

Name _____
Hour _____

MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST STUDY GUIDE

Missouri and the Constitution

Statehood--

Constitution--1st one: _____; current one: _____

Preamble: *"We, the people of Missouri, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for his goodness, do establish this Constitution for the better government of the state."*

State motto:

Latin: _____

English: _____

Meaning:

Structure of Constitution:

Bill of Rights (Article I)

Structure of Government (Article II)

3 Branches:

Legislative Branch (Article III)

Missouri General Assembly:

Sessions (when and why?):

General:

Special:

Senate (_____ members based on _____)

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years; **Term limit:** _____

Leadership of Senate:

House of Representatives (_____ members based on _____)

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years; **Term limit:** _____

Leadership of House:

Steps in the legislative process

Bills

Committees

“Do Pass”

Initiative Process(Section 50)

What is it and how does it work?

Referendum Process (Section 52)

What is it and how does it work?

Districts

Redistricting

Executive Branch (Article IV)

6 Elected Officials:

Governor:

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years

Duties:

Order of succession: _____

Lt. Governor:

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years

Duties:

State Auditor:

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years

Duties:

Secretary of State:

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years

Duties:

Attorney-General:

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years

Duties:

State Treasurer:

Qualifications:

Term: _____ years

Duties:

Other Executive Officials/Departments and Duties:

Revenue:

Highways and Transportation:

Agriculture:

Economic Development:

Insurance:

Social Services:

Mental Health:

Conservation:

Natural Resources:

Public Safety:

Labor and Industrial Relations:

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE):

Higher Education:

Judicial Department (Article V)

Supreme Court:

_____ judges; How chosen:

Qualifications:

Terms:

Cases/jurisdiction:

Duties:

Court of Appeals:

of courts: _____; Where:

Judges: How chosen:

Qualifications:

Terms:

Cases/jurisdiction:

Duties:

Circuit courts:

of courts:

Judges: How chosen:

Qualifications:

Terms:

Cases/jurisdiction:

Duties:

NONPARTISAN COURT PLAN (Section 25)

What is it?

How does it work?

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (Article VI)

Counties

Source of power:

Functions of county government:

Municipalities/cities

Source of power:

Functions:

Removal of Public Officers (Article VII)

Grounds for impeachment/removal of public officers:

Education (Article IX)

Free public schools for up to 21 years old

Taxation (Article X)

Corporations (Article XI)

Amending the Constitution (Article XII)

Methods of proposing amendments:

Proposal by majority of members of each house of GA

Initiative petition (Art III Sec 50)

Constitutional convention referendum every 20 years

Takes effect 30 days after majority vote in favor

Public Employees (Article XIII)

Name **KEY**

Hour ____

MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST STUDY GUIDE

Missouri and the Constitution

Statehood-- 1821

Constitution--1st one: 1820 ; current one: 1945

Preamble: "We, the people of Missouri, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for his goodness, do establish this Constitution for the better government of the state."

State motto:

Latin: Salus populi Suprema Lex Esto

English: The Welfare of the People Shall be the Supreme Law

Meaning: *Interests of people are top priority (not corporations or politicians).*

Structure of Constitution:

Preamble

Article I=Bill of Rights

13 Articles

Amendments

Bill of Rights (Article I)

32 Sections; over 50 rights

Similar rights to US Bill of Rights

Structure of Government (Article II)

3 Branches:

Legislative, Executive, Judicial

Legislative Branch (Article III)

Missouri General Assembly: *Senate and House of Representatives*

Sessions (when and why?):

General: *For passing bills; January till May 30*

Special: *Called by governor or 3/4 members of both houses of GA to deal with emergencies*

Senate (34 members based on population of districts)

Qualifications: 30 years old; voter for 3 years; resident of district for 1 year

Term: 4 years; Term limit: 8 years/2 terms

Leadership of Senate:

***Lieutenant Governor; President Pro Tem;
Majority & Minority Floor Leaders and Whips***

House of Representatives (163) members based on population)

Qualifications: 24 years old; voter for 2 years; resident of district for 1 year

Term: 2 years; Term limit: 8 years/4 terms

Leadership of House:

***Speaker of the House; Speaker Pro Tem;
Majority & Minority Floor leaders and Whips***

Steps in the legislative process (SEE HANDOUT)

Bills

Introduced in either house

Committees

Public hearings

“Do Pass”

***Out of committee and onto “Perfection calendar”
for action on floor of houses***

Initiative Process(Section 50)

What is it and how does it work?

***To propose laws and amendments to Constitution
Need petition signed by % of voters in # of districts***

Referendum Process (Section 52)

What is it and how does it work?

