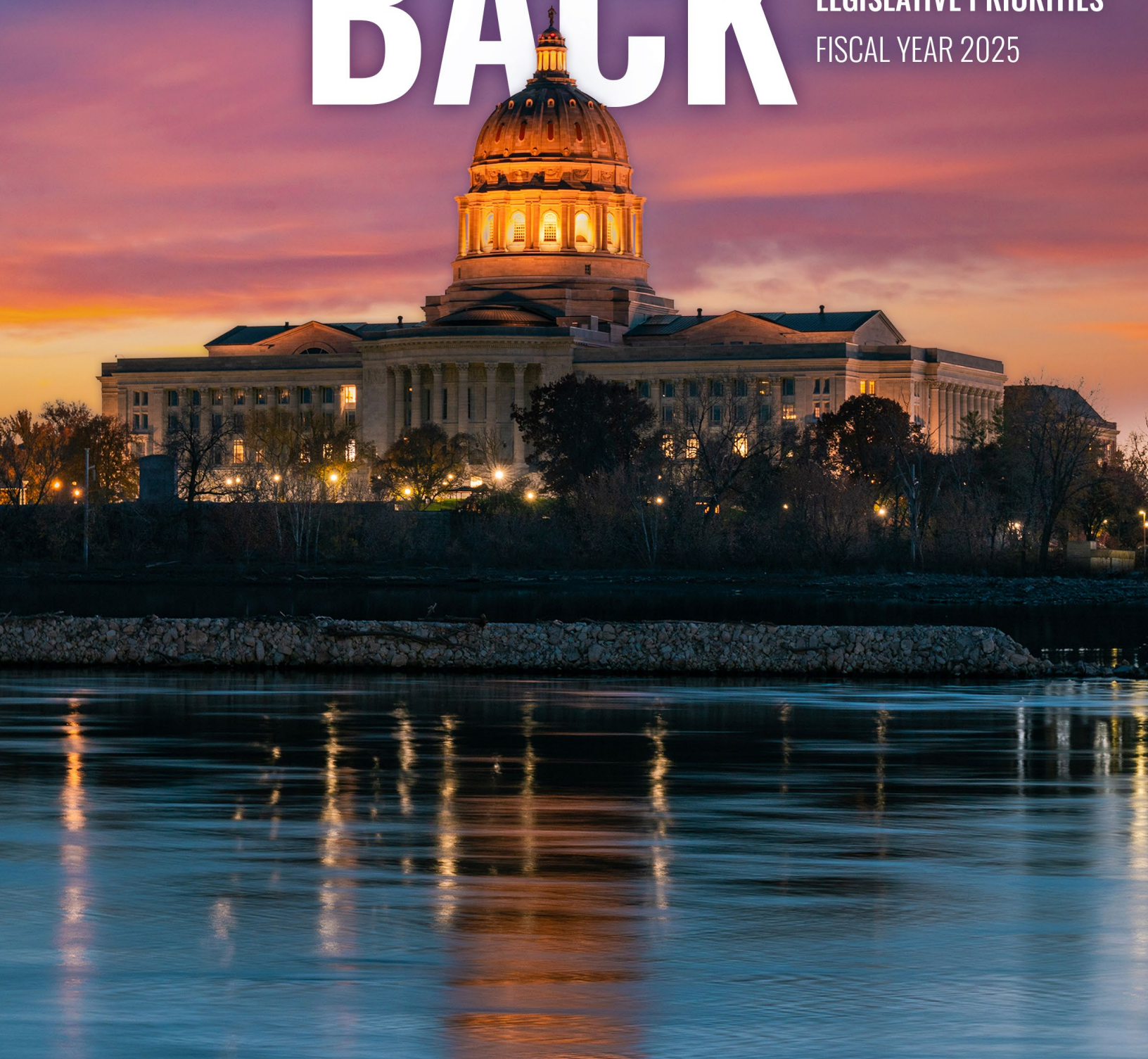


# NO *Turnin'* BACK

BUDGET AND  
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FISCAL YEAR 2025





STATE CAPITOL  
201 W. CAPITOL AVENUE, ROOM 216  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101



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*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MISSOURI

January 24, 2024

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI:

Throughout our administration, we have laid out bold and historic proposals. We never backed down when faced with adversity and have always capitalized on opportunity to the benefit of Missourians. Because of it, together we have secured generational achievements that will continue serving Missourians now and into the future. Last year, I declared that I was not done yet. We are not done yet. While that still rings true, I'm happy to report that we are getting close.

Working with all of you and having the First Lady, my family, and my team by my side, we will continue to do to our last day what we have done from the start: put people first. Since the very beginning, our administration has done that by focusing on two priorities: infrastructure and workforce development. As we lay out our priorities for my final year in office as the 57th Governor, we know there is no turnin' back. No matter how much time we have left, our focus is the same, and we will be relentless in our approach.

