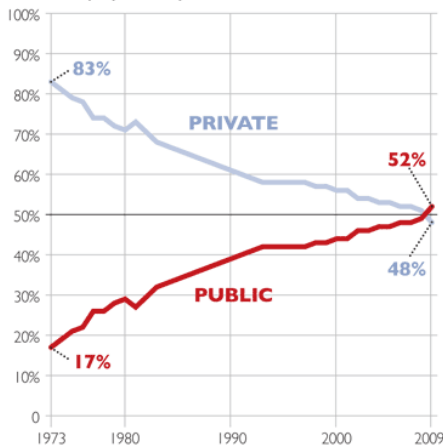


# GOVERNMENT UNION ACCOUNTABILITY: THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF UNION MEMBERSHIP

While overall union membership continues to decline, in 2014, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the rate of government union membership was five times that of union membership in the private sector. In Missouri, government union membership has remained fairly steady, at a rate of about 20% over the past 20 years. Over the same period of time, private union membership has dropped to a rate of only 6.5%

## Majority of Union Workers Now Work in the Public Sector

Union Employment, by Sector



Note: 1982 figures not available.

Sources: Barry T. Hirsch and David A. Macpherson, "Union Membership and Coverage Database from the Current Population Survey," Unionstats.com, at <http://www.unionstats.com/> (January 21, 2009); U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Chart 1 • WM 2773  heritage.org

## Missouri Workers Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement

	Public	Private
2004	103,679	252,855
2005	93,017	225,550
2006	90,949	219,353
2007	102,759	204,776
2008	94,791	231,742
2009	78,670	185,099
2010	82,513	191,877
2011	97,331	218,414
2012	84,150	168,916
2013	84,261	180,864
2014	88,711	159,559

Source: [www.unionstats.com](http://www.unionstats.com)

## According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

*In 2016, national overall union membership was 10.7%, a 0.4% decrease from 2015.*

*In 1983, the overall union membership rate was 20.1%.*

*In 2016, public sector workers had a union membership rate of 34.4%, more than five times higher than that of private sector workers (6.4%)*

*"For the first time in American history, most union members work for the government. Competition has eroded private-sector unions while public-sector unions have thrived. Three times as many union members now work for the Post Office as in the auto industry. Unions now represent the government and have changed their priorities from getting money from businesses to getting money from taxpayers." - James Sherk, Heritage Foundation*

## Missouri shouldn't wait to reform government unions.

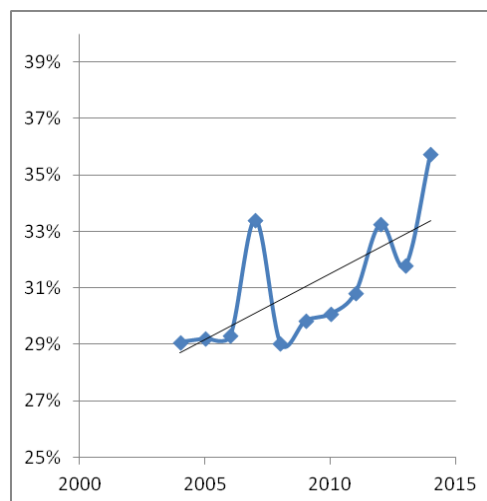
Government unions should be held accountable to their members and should be required to hold regular recertification elections.

Government unions negotiate with taxpayer dollars and should be subject to the same financial transparency standards as private unions.

The legal framework for bargaining collectively with public bodies should be clear for all public employees.

Public bodies should not be bound indefinitely to unsustainable agreements with unions. Government union labor agreements need clear terms for all parties.

## Data shows an increasing percentage of all Missouri union workers are government employees.



Source: [www.unionstats.com](http://www.unionstats.com)