Constitutional Convention History in Missouri

Missouri voters have been asked 6 times whether to hold a constitutional convention. Twice they said "yes" and the last four times they have rejected the idea. The other four conventions were called by the legislature.

1820 – 1st Convention:

The convention of 1820 produced the first short and sweet Missouri Constitution in only 38 days.

1845 – 2nd Convention:

The legislature called a second convention in 1845, but the resulting draft was rejected by voters.

1865 – 3rd Convention:

The Union dominated legislature called for another convention in 1865, resulting in voter adoption (ratification) of the constitution it drafted.

1875 – 4th Convention:

Just ten years later, the legislature, which had changed significantly after the end of federal occupation of the state government, proposed a convention which drafted the 1875 Constitution. It was ratified by voters that same year and remained, with only amendments, until replaced by the 1945 Constitution.

1920 – On November 2, 1920 a ballot initiative approved by 55.38% of the voters added a requirement to the Constitution that a question to hold a constitutional convention be placed on the ballot every twenty years. This was the first ballot measure in Missouri history to be initiated and approved by voters.

1921 – 5th Convention:

August 2, 1921 – A legislative proposal to hold a constitutional convention was approved by 57.98% of voters. The convention, held in 1922-1923, did not propose a new constitution, but rather proposed 21 individual amendments, six of which were ratified by the voters.

1942 – Convention called for:

The first constitutionally required ballot question whether to hold a convention was approved by 57.98% of the voters on November 3, 1942. That set up the convention of 1943-1944.

1945 – 6th Convention:

The 1943-1944 constitutional convention drafted a new constitution, which build on the 1875 Constitution and the roughly one-per-year amendments to it since 1875. Voters ratified that Constitution with 62.70% yes vote on the unusual election date of February 27, 1945. That Constitution, with the several amendments since then, is Missouri's current Constitution.

1962 – On November 6, 1962, voters rejected a call for another convention. 36.29% of the voters approved the question.

1982 – On November 2, 1982, voters rejected a call for another convention. 30.48% of the voters approved the question.

2002 – On November 5, 2002, voters rejected a call for another convention. 34.55% of the voters approved the question.

2022 – On November 11, 2022, voters rejected a call for another convention. 32.30% of the voters approved the question.

Interactive database of Missouri Ballot History: http://www.libertytools.org/BillTracking/MO-Ballot-History.php
Details of Missouri Ballot Measures: https://ballotpedia.org/List_of_Missouri_ballot_measures
Missouri History Timeline: https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/history/timeline/1