Our priorities work. They have helped Missouri soar to new heights that were unimaginable just five and a half years ago. We have secured a legacy of wins that we should all be proud of. Wins like adding more than 110,000 new Missouri jobs, nearly \$15 billion in new business investments, cutting state regulations by 20 percent, reducing public debt by 50 percent, leaving \$1.5 billion on the bottom line of the state budget, passing the largest income tax cut in state history, reducing tax burdens by 20 percent, winning the fight for life, and reshaping Missouri's judiciary for generations to come. These are just a sample of the impacts we have had over the last five and a half years, but the point remains that our administration has done the Republican thing. We have done the conservative thing. But more importantly, we have done the right thing – time and time again.

This year's budget continues our historic progress. It continues the rebuilding and repairing of roads and bridges. It continues support for K-12, higher education, and workforce training programs. It continues efforts to build stronger communities. Above all, our budget this year continues to put the people of Missouri first.

A budget is about priorities, and we are confident that these priorities support Missouri's solid foundation and will leave our state standing strong and proud in the years to come. We look forward to working together in 2024 to achieve even more for the people of Missouri. When it comes to building a brighter future for Missourians, there is no better recipe than putting people first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael L. Parson".

Michael L. Parson  
Governor

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## NO *Turnin'* BACK

BUDGET & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
FISCAL YEAR 2025

Office of Governor  
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# *Celebrate*

1. Lowest Unemployment Rate Recorded at 2.1%
2. Nearly \$15B in Business Investments
3. 110,000 New Jobs
4. Ranked 1st in the Nation for On-the-Job Training
5. Ranked 2nd in the Nation for Apprenticeships
6. Ranked 2nd in the Nation for Cost of Doing Business
7. Ranked 2nd in the Nation for Fiscal Policy
8. Ranked 3rd in the Nation for Best Business Tax Index
9. Ranked 4th in the Nation for Best State to Retire
10. Ranked 4th in the Nation for Personal Income Tax
11. Ranked 5th in the Nation for Small Business Job Growth
12. Ranked 5th in the Nation for Workforce Training
13. Largest Income Tax Cut – Over 20%
14. Oversaw Two Additional State Tax Cuts
15. Cut More than 600 Burdensome Regulations
16. Left Missouri with 50% Less Debt

17. Appointed Lt. Governor, Two Attorneys General, and Two State Treasurers
18. Appointed 155 Judges – More than Any Other Governor
19. Appointed 1,225 Missourians to Boards, Commissions, and County Offices
20. Appointed Female Majority on Missouri Supreme Court
21. Cleared Clemency Backlog
22. Created the Office of Early Childhood
23. Fully Funded the Foundation Formula for Education for Six Consecutive Years
24. Fully Funded School Transportation
25. Teacher Base Pay Increase from \$25,000 to \$40,000 Per Year
26. Established 1st HBCU Law Enforcement Training Academy
27. Established the Missouri Blue Scholarship
28. Created Fast Track Workforce Development Program
29. Invested in Improving Maternal Mortality Rate
30. Provided Funding for One Health Lab
31. Largest Investment in Mental Health Services
32. Ended Elective Abortion in the State

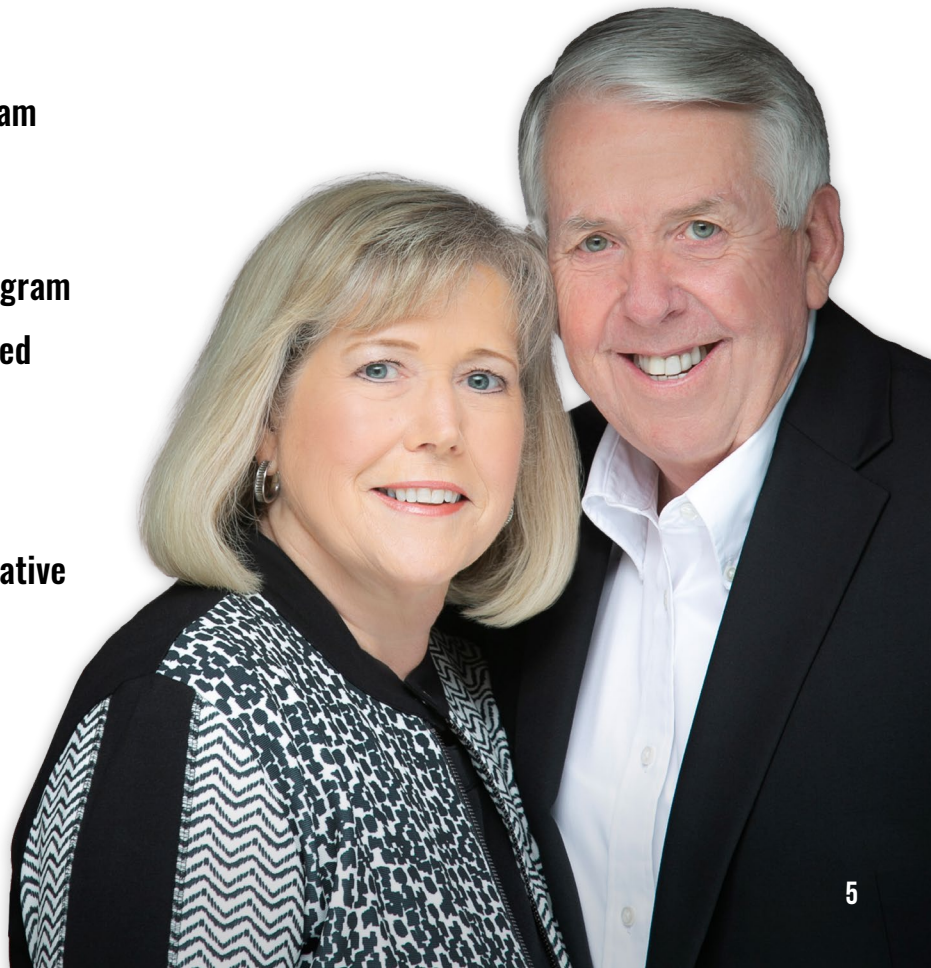


# THE WINS

- 33. Successful Public Health Victory over COVID
- 34. Increased Rural Telehealth Access
- 35. Reinvested in Missouri One Start Program, Nearly 175,000 Workers Trained
- 36. Established Missouri Way
- 37. Established Missouri Leadership Academy
- 38. Established a Deferred Compensation Employer Match
- 39. Provided over 20% Cost-of-Living Adjustment for State Team Members
- 40. Maintained AAA Bond Rating
- 41. Signed License Reciprocity into Law
- 42. Consolidated MO Careers Website
- 43. Implemented Show Me Excellence Program
- 44. Implemented MO Appreciation for State Team Members
- 45. Funded Access Missouri Scholarship Program
- 46. Consolidated Two Prisons and Reorganized State Agencies
- 47. Missouri State Fair Improvements and Expansion
- 48. First State to Launch Reentry 2030 Initiative
- 49. Largest Broadband Expansion in State History
- 50. Funded Historic I-70 Expansion

- 51. Completed I-270 Exchange
- 52. Repaired or Replaced 50% of Entire State Highway System
- 53. Constructed Nearly 2,000 Miles of Rural Roads
- 54. Created Transportation Cost-Share Program
- 55. 250 Focus on Bridges Projects Completed
- 56. Provided Funding for Buck O'Neil Bridge and Rocheport Bridge
- 57. Grew Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Plan from \$2.5B to \$14B

*Governor Mike Parson and  
First Lady Teresa Parson*







# EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

Governor Parson understands the importance of education and workforce development initiatives working hand in hand to meet the demands of the future. Missouri has made major progress in these areas in recent years, and we must continue to take action to provide the people of Missouri the opportunity to succeed. From generational investments in early childhood, K-12 education, and higher education to targeted investments in youth apprenticeships and Jobs for America's Graduates, Governor Parson's budget aims to give more Missourians the education and training necessary to fulfill their American Dream.



# EDUCATION

---

## FULLY FUND K-12 EDUCATION

**\$120.6M**

Funding the state's elementary and secondary education formula for the sixth year in a row, bringing the base foundation funding for public education to more than \$3.7 billion.

## FULLY FUND SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

**\$14M**

Funding school transportation costs for students for the third time in decades.

## CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

**\$51.7M**

Increasing subsidy rates for child care currently at the 58th percentile for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children to the 100th percentile for infants and toddlers and the 65th percentile for preschoolers and school-aged children as based on most recent market rate study.

## HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

**\$32.5M**

Increasing core funding by three percent for the state's four-year higher education institutions, community colleges, and State Technical College of Missouri.

## EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

**\$4M**

Strengthening teacher recruitment and retention by providing state funds to local school districts for an increased baseline educator salary of \$40,000 per year and recommitting funds to support pay increases for veteran teachers through the Career Ladder program.

## JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES (JAG-MISSOURI)

**\$3.8M**

Providing school services to help at-risk youth graduate from high school and successfully transition to post-secondary education or meaningful employment. JAG-Missouri, a voluntary in-school program that counts as a high school elective, focuses on core competencies that prepare students for workforce success.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

**\$314.7M**

Investing in capital improvement projects that transform how Missouri conducts research, trains workers, and supports communities:

- Crowder College – Joplin Advanced Training Center
- East Central College – Rolla Campus, Health Sciences Academy
- Harris-Stowe State University – STEM Academic Building
- Jefferson College – Arnold Expansion and Renovation
- Lincoln University – Health Sciences & Crisis Center
- Metropolitan Community College – 21st Century Teaching/Learning Environment Enhancement
- Mineral Area College – Center for Excellence
- Missouri Southern State University – Health Sciences, Technology, and Innovation Center
- Missouri State University – Judith Enyeart Reynolds Complex
- Missouri University of Science and Technology – STEM Education
- Missouri Western State University – Student Success Hub
- Moberly Area Community College – Next Century Networking
- North Central Missouri College – Student Center
- Northwest Missouri State University – Energy Infrastructure Modernization
- Ozarks Technical College – Center for Workforce and Student Success
- Southeast Missouri State University – Modern Campus
- State Fair Community College – Advanced Ag & Transportation Tech
- State Technical College – Supply Chain Workforce Education
- St. Charles Community College – Workforce Technical Innovation
- St. Louis Community College – Health Sciences Center
- Three Rivers College – Technical Education Expansion
- Truman State University – Multi-location HVAC System Improvement
- University of Central Missouri – Humphreys Building Renovation
- University of Missouri – Columbia, NextGen Precision Health
- University of Missouri – Kansas City, Health Sciences District Development
- University of Missouri – St. Louis, Campus of the Future





## **MOEXCELS**

### **\$54.4M**

Funding the fifth year of MoExcels projects to facilitate the development of employer-driven workforce education and training programs in high-demand occupations at Missouri's public higher education institutions.

