



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY
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ERIC R. GREITENS
GOVERNOR

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Fellow citizens of Missouri,

Missouri's economy is growing again, and Missouri businesses are creating quality jobs. People are going back to work, and we're working hard to make sure that more jobs with higher pay come back to our state.

When the economy grows, it is tempting to want to grow the government with it. With more money coming in, they want to spend it. Not on our watch. Our budget situation is only a bit better than it was a year ago, and we still need to be careful. Last year, we were almost \$600 million in the hole because for too long, bureaucrats had created programs that we couldn't pay for. As a result, we had to make some painful but necessary cuts.

We've created a common sense and conservative budget. We're watching out for your tax dollars, making important investments in Missouri's future, and also making tough decisions to make sure we don't burden our children with debt. This is the people's money, and we need to watch over every single dollar.

Government doesn't create jobs, but it can create the conditions in which businesses want to start and grow. That's why this budget includes \$162.8 million in new funding to develop Missouri's infrastructure by constructing and maintaining the state road and bridge system. It also includes \$25 million to establish a new Jobs and Infrastructure Fund that will assist local governments to build necessary infrastructure. We've also invested \$7.6 million to modernize the ports on our rivers. We need to be able to ship what we make in Missouri to the rest of the world, and this investment will help Missouri farmers sell agricultural products.

We're also investing in our future by supporting our teachers and students. Teachers in Missouri are not getting the pay they deserve. That is why the 2019 budget increases pay for teachers in state-run schools, sending more money than ever to our elementary, middle and high schools. This budget also adds an additional \$87.5 million over last year for total funding of \$6.1 billion—a record high level of support for Missouri elementary and secondary education.

We've also made some investments in programs to support vulnerable children. The budget includes \$3.3 million in additional funding to care for children who have been abused or neglected and removed from their homes and an additional \$8.5 million for the First Steps Program which provides early intervention services for families with young children with disabilities or developmental delays. It also includes \$8.4 million in new funding to provide instruction and therapy to young children with disabilities through the Early Childhood Special Education Program.

We're making investments in public safety. Our budget increases pay for the Highway Patrol and front-line corrections officers, provides needed safety and forensic investigation equipment, and increases funding for drug treatment efforts. We're also expanding our fight against the opioid epidemic.

We also had to make tough choices, and we know this budget will not make everyone happy. Just like last year, Missouri faces rising healthcare costs that consume a huge amount of money. We have done the best we can to produce a common sense, conservative budget that takes care of our people and invests in our future. We are taking Missouri in a new and better direction, and we will continue to do everything we can to put Missourians back to work.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric R. Greitens', written over a horizontal line.

Eric R. Greitens