

May 9th, 2014 Report

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Missouri Budget Project E-News

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1. **Legislature Overrides Governor's Veto of Tax Scheme**
2. **Missourians Rally for Medicaid Expansion**
3. **General Assembly Sends Budget Bills to Governor**

1. **Legislature Overrides Governor's Veto of Tax Scheme**

As you know, the legislature voted to override Governor Nixon's veto of [SB 509](#) - a massive tax scheme that will starve education, health, infrastructure, and other critical services of [nearly \\$800 million a year when fully implemented](#). The Senate voted along party lines, and in the House, Representative Keith English (D-Florissant) joined all Republicans to override the veto.

We appreciate all your work to oppose these tax cuts that will be, as a [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) editorial put it, "[a knockout blow for Missouri's future](#)."

Missouri Budget Project's [reaction to the override can be read here](#).

2. **Missourians Rally for Medicaid Expansion**

On Tuesday, nearly 300 people rallied to urge Missouri legislators to expand Medicaid before the legislative session ends next week. In addition, prominent clergy from across the state joined in prayer and sang hymns in the Senate, interrupting its morning session. [Faith leaders called for “a renewed emphasis on human dignity,”](#) and encouraged lawmakers to pass Medicaid for Missourians now. [Twenty-three clergy were removed from the Senate chamber and arrested,](#) and released on site. You can [watch video of the Senate faith action here](#).

3. **General Assembly Sends Budget Bills to Governor**

On Thursday, the General Assembly sent the more than \$26 billion budget to Governor Nixon, who has the option of using his line item veto to eliminate any lines in the appropriation bills.

The final budget includes an increase to the **school funding formula** of almost \$115 million. If the Governor's revenue estimates are accurate, which seems less and less likely given the low revenue growth in the current fiscal year, the school funding formula will be increased an additional \$163 million.

The budget includes a \$4 million increase to the **Missouri Preschool Program**. While the Governor had originally requested an increase of \$20 million, the House suggested an increase of over \$8 million and the Senate \$3 million. While less than once expected, this does amount to an increase in funding for preschool startups in the state.

In the **higher education budget**, the General Assembly settled on the higher increase that the Senate had proposed of over \$43 million, and funded it entirely out of General Revenue, thus avoiding the uncertainty of the two-tiered system proposed by the House.

In the **Department of Social Services**, the Children's Division received most of the funds they requested for reducing staff turnover for frontline child abuse investigators. While the funding for student loan repayment was removed, the final budget did include funds for the Career Ladder program, training and mobility.

Also in the Department of Social Services, the approved budget includes funding for an expansion of dental services to adults who currently receive Medicaid. Many legislators have spoken about the need for preventive dental services, which avoid costly emergency dental services.

While funding for **Medicaid expansion** to adults making up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level was not included in the state budget, Representative Noel Torpey talked about the need to work within the federal Affordable Care Act to improve the way it is being implemented. He called on the House of Representatives to pass the bill he has sponsored that would expand and reform Medicaid.

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Missouri Budget Project improves the quality of life for all Missourians by informing public policy decisions through objective research and analysis of state budget, tax and economic issues. More information is available at: www.mobudget.org.