

## **Missouri Budget Project E-News December 16, 2011**

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### **State Update**

#### **1. Overview of Pre-filed Bills**

The State Legislative Session is fast approaching, beginning on January 4, 2012. So far, more than 200 bills have been pre-filed for next year's session. The bills represent a broad range of issues, including everything from making "jumping jacks" the official state exercise (HB 1036) to more serious policies including enactment of child protections within child care settings (SB 448).

Some of the bills that MBP will be watching include:

SJR 34 (Purgason) and SJR 35 (Ridgeway): Propose a constitutional amendment to implement the "almost everything tax," which eliminates Missouri's current tax structure and replaces it with a greatly expanded sales tax on products and services.

HB 1030 and HB 1031 (Flanigan): Establish temporary tax amnesty provisions in order to bring in uncollected state revenue

SB 454 (Pearce): Modifies the school funding formula for K-12 public school districts

SB 466 (Munzlinger): Modifies Gaming Commission funds in future years, reducing appropriations for early childhood and increasing appropriations for veterans' services.

SB 472 (Kraus): Eliminates a number of tax credit programs, reduces others, and applies the reduction in tax credit spending to a reduction in Missouri's corporate income tax rate.

SB 531 (Lamping): Modifies the low-income housing and historic preservation tax credit programs and applies any increase in revenue to a reduction in Missouri's individual income tax rate.

SB 518 (Engler): Creates a mental health assessment pilot program for criminal offenders.

With a projected budget shortfall ranging from \$400 to \$700 million and significant additional disaster recovery costs needing financing, the 2012 legislative session is sure to have critical

debates regarding the future of Missouri. With ongoing fiscal struggles, multiple priorities will again vie against each other for limited state dollars.

The Missouri Budget Project will be working with lawmakers to identify and enact ways that would allow our state to invest in priorities that will make Missouri's future stronger.

But we can't do it without your support. Please include the Missouri Budget Project in your year-end giving.

Donate online at the Missouri Budget Project web site, or mail a contribution to MBP at 3534 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO, 63103.

[http://www.mobudget.org/support\\_mbp.html](http://www.mobudget.org/support_mbp.html)

## **2. Please Join Coalitions Opposing Almost Everything Tax**

Supporters of an effort to eliminate the state's income tax and replace it with a broadened and increased sales tax on almost everything you buy are busy collecting signatures to put the initiative on the ballot in November 2012.

Fortunately, two diverse coalitions are actively opposing the "Almost Everything Tax." You can help by joining MBP in signing on to both [Missourians for Fair Taxation](#) and the [Coalition for Missouri's Future](#).

Missourians for Fair Taxation: <http://missouriansforfairtaxation.com/>

Coalition for Missouri's Future: <http://www.missourifuture.org/>

The Almost Everything tax would subject many more basic family purchases to a sales tax and drastically cut state general revenue, harming our ability to provide basic state services.

Now for some good news...a recent poll sponsored by the two coalitions found declining support for the measure, even after a \$450,000 paid media campaign supporting the tax. To read more about the poll, visit: <http://www.missourifuture.org/1083/support-for-everything-tax-eroding-in-springfield/>.

But the coalitions aren't resting yet. Please join both to stay up to date on the latest news, and to oppose the "Almost Everything" tax.

MBP's summary of the most recent petitions is available by visiting [http://www.mobudget.org/files/Mega\\_Tax-Quick\\_Facts\\_on\\_New\\_Initiative\\_Petitions-9-12-2011.pdf](http://www.mobudget.org/files/Mega_Tax-Quick_Facts_on_New_Initiative_Petitions-9-12-2011.pdf).