



“While there are plenty of things we do agree on, we understand that there are plenty that we don’t too. As the 2024 election cycle heats up, we want to show the people of Missouri and Kansas that even when we disagree, we can disagree better.”

— Gov. Mike Parson, November 14, 2023, at a meeting at BBQ restaurant Q39 Midtown in Kansas City with Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly to announce their participation in the National Governors Association’s Disagree Better initiative

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Missouri

Pop. (2023): 6,208,310

Median household income (2023): \$63,390

Credit Rating: AAA / Stable

Pop. growth 2023–2028: 0.10%

Median age (2023): 39.8

Right-to-work state: No

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

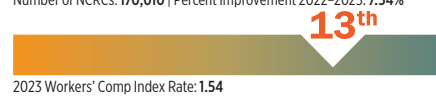
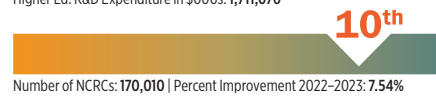
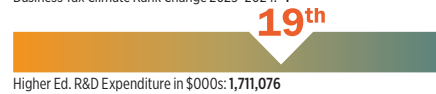
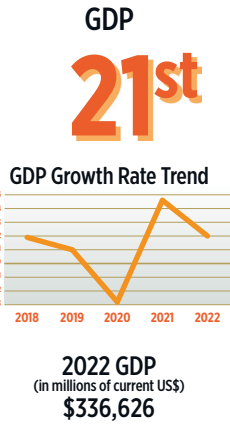
A summary from the Missouri Press Association when the legislature’s session adjourned in May reported that among the major items to pass was \$2.8 billion in funding to expand I-70 from outside Kansas City to St. Louis to three lanes in each direction.

Gov. Parson in September signed SB 20, which reauthorizes the employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) 50% income tax deduction on the proceeds business owners receive when they sell their companies to their employees.

House Bill 417 creates a new workforce training program called “Upskill Credential” that will reimburse employers through competitive grants for upskilling employees with short-term, industry-recognized credentials.

A \$15 million appropriation supports efforts to onshore high-tech manufacturing industries that are vital to national security.

As part of the budget the Missouri Department of Economic Development awarded \$75 million through the Industrial Site Development Grant Program for 15 projects across the state.



PROJECT WATCH



Missouri S&T campus in Rolla
 Photo courtesy of Missouri S&T

Two Missouri locations in November were designated by the Biden Administration as Tech Hubs. First, the Critical Minerals and Materials for Advanced Energy Tech Hub at Missouri S&T University in Rolla aims to position south-central Missouri as a global leader in critical minerals processing to provide the materials needed to support battery technology.

The second tech hub will be located in Kansas City and led by BioNexus KC. “Known as the Inclusive Biologics and Biomanufacturing Tech Hub (KCBioHub), more than 60 partner organizations plan to ramp up life-saving vaccine production and other preventative technologies to become a global leader in biomanufacturing and life sciences,” said a release from the governor’s office.

Missouri lawmakers appropriated \$16 million in the state budget for fiscal year 2024 to the Missouri

Department of Economic Development to support Missouri S&T research on mining and refining critical minerals. The money will be used to equip a demonstration facility and demonstrate feasibility of a Missouri-based supply chain for lithium-ion cathode materials for the manufacture of batteries in Missouri, known for its historic support of and resources for battery manufacturing. Missouri is home to 29 of the 50 critical minerals identified by the USGS needed to advance the green economy.

“At S&T, our researchers propose to extract critical minerals from conventional and unconventional sources,” said Missouri S&T Chancellor Mohammad Dehghani, “such as the leftover piles of materials from mining operations that have accumulated for over 100 years in Missouri and other mining-rich regions of the United States.”

YOUR TEAM TRAINED **YOUR WAY**



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STARTED



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A Division of the Missouri Department of Economic Development