## **SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCTION**

### **\$10M**

Investing in research, program development, and skills training to increase our competitiveness for semiconductor manufacturing.

## **UPSKILL CREDENTIAL TRAINING**

### **\$6M**

Establishing the new Upskill Credential Training program created with the passage of House Bill 417 in 2023. Funds will give Missourians access to training and work experience that leads to new skills and family-sustaining wages, while ensuring employers have the skillsets their businesses need to serve more Missourians.

## **MIDWEST CRITICAL MINERALS INNOVATION CENTER**

### **\$5.4M**

Constructing a new 18,000 square foot climate-controlled facility between the Missouri Geological Survey and Missouri University of Science and Technology campus with geological core viewing lab and analytical equipment, and funds for utilities and maintenance. Expanding the state's research capabilities around locally-sourced critical minerals is essential to national security and the state's economic prosperity.

## **YOUTH APPRENTICESHIPS**

### **\$3.1M**

Expanding and supporting registered youth apprenticeships for Missouri students ages 16 to 18 years old.



## WINS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Since Governor Parson took office, Missouri has been strengthening economic growth by supporting businesses that are bringing new investment and job creation to communities. Governor Parson understands the importance of supporting employers to encourage this growth. To invest in the workforce of tomorrow, Governor Parson's administration has utilized the Missouri Works program, the state's number one tool for business expansion and retention, and Missouri One Start, the state's premier workforce recruitment and training division.

Under Governor Parson's leadership, the Missouri Works program has supported more than 581 projects that have created more than 43,300 jobs across the state since his administration began in 2018. Because a skilled workforce is critical to economic growth, many of these projects were also supported by Missouri One Start. Since 2019, Missouri One Start has provided training assistance for more than 173,000 workers. With the help of these programs, leading employers continue to grow and invest in our state, including Kawasaki, Prysmian Group, and Ace Hardware.

Kawasaki, a leader in engine production, invested \$6.6 million and will create 278 jobs in Boonville. The company will receive up to \$50 million through Missouri Works as well as employee training assistance from Missouri One Start.

Prysmian Group, a world leader in wire and cable products, is investing more than \$45 million and creating 60 jobs in Sedalia. The company is being supported by Missouri Works and Missouri One Start.

Ace Hardware, the world's largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative, is investing \$155 million and creating 350 jobs in Kansas City. The company is being supported by Missouri Works and Missouri One Start.

From rural areas to metros, these programs have led to many business expansions and the lowest unemployment rate in Missouri history at 2.1 percent. These investments are part of Governor Parson's commitment to leaving Missouri better than he found it and always putting people first.





# INVESTING IN TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

When Governor Parson took office, Missouri teachers, on average, were among the lowest paid in the nation and were not properly recognized or rewarded. Governor Parson set out to change how we value teachers by increasing Missouri teachers' baseline salary from \$25,000 to \$40,000 per year and by recommitting and boosting funds to the Career Ladder program to support pay increases for veteran teachers.

The Career Ladder program allows teachers who go above and beyond to be recognized and compensated for their efforts. For example, the Blue Springs School District offers teachers Career Ladder hours for tutoring, after-school clubs, and other approved after-hours student contact such as Readers Theater.

Fourth-grade teacher Christina Cox with Blue Springs says, "Having the opportunity to work with students after hours has been an essential part of my students' success. I have seen their skills and confidence carry over into their daily classwork as well. Without the extra monetary incentive, I would be less motivated to give that large amount of time to tutoring, although the

student need for the extra support has always been there. This fall, when reviewing my class scores on the MAP test, my students grew 40 percent more than their expected growth from the previous year. Seeing my hard work enrich students' lives in such a tangible way, helped to renew my passion for teaching."

Janet Helmandollar, a second-grade teacher at Blue Springs, says, "This is my 36th year in education. When Career Ladder was brought back, knowing this would make an impact on my retirement, I made the decision to continue teaching. I accumulate a lot of my Career Ladder hours by tutoring students after school and through the clubs that I sponsor before school. Working with students in small groups or one on one, I can meet their individual needs and reinforce what we are doing in the classroom."

When Missouri invests in teachers through programs such as Teacher Baseline Salary Grant and Career Ladder, teachers can better invest in students, which leads to more successful outcomes in and outside the classroom. This is about putting people first, both teachers and students.





**Governor Michael L. Parson Port Terminal**  
**Port Authority of Kansas City**  
1742 Market St.

Operator Transport 360  
Terminal Phone  
(913) 370 2095



Port Administrator  
Port KC  
(816) 559-3750

# INFRASTRUCTURE

Since the very beginning, maintaining our state's roads, bridges, and waterways has been a priority for Governor Parson. Infrastructure is critical to ensuring Missouri has the framework for success in the future, and while outstanding progress has been made in recent years, there is still more work to be done. Governor Parson's budget reflects his continued commitment to revitalizing our state's infrastructure, calling for key investments in roads, rails, ports, airports, and in broadband. These investments will help strengthen Missouri's infrastructure system, which serves as a lifeline for transportation across the nation.



## **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**\$1.5B**

Partnering with the federal government to invest in broadband planning, deployment, mapping, education, and adoption focused on unserved and underserved areas. This brings the total Missouri broadband investment to nearly \$2 billion since 2019.

## **STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)**

**\$290M**

Funding and support for projects in the STIP. This includes highway and bridge construction, training and technology for local transportation agencies, long-term transportation planning to enhance safety, and roadway data collection efforts.

## **LOW-VOLUME ROADS**

**\$93M**

Continuing to partner with local governments to improve low-volume rural roads in poor condition.

## **AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

**\$27.3M**

Partnering with the federal government to provide improvements to airports statewide for land acquisition, planning, design, and ultimately, project construction. Eligible projects include pavement maintenance, lighting, terminal buildings, hangars, fuel facilities, obstruction removal, and other safety improvements.

## **INTERSTATE 44 EXPANSION PLANNING**

**\$14M**

Transferring the interest earned on the I-70 Project Fund for expansion planning of I-44 from St. Louis to Joplin.

## **PORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**\$11.6M**

Supporting key investments in port improvement projects, including the construction of docks and fleeting facilities and the rehabilitation of port-owned rail facilities.

## **MISSOURI RIVER FLOOD RESILIENCY**

**\$5.2M**

Continuing the multi-state partnership with Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, along with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to work on strategies and solutions for better flood protection and resiliency across the Missouri River. These funds represent Missouri's portion of the \$19 million total costs. Funding also supports Lower Missouri River studies, which include Brunswick, Holt County, and Jefferson City.

## **SOURCING CRITICAL MINERALS**

**\$1.3M**

Supporting the development of Missouri's critical mineral resources. Funds will support ongoing and new collaborations with state, federal, higher education, and private partners to catalyze critical minerals interest in the Midwest.



# HISTORIC I-70 FUNDING

Connecting Kansas City to St. Louis, Interstate 70 serves as a vital transportation route for Missouri and the entire country. For years, traffic has been congested on this vital stretch of highway leading to many accidents and hours of delay. The expansion of I-70 has been talked about in the State Capitol for decades, and after decades of inaction, the Parson administration and the legislature took action and appropriated \$2.8 billion for improvements to I-70.

When completed, I-70 will be a six-lane highway from Kansas City to St. Louis, reducing traffic congestion and leading to fewer accidents, while incentivizing new businesses to invest in Missouri's I-70



corridor. MoDOT is currently conducting the competitive procurement process with the contractor and consultant industry on proposals for the first project from Route 63 in Columbia to Route 54 at Kingdom City. Construction is scheduled to begin early Summer 2024.

With the strategic way the I-70 expansion project was funded, the smart use of current resources, and the efficient and effective work of project teams, the I-70 project completion can be achieved by the end of 2030. This historic investment will sustain I-70 for future generations of Missourians who rely on this important stretch of highway.







# FOCUS ON BRIDGES PROGRAM COMPLETION

When Governor Parson took office, 250 bridges across the state were identified by MoDOT as being in poor condition. Recognizing the need to do better, Governor Parson established the “Focus on Bridges” program in January 2019 to improve Missouri’s oldest and most dangerous bridges. Several of these bridges were in rural areas of the state and served as the lifeline for Missouri schools as well as farmers and ranchers who feed and fuel the world.

For the first time in Missouri history, the Parson administration along with the legislature leveraged general revenue and bonding authority to fund the bridge program and to pull down additional federal funding to complete other major infrastructure projects across our state.

Approximately five years after the program began, the Focus on Bridges program has now repaired the original 250 overlooked and crumbling Missouri bridges as well as opened up additional resources for major projects like the Buck O’Neil bridge, the I-270 North

Project, and the new Rocheport bridge. With the program’s completion, Missouri motorists now have safer and more efficient access to our roadways.

Under the Parson administration, nearly 17,000 miles of Missouri roadway, about 50 percent of Missouri’s entire highway system, have been improved and over 1,000 total bridges have been repaired or replaced. Additionally, the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for infrastructure projects across the entire state has grown from \$2.5 billion to nearly \$14 billion.







# GOVERNMENT REFORM

Governor Parson and his Cabinet remain committed to making state government more efficient and accountable by investing in our workforce, incentivizing better performance, and regularly reassessing how we work to better serve Missourians. As public servants, it is our responsibility to provide reliable and responsive service to the people of Missouri. Governor Parson's budget reflects his continued support for state team members and the need to invest in state government to meet the demands of the future.



## **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE RESERVE FUND**

**\$234.3M**

Increasing funds to better maintain, repair, and renovate state facilities.