***To void/reject laws passed by GA
Need petition signed by % of voters in # of districts***

Districts

Redistricting

Census every 10 years; redraw districts due to population shifts

Executive Branch (Article IV)

6 Elected Officials:

Governor:

Qualifications:

30 yrs old; US citizen for 15; Mo resident for 10

Term: 4 years

Duties:

Chief Executive officer of state; makes appointments; Veto power; regulates spending; commander-in-chief of state militia; pardons;

Order of succession Lt governor; President Pro tem; Speaker of House; Sec of State; Auditor; Treasurer; Atty Gen.

Lt. Governor:

Qualifications:

Same as governor

Term: 4 years

Duties:

Presides over Senate; takes over for governor

NOTE: GOVERNOR AND LT GOVERNOR ARE ELECTED SEPARATELY!

State Auditor:

Qualifications:

Same as governor/lt. governor

Term: 4 years

Duties:

Make sure agencies/govt are spending money the way they're supposed to; audits GA, counties, schools, etc.

Secretary of State:

Qualifications:

Mo resident for 1 year

Term: 4 years

Duties:

Chief elections official; keeper of state seal; finalizes actions by governor; record keeper; compiles and publishes laws and publications

Attorney-General:

Qualifications:

Must be lawyer; live in Jeff City; Mo resident for 1 year

Term: 4 years

Duties:

Chief legal officer; represents state in court

State Treasurer:

Qualifications:

Mo resident for 1 year

Term: 4 years

Duties:

***Handles state funds; invests receipts; distributes \$
to state agencies and employees***

Other Executive Officials/Departments and Duties:

Revenue: licenses and renewals; taxes

Highways and Transportation: *roads and bridges; MODOT*

Agriculture: *farm issues*

Economic Development: *encouraging/helping Mo. businesses*

Insurance: *fairness of insurance premiums, claims*

Social Services: *public assistance*

Mental Health: *services for mental health patients, families*

Conservation: *wildlife, hunting, fishing; magazine*

Natural Resources: *rivers, mining, soil, pollution*

Public Safety: *Highway Patrol*

Labor and Industrial Relations: *rights of workers*
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE):
Elementary, middle, high school accreditation; teachers

Higher Education:
State colleges

Judicial Department (Article V)

Supreme Court:

7 judges; How chosen: *Mo. NonPartisan Court Plan*
Qualifications: *30 yrs old; 15 yr US citizen; 9 yrs Mo voter*
Terms: *12 years*

Cases/jurisdiction:

Cases appealed from Ct of Appeals; death penalty cases;
Treaties; Constitutional questions

Duties:

Supervises lower state courts

Court of Appeals:

of courts: 3; Where: *St. Louis, Springfield, Kansas City*
Judges: How chosen: *Mo. NonPartisan Court Plan*
Qualifications: *same as Supreme Ct judges*
Terms: *12 years*

Cases/jurisdiction:

Appeals from lower courts

Duties:

Pass constitutional issues on to Supreme Court

Circuit courts:

of courts: *46 circuits (along county lines)*
Judges: How chosen: *Some elected; some under Mo. Plan*
Qualifications:
Terms: *Circuit judges: 6 yrs; Assoc. Circuit judges: 4 yrs*

Cases/jurisdiction:

Original hearings for civil and criminal, felonies and misdemeanors

Duties:

Original jurisdiction

NONPARTISAN COURT PLAN (Section 25)

What is it? *Judge selection plan whereby qualified judges are selected by commission/governor instead of elected by party*

How does it work?

When vacancy occurs, 3 candidates are chosen by qualified commission of lawyers, lay people and choices are given to governor to make final choice. After term, judges are retained or rejected by voters.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (Article VI)

Counties

Source of power: *Missouri constitution and laws*

Functions of county government:

Maintain basic services (roads, police, fire, etc)

Collect revenue

Plan development, building

Municipalities/cities

Source of power: *Missouri constitution and laws*

Functions:

Carry out state laws; Maintain basic services (roads, police, fire, trash, etc); collect revenue; plan development, building;

Removal of Public Officers (Article VII)

Grounds for impeachment/removal of public officers:

Crimes, misconduct, habitual drunkenness, willful neglect of duty, Corruption in office, incompetency, offense of moral turpitude

Impeachment by House; Trial in Supreme Court

Education (Article IX)

Free public schools for up to 21 years old

Taxation (Article X)

Corporations (Article XI)

Amending the Constitution (Article XII)

Methods of proposing amendments:

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Constitutional convention referendum every 20 years

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Public Employees (Article XIII)

2007 Missouri Supreme Court ruled that public employees (e.g. teachers) have a right to organize and use “collective bargaining”.

STUDY SESSIONS FOR
MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST

Thursday (May 22nd)--lunch, after school
Friday (May 23rd)--lunch, after school
Tuesday (May 27th)--before school

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