

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:**

**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)**

**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

**STUDY SESSIONS FOR**  
**MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST**

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

**STUDY SESSIONS FOR**  
**MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST**

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

**STUDY SESSIONS FOR**  
**MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST**

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

