below 6 percent. Missouri's unemployment benefit time frame would have been one of the shortest in the nation for the length of time a person can receive unemployment. This legislation was quickly vetoed, and while still in session, an override attempt was made by the majority party in the House. The minority party did not allow the bill to come to the Senate floor, essentially killing the override attempt.

## Right-to-Work



Above photo taken during the governor's press conference for the veto of the Right-to-Work legislation at the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Union, Local 36 in the City of St. Louis.

Right-to-Work legislation was unfortunately passed through the General Assembly, but then vetoed. The fate of this legislation could rest in the hands of the annual veto session, which is set for mid-September.

Under **House Bill 116**, people who are receiving the benefits of union activity in the form of higher wages, increased benefits or better working conditions would be able to avoid paying union fees. Right-to-Work is a national attempt to weaken the bargaining power of workers.

Passage of this legislation will endanger job site safety and lower worker wages. It is irresponsible to destroy the institution of organized labor and take money out of the pockets of working families.



## Photo Voter ID

This year, photo voter ID legislation came in the form of **House Bill 30** and **House Joint Resolution 1**.

I oppose photo voter ID legislation because it places barriers to voting for low-income persons, the elderly and those with disabilities. For some it will be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain the needed documents.

There are currently mechanisms in place to address other forms of voter fraud. It is important to note that Missouri has never had a documented case of voter impersonation. Never.

We in the minority party held the floor to not allow the photo ID measure to be debated, and therefore, not be passed.

Register to vote: [sos.mo.gov](http://sos.mo.gov) or (573) 751-2301.

## Education

### House Bill 2, the education budget:

- \$84 million increase in Fiscal Year 2016 budget for the formula to fund public education; and
- Despite this increase in funding, Missouri's public schools will still be underfunded by over \$400 million next year.

### House Bill 42, the school transfer law:

- Brings statutory order to the currently chaotic transfer law;
- Allows students in under-performing schools to attend higher performing schools within their own districts, or transfer out of the district, if there's no space;
- Expands virtual and charter school options;
- Allows Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to help districts sooner;
- Gives protections to receiving districts to keep size ratio intact; and
- Offers free tutoring to students in struggling schools.
- This legislation has been vetoed by the governor.

## TANF Benefits

**Senate Bill 24** made several changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

The bill lowers the maximum time a person can receive TANF during his or her lifetime from 60 months to 45 months.

Despite hard work by the minority party, an override to the veto was achieved, so it will become law.



## Senator Keaveny's Legislation

I sponsored several measures which had hearings and floor debate. None passed this session, so I plan to try again next session.

- **Senate Bill 216** – This measure establishes the Missouri Commercial Receivership Act.
- **Senate Bill 386** – Under current law, CBD oil can only be recommended for patients with intractable epilepsy. This bill would expand medical ailments that are eligible for CBD treatments, including: cancer, MS, IBD, PTSD and more.
- **Senate Bill 303** – This legislation would have implemented a streamlined identification processes for eyewitnesses to crimes, to reduce wrongful convictions. Seventy percent of wrongful convictions are from incorrectly identifying a suspect.
- **Senate Bill 237** – This measure would prohibit discrimination based on someone's sexual orientation.

## Municipal Courts

**Senate Bill 5** reformed municipal courts. Cities can no longer use funds from speeding tickets to help make up for budget shortfalls.

## National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

I co-sponsored **House Bill 514**, now signed into law, which provides up to \$12 million in state tax increment financing for certain areas of St. Louis to keep the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in the region. Numerous other St. Louis-area senators, as well as Senate leaders from across the state worked across the aisle to provide tax increment financing, or TIF, for certain areas of St. Louis bordering former public housing sites. Lawmakers hope this will lead to "retention or expansion" of more than 2,000 geospatial - intelligence jobs.

The agency employs more than 3,100 employees and could move from its current location in South St. Louis city. It is looking at several other St. Louis locations for a new facility.

## Tax Amnesty

The governor signed **House Bill 384**, establishing a tax amnesty program, which allow delinquent taxpayers to apply for amnesty. Provisions in the law include:

- Tax amnesty payments begin on September 1, 2015;
- Pay unpaid taxes by November 30, 2015; and
- Agree to comply with state tax laws for a period of eight years from the date of the agreement.

Taxpayers granted amnesty would not "be eligible to participate in any future amnesty for the same type of tax."

