



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI  
JEFFERSON CITY  
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720  
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January 28, 2013

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI:

During my first term as Governor, we worked together to move Missouri forward and maintain strong fiscal discipline. That hard work is paying off. Missouri employers added more than 40,000 jobs last year. Missouri exports continue to climb and home construction is rebounding. Missourians are once again investing in the future.

Together, we have balanced the budget for the past four years and we have held the line on taxes. As a result of our focus on fiscal discipline, Missouri is one of only a few states to hold a spotless AAA credit rating from all three rating firms. This sound financial management will allow us to invest in key priorities in the upcoming budget.

Our top priorities will continue to unite us – investing in education, creating jobs for Missourians, growing our economy and keeping our fiscal house in order.

- **Investing in education from the earliest years through college:** We will increase funding for early childhood education, provide record funding for K-12 classrooms, expand A+ Scholarships statewide, and provide funding tied to improved outcomes for higher education.
- **Helping businesses grow and create jobs:** By streamlining the state's business incentive programs, cutting bureaucratic red tape, and ramping up efforts to help businesses ship their goods around the globe, we will continue to make Missouri a better place for businesses to invest and create jobs.
- **Keeping our tax dollars here at home:** Missouri has a choice: we can put our federal tax dollars to work here in Missouri by covering more people through Medicaid or send those tax dollars to provide health care in other states. Keeping them here is the smart thing to do for our economy and the right thing to do for Missouri families.
- **Improving critical public facilities:** By capitalizing on Missouri's AAA credit status and enacting legitimate tax credit reform, we can invest in critical projects to keep Missouri moving forward.
- **Making government more efficient:** We will invest in technology and continue to streamline operations and make government smarter and smaller.
- **Balancing the budget while holding the line on taxes.**

Ensuring the welfare of the people is not only our state motto, but our guiding principle. I look forward to working with you on the important decisions that are before us. Together, we will keep Missouri moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah W. Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor