



What Can We Sensibly Cut in Order to Balance our Missouri Budget?

Let's learn from other states!

Studies in twelve states have discovered that the death penalty costs an additional 30 percent to up to 10 times more than seeking life without parole. Here are some examples:

- ◆ **North Carolina** discovered that they could save **\$11 million** annually by dropping the death penalty in favor of life without parole.
- ◆ **Maryland** spent **\$186 million** more pursuing death sentences, over a 20-year period, than if officials had instead sought alternative sentences like life in prison for murder, researchers discovered. They found each case cost about \$2 million more than other murder cases in which “death” was not sought.
- ◆ In **Texas** the death penalty costs an average of **three times more** than the cost of 40 years in maximum security prison.
- ◆ **California** could cut **\$125 million** from its annual budget by repealing the death penalty and using the alternative of life without parole.
- ◆ **Florida** found that it could save **\$51 million** each year by punishing murderers with life imprisonment without parole instead of the death penalty.
- ◆ **Kansas** state auditors discovered that death penalty cases cost taxpayers over **half a million dollars more per case** than other murder cases. This estimate is only partial, because no Kansas case has gone all the way to an execution.

Using the conservative Kansas projections, this means that **Missouri** (which has never conducted a similar cost analysis) has spent at least **\$93.6 million** more on the 180 homicide cases in which the death penalty was sought.

In these times of economic hardship, the death penalty is a needless expense that Missouri can no longer afford. Vote to repeal the death penalty and make the ultimate punishment life imprisonment without any possibility of parole.

This flier is part of a series prepared by Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. For more information contact MADP at 816-931-4177 or visit our website at www.madpmo.org