The majority of collected revenue is expected to be from delinquent income and sales tax, although the program is open to all taxes collected by the Missouri Department of Revenue. For more information, visit [www.dor.mo.gov](http://www.dor.mo.gov) or call (573) 751-7200.

## Medicaid Expansion



Medicaid rally at the Missouri Capitol.

The Missouri General Assembly was not able to reach a compromise to pass Medicaid expansion, allowing 200,000 low-income working Missourians access to health care.

**Senate Bill 125** would have expanded medical care to low-income adults making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level as called for under the ACA.

**Senate Bill 322** did not pass either. This legislation would have raised the MO HealthNet asset limit for elderly and disabled persons, allowing more people access to care they need, but often cannot afford on their own.

The majority party blocked Medicaid expansion. There was bipartisan support to pass the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA), which reimburses hospitals and nursing homes for care provided to struggling families. Under **Senate Bill 210**, FRA allowed Missouri to receive \$3.617 billion in federal funds.

MO HealthNet/Medicaid Facts:

- Medicaid services were expanded to include adult dental benefits. With the payment mechanism of the tax amnesty period, current MO HealthNet enrollees are likely to see those benefits implemented in December 2015 or January 2016.
- The 100 percent federal funding ends in 2016;
- Of the 54 largest metropolitan areas (in the 37 states using the healthcare.gov platform), St. Louis ranked 14th with 112,118 enrollees.
- The Open Enrollment Period for coverage in 2016 will run November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016.
- Visit [www.covermissouri.org](http://www.covermissouri.org) to learn about the Missouri Marketplace.
- Visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) to access the Marketplace or call (800) 318-2596.



# SENATOR JOE KEAVENY

201 W Capitol Ave Rm 333

Jefferson City MO 65101

PRESORTED STANDARD

U. S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Permit No. 220

## St. Louis Stay-cations

**Forest Park** is the home to the region's major cultural institutions—the Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum, Science Center and the Muny Opera. It also serves as a sports center for golf, tennis, baseball, bicycling, boating, fishing, handball, jogging and more.

### St. Louis Zoo

<http://www.stlzoo.org/>

1 Government Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63110

(314) 781-0900

Summer Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday-Sunday and holidays

### St. Louis History Museum

<http://www.mohistory.org/>

5700 Lindell Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63112

(314) 746-4599

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday



The first occupant of this state-of-the-art, \$16 million exhibit is Kali, a 2 ½ year-old, 850-pound male polar bear Kali.

### St. Louis Science Center

<http://www.slsc.org/>

5050 Oakland Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63110

(314) 289-4400

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday

### St. Louis Art Museum

<http://www.slam.org/>

1 Fine Arts Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63110

Hours: Closed Monday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday

## Important Phone Numbers

**State Information** ..... (573) 751-2000

<http://www.mo.gov>

Dept. of Corrections (Probation and Parole).....(573) 751-8488

[www.doc.mo.gov](http://www.doc.mo.gov)

Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education...(573) 751-4212

[www.dese.mo.gov](http://www.dese.mo.gov)

Dept. of Health and Senior Services..... (573) 751-6400

[www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov)

Dept. of Mental Health..... (573) 751-4122

[www.dmh.mo.gov](http://www.dmh.mo.gov)

Dept. of Revenue..... (573) 751-4450

[www.dor.mo.gov](http://www.dor.mo.gov)

Dept. of Social Services..... (573) 751-4815

[www.dss.mo.gov](http://www.dss.mo.gov)

Dept. of Transportation..... (888) 275-6636

[www.modot.mo.gov](http://www.modot.mo.gov)

MO Attorney General's No-Call List/Identity Theft..... (866) 662-2551

[www.ago.mo.gov](http://www.ago.mo.gov)

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

St. Louis County Police Department ..... (314) 889-2341

St. Louis Fire Department ..... (314) 533-3406

St. Louis Regional Crime Stoppers ..... (866) 371-TIPS (8477)

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD)

Emergency ..... 911

Non-Emergency ..... (314) 231-1212

**For more helpful phone numbers, check out Sen. Keaveny's community services directory at [www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny](http://www.senate.mo.gov/keaveny).**

## Annual Health Fair

Annual

Back-to-School

Health Fair

August 1, 2015, from

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The People's Health Center

5701 Delmar Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63112



My Capitol staff and I are happy to assist you. Left to right: John Schulte, intern; Wilma Rowden, Administrative Assistant; Sen. Joseph Keaveny; Stacy Morse, Chief of Staff; and Chris Schappe, General Counsel.

There will be health screenings, free school supplies and attendance prizes.