



2010

masw

legislative update



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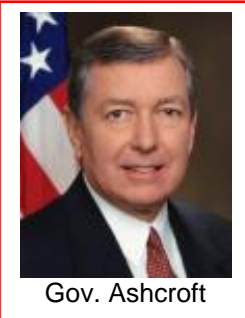
A Tale of Two Special Sessions

In Two Decades, State Priorities Go All Wrong

Summer 1989

Gov. John Ashcroft Calls for Tax Increases to Avoid Budget Cuts

Twenty-one years ago next week, Governor [John Ashcroft](#) called the Missouri General Assembly to the State Capitol for an unusual special session.



Gov. Ashcroft

In his call, he proposed a package of tax increases to offset an unfavorable court decision that was going to cost the state an unforeseen \$150 million.

Gov. Ashcroft cited the harm that would be done to Missourians who count on the state for vital education, health and social services, if we just cut the \$150 million from our budget without replacing it with new revenue.

That happened to be the [mid-point of my six years of service](#) as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives. I could never have imagined then that I would, some two decades hence, look back on that time as “the good old days.” -- BQ

For a fuller look at the 1989 – 2010 comparison, see [Kevin Horrigan’s column](#) in Sunday’s (6/27) St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*.

Summer 2010

Gov. Jay Nixon Cuts Budget, Calls for More Cuts – & Tax Give-Aways

Governor [Jay Nixon](#) has called the Missouri General Assembly to the State Capitol for an unusual special session.

Just before issuing the call, he signed the 2011 State Budget, cutting some \$300 million from the bills as passed. Those cuts come on top of hundreds of millions already cut in the last two years.



Gov. Nixon

Today’s budget crisis is far deeper, the cuts in vital state services far more harmful, than in 1989 (see other column).

And yet the Governor’s call for special session is NOT to address this tragic situation, but instead to offer tribute to multinational corporations in hopes they will smile upon us – paid for by cuts to state employee benefits!

See MASW testimony against the [tax give-away bill \(HB 2\)](#) and [state worker pension bill \(HB 1 and SB 1\)](#).