## **STATE EMPLOYEE PAY PLAN**

**\$111M**

Providing a pay increase for state employees to stay competitive in Missouri's labor market and to improve recruitment and retention. This includes a 3.2 percent cost-of-living increase for all state team members as well as an additional one percent salary increase for every two years of continuous service capped at 10 percent for 20 years of service for eligible state team members working in certain congregate care facilities.

## **STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS**

**\$42M**

Implementing Microsoft 365, improving the Office of Geospatial Information's capabilities, increasing cybersecurity, and implementing an asset management system as part of the Digital Government Transformation Initiative. These investments will improve the citizen's customer experience and protect their personal data.

## **CORRECTIONS SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS**

**\$13.1M**

Modernizing the Department of Corrections' offender management system to improve information sharing and mobile capabilities and consolidate several outdated applications.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES CALL CENTER IMPROVEMENTS**

**\$4M**

Funding for an automated chat box to help assist the Department of Social Services customers, alleviate call center wait times, and reduce manual data entry for more efficient customer inquiries, applications, and renewals.

## **SUPPORT FOR FOSTER FAMILIES**

**\$3.9M**

Improving the recruitment, licensing, management, and support of Missouri foster families. Funds will also provide for two additional Children's Division caseworkers in the St. Louis region.

## MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION TEAM EXPANSION

**\$498,946**

Meeting the increased inspection demands as a result of new meat and poultry production facilities across the state to ensure food safety for consumers.

## MISSOURI VETERANS HOMES SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

**\$360,000**

Upgrading technology to protect residents in Missouri Veterans Homes by updating aging anti-wander software and systems.

## VETERANS' HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**\$118,841**

Purchasing software for the Missouri Veterans Commission to share medical records with the United States Department of Veteran Affairs and the United States Department of Defense, ending the need for annual contracts with third parties and to help automate the information exchange.







# MISSOURI LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

When Governor Parson took office, there was a shortage of state team members and a need to train existing team members to become the next leaders of the state's workforce.

After an employee-led Leadership Academy Working Group completed its report and recommended its establishment, Governor Parson implemented the Missouri Leadership Academy in 2018.

Since 2018, more than 320 state team members have completed Leadership Academy, with another 72 scheduled to complete the academy by the end of 2024. Leadership Academy has led to the development of the next generation of state leaders, managers, and directors.

One such leader is Robert (Bobby) Baugh, a youth services supervisor with the Department of Social Services (DSS). He is currently a facilities manager with the Division of Youth Services at the Sierra Osage Treatment Center (SOTC) in Southeast Missouri. Bobby has been with the division for seven years, beginning as a youth specialist before moving into his current leadership role. His current job duties include overseeing a treatment team of staff as well as serving as the Group Leader for the youth at SOTC.

Bobby also spent 15 years in management/leadership roles in the private sector before beginning his tenure with DSS.

Bobby is now a facilities manager for DSS. He was promoted around graduation. Bobby spoke to his cohort about the process of applying, interviewing, and ultimately receiving the job offer. He shared how his Missouri Leadership Academy experience helped prepare him for the new role and how he gained confidence and skills from the program.





# *A Story of Success*

## STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

For decades, the State of Missouri struggled to keep up with the demands of a digital age. Under Governor Parson's administration, a fundamental shift took place prioritizing the development of government services online and making state government more effective and efficient for Missouri citizens.

In the fall of 2018, the Digital Government Transformation initiatives were established with the goals of delivering open and efficient services to the public through digital technology. To achieve this result, the State of Missouri is focused on four major investments: citizen journey mapping to ensure citizens can access services quickly and with ease; implementing a modern productivity and collaboration suite for state government; establishing a one-stop shop for access to state government services; ensuring state government has modern software/hardware application infrastructure; and establishing data lakes and uniform data governance structures to facilitate the secure sharing and storing of data.

Until recently, state agencies used a mix of different out-of-date Microsoft Office setups. Purchasing a modern office productivity tool for

the consolidated enterprise is a good first step to ensure Missouri government can offer services in the most efficient and effective way possible. Microsoft Office 365 has now been rolled out to 15 state agencies with more to come.

For citizens and businesses to have a one-stop-shop experience, data will have to be shared among the many IT systems throughout state agencies. To do this in a secure manner which preserves the integrity of each of the underlying systems, operational data lakes are being created. This will also eliminate multiple entries of the same data by citizens, businesses, and employees – saving time and resources.

The work of digital transformation is more than just putting forms online; it includes evaluating the needs and interests of its citizens and ensuring state government can adapt. The state has now surveyed over 15,000 citizens asking about their experience interacting with state government and letting us know what could be improved. With these changes, the State of Missouri will be able to provide a world-class user experience to its citizens across state government.





CIRCUIT ATTORNEY

# STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Having been in law enforcement for more than 20 years, Governor Parson understands the importance of successful partnerships to build stronger communities across Missouri. Whether it is partnering with local officials to invest in law enforcement training, recruitment, or retention or teaming up with local leaders to fight the opioid epidemic, Governor Parson has never wavered in his commitment to putting the people of Missouri first. This year's budget continues upon that progress and works towards even stronger communities across Missouri.



## OPIOID PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY EXPANSION

**\$14.2M**

Supporting opioid addiction prevention services, as well as expanding access to naloxone and fentanyl test strips across the state.

## AGRICULTURE RESILIENCY FUND

**\$3.5M**

Creating an agriculture resiliency fund to assist agricultural producers and landowners with recovery from and preparation for natural disasters, including the mitigation of flood and drought impacts.

## WATER PATROL ENHANCEMENTS

**\$1.8M**

Upgrading fiberglass lake boats to new metal patrol boats that will extend the life of the Water Patrol Division's fleet.

## VETERANS COMMUNITY PROJECT

**\$1.5M**

Addressing Missouri veteran homelessness and housing needs through the Veterans Community Project in Kansas City and St. Louis.

## CRIME LAB

**\$1.4M**

Providing additional case management support to the Highway Patrol for DNA, toxicology, and firearms cases as well as for the continued backlog reduction in sexual assault cases.







## MISSOURI TASK FORCE ONE

### \$1.1M

Assisting local emergency agencies facing a disaster response both in-state and out-of-state. These funds will help replace aging response vehicles and equipment, as well as support a large-scale joint exercise.

## CHILD EXPLOITATION PREVENTION

### \$900,000

Improving the education and awareness of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Missouri as recommended by the Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children.

## FIRST RESPONDERS SUPPORT RESOURCES

### \$640,000

Enhancing support for first responders by expanding access to trauma care and wellbeing initiatives.

## ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND

### \$182,111

Establishes a new program within the Department of Agriculture responsible for the approval and ongoing regulation of foreign ownership of land as required by Executive Order 24-01.



## A NEW OUTLOOK ON REENTRY

When Governor Parson took office, he said he was interested not in building more prisons but in helping people become more successful in life. By investing in smoother transitions for people leaving prison and returning to the community, the state can help boost personal success and enhance public safety.

Last year, Missouri became the first state in the United States to sign on to Reentry 2030, a national initiative that aims to dramatically improve reentry outcomes for people exiting prison. The state is expanding public and private reentry partnerships and preparing Missourians to find and keep good jobs after incarceration. The initial goals are for 100 percent of incarcerated Missourians who need career services to receive them and to see 80 percent of these Missourians maintaining stable employment for at least nine months after release.

Reentry centers are now up and running in 10 Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities. At these centers, Missourians preparing for release can get help with vocational certifications, employability skills, and job searches; vital documents; home plans and housing searches; child support and family reunification; and medical and behavioral health care plans.

An example of better reentry is Columbia business owner Trey Dawson, who knows firsthand the value of good programs and strong partnerships. Trey channeled the job skills and certifications he gained through DOC's Puppies for Parole program into his dog-training business, Backyard K9, which has earned multiple local awards and honors. He also used what he learned through substance use recovery to help others by serving as a peer support specialist with Burrell Behavioral Health and as an activities coordinator with In2Action, an organization providing transitional and recovery support. Thanks to the state's investment in great staff and great programs, Trey has built a better future for himself and his community.







# A Story of Success

## GRANTING SECOND CHANCES

When Governor Parson took office, he inherited nearly 4,000 pending clemency applications. For years there had been no formal review process for clemency applications, and Governor Parson believed that 4,000 people in limbo waiting for an answer is not serving Missourians.

The Governor instructed his legal team to begin reviewing clemency files and working to eliminate the backlog inherited by his administration. He set out to provide people with answers. If the answer was no the applicant would be told no, and if it was a yes, the applicant would be told yes. Thanks to the Governor's dedicated review process the clemency backlog he inherited has been cleared for the first time in decades.

This reform did not mean former Sheriff and now Governor Parson was letting people out of jail or forgiving violent criminals. He pardoned people who deserved it, people who had truly turned their lives around. People just like Reverend Kenny Batson.

In his youth, Kenny was drinking, getting into fights, and found himself on the wrong side of the law in Cedar County. Eventually he was incarcerated, thinking that he would

be “permanently marked” for the rest of his life for his crimes. However, when Kenny became a Christian at the age of 23 during his jail sentence, he started on a path that has led him from prison to being the senior pastor of Grace Fellowship Interdenominational in El Dorado Springs —a thriving congregation of approximately 200 attendees. Kenny is also a full-time chaplain for Heartland Hospice in Butler having earned a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministries and an Master of Arts in Theological Studies.

As Kenny recalled, “Although I knew that God had completely forgiven me for my past, I went ahead and applied for a pardon from the State of Missouri. A few years later in 2022, I received a letter from Governor Parson granting me that pardon. Upon reading it, I felt like I was released from prison again, not really understanding until that moment how much my past still bothered me. Immediately, I shouted and cried and have cried happy tears many more times since.”

Kenny has been married to his wife Angie, who is a unit supervisor for the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services, since 1998, and together they have three children.



# MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Governor Parson is committed to ensuring all Missourians have access to mental health and health care services. Governor Parson's continued investments in health care are designed to provide additional access points for mental health and health care, additional services for those seeking mental health support, and support for health care providers. Governor Parson has done this by partnering with community-based organizations, health care providers, and other health professionals to ensure quality services are affordable for Missouri's most vulnerable citizens.



## **TREATMENT AND SUPPORT FOR MISSOURIANS WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**\$86M**

Providing MO HealthNet behavioral health services for an additional 1,260 individuals and waiver services for 1,900 new individuals with developmental disabilities in need of residential services and in-home support.

## **MISSOURI VETERANS HOMES**

**\$12M**

Continuing to support Missouri veterans and Missouri Veterans Homes across seven facilities statewide.

## **RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS**

**\$10.4M**

Enhancing treatment services in recovery high schools in Kansas City and St. Louis for eligible students diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency. Students will also have access to mental health professionals and positive peer and staff support at these schools.

## **MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION**

**\$7.2M**

Supporting the implementation of a new fetal and maternal mortality prevention plan to provide support and address preventable deaths of babies, expectant mothers, and postpartum mothers.

## **ADDRESSING LONG-TERM CARE STAFFING SHORTAGES**

**\$5.6M**

Creating a career path platform for individuals working in long-term care facilities to attract and retain a qualified workforce.

## **ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE STAFFING SHORTAGES**

**\$4.5M**

Providing funds for 20 additional behavioral health residency slots to train more physicians who treat substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder in Missouri.

## **ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE STAFFING SHORTAGES**

**\$3.5M**

Helping alleviate health care staffing shortages in Missouri by developing new medical residency programs in rural and underserved communities and increasing in-state medical residency capacity.



# *A Story of Success*

## RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES

When Governor Parson first took office, there were many Missourians across the state who were unable to get the recovery support care they needed. Governor Parson and the General Assembly invested in recovery support services leading to a change in thousands of Missourians' lives. Last year, 4,059 individuals received recovery supports, including care coordination, peer recovery coaching, spiritual counseling, group support, recovery housing, and transportation.

A success story can be found in Whitney and Esbeydi and their journey with Amethyst Place, a long-term supportive housing program for women and children recovering from generational poverty, substance use, and trauma in Kansas City's midtown. Whitney and Esbeydi are more than best friends, they consider themselves sisters. Both experienced life without safe housing. Both fought hard for their recovery and their children. Both wanted a better future for their families.

The support Whitney and Esbeydi received from Amethyst Place built them up; they built up each other too. They are now on a similar path to greatness with their children by their sides. As single moms, Whitney and Esbeydi were determined to find a meaningful career to support their families.

Whitney was drawn to construction. It just so happened that construction was beginning for the Amethyst Place expansion. The Amethyst Place development team connected her with the Missouri Works Initiative Apprentice Ready Program, a training program for under-represented groups in the construction trades. After five weeks, she graduated from the program, found her calling as a laborer, and was hired by Rau Construction. She now works fulltime as a laborer apprentice. In addition to building a career with solid income and benefits, Whitney is literally building the future home of her family and her Amethyst sisters.

Having just completed her GED, Esbeydi was looking for a career path too. She enthusiastically followed in her best friend's footsteps just a few months later. While completing the Apprentice Ready Program as the only woman in her class, Esbeydi found her calling in the trades, just like Whitney. In December 2023, she began her new career as an electrician apprentice. Whitney and Esbeydi's story of support and inspiration is one of many echoing throughout the Amethyst Place community.





# *A Story of Success*

## MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION

During Governor Parson's 2023 State of the State Address, he declared that it was unacceptable and embarrassing for Missouri to be ranked near the bottom when it comes to maternal care and committed to taking action. The Department of Health and Senior Services estimates that 75 percent of maternal deaths are preventable with at least one meaningful change to treatment, whether directly to the patient or through the provider, community, or health care system. Missouri has recognized the need to do better and has begun implementing a new plan that will lead to better health outcomes for Missouri mothers and babies and support their care after childbirth to reduce maternal mortality.

In July 2023, Governor Mike Parson signed into law a bill that extends health care coverage for new moms from 60 days to a full year postpartum. More than half of states have already made this change and have seen a resulting decrease in maternal deaths. Allowing mothers to have multiple touchpoints with their providers throughout the crucial year following childbirth gives them a greater opportunity to effectively address chronic conditions, mental health issues, substance use disorders, and have an overall healthier lifestyle.

From 2018-2020, the majority of maternal deaths in Missouri occurred in the time period between 43 days to one year postpartum, a period of time when many mothers lacked access to care. It is estimated that more than 4,000 women who otherwise go uninsured two months after the end of pregnancy will now be covered. The actions Missouri has taken to offer coverage and benefits from 60 days to one year is expected to save lives.

The postpartum period is critical for recovering from childbirth, addressing complications of delivery, ensuring mental health, managing infant care, and transitioning from obstetric to primary care. For those who experienced pregnancy-related complications or those with conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure, this extension of care is particularly important. Additionally, postpartum depression and suicidal tendencies that may be experienced by pregnant or postpartum women further emphasize the need for extended access to care.

By opening the door to this vital postpartum care, this policy change will address disparities in maternal health outcomes and have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of Missouri mothers and babies.





**“It has truly been the honor of our lives to be your 57th Governor and First Lady of the great State of Missouri.